



**SG 67.01**

**RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT RIT AND RIT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY SUPPORT THOSE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED CHANGES TO TITLE IX MADE BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

This resolution is an official response from RIT Student Government regarding the issue of the proposed change to the definition of gender made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. RIT currently has students who do not fall under the proposed definition of gender, and we urge RIT to explicitly support those students and other members of the RIT community affected, as well as oppose the proposed changes within their jurisdiction.

Version 1.0

Introduced by: Bobby Moakley (SG President) and Ryan Roy (OUTspoken Vice-President)

First Reading: 2 November 2018

WHEREAS, reported in October 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services of the 2018 United States Trump Administration proposed changes to Title IX that would determine gender as a biological immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth, and

WHEREAS, this proposal, if passed, affects members of the RIT community, and

WHEREAS, RIT currently has a reported amount of 640 students enrolled that have identified themselves as transgender, and there are a number of faculty and staff that do not identify with their assigned gender at birth, and

WHEREAS, the RIT VP of Student Affairs, Sandy Johnson, made a statement on behalf of President David Munson: "RIT reaffirms its support for the transgender community. We (RIT) are committed to a safe and supportive environment where all people can study, work and live. This is

a core value of RIT, as we are one family...we strongly oppose any reinterpretation of Title IX that results in the elimination of protections for transgender individuals. We (RIT) remain committed to fostering a campus climate that acknowledges the dignity of every member of our community.”, and

WHEREAS, RIT is committed to values of Respect, Diversity and Pluralism stating that the university “treats every person with dignity, demonstrates inclusion by incorporating diverse perspectives to plan, conduct, and/or evaluate the work of the organization, department, college, or division” and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes, if passed, would present serious health implications for transgender individuals. Redefining gender could impact whether or not insurance companies cover medical expenses associated with an endocrine disorder called gender dysphoria, and

WHEREAS, the RIT Student Health Center “assured that they (SHC) will not change in response to any of the proposed re-definitions of gender.”, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government does not support the proposed changes to Title IX that excludes transgender individuals and those that do not fall under the gender binary, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will advocate for RIT to exercise any legal and political authority within their means to push back against these proposed changes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government calls for additional support from higher administration, donors, trustees, and other stakeholders of the university to ensure those students who are affected by the proposed changes continue to have a positive student life, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government supports all affected members of the RIT community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will work with OUTspoken, the Q Center, and the office of Title IX to make sure that all affected members of the RIT community are educated on their rights and ways that they may be affected, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: This resolution is not politically motivated and is instead an affirmation of the values of RIT and our support for members of the RIT community affected by

these proposed changes and does not represent the political position of the Student Government, RIT, or the student body as a whole, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will join and support others in higher education who oppose the proposed changes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government is committed to communicating our position on this issue to the student body, the staff, faculty, and administration of the RIT community, including the RIT Board of Trustees, President Dave Munson, Student Affairs, the Q Center, the Office of Title IX, Student Health Center, Rochester City Mayor's Office, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Members of Senate and Congress.

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Robert Moakley, *SG President*

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Ryan Roy, *OUTspoken Vice President*