



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government
Legislative Council

March 20, 2014

80 LCR 06 — HIV-AIDS Testing Reinstatement

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A Resolution to Reinstate Free and Confidential HIV/AIDS Testing on Campus

Resolution History

The Boulder Community has had a strong support system for people living with HIV/AIDS since the disease became prominent in the 1980's. Organizations such as the Boulder County's AIDS Project (BCAP) have worked tirelessly to create a Boulder where people have access to HIV testing, support resources, and legal representation if faced with discrimination because of their STI status. It has been a goal of this county to minimize HIV transmission and to bring an end to HIV-related stigma. Up until the 2013-2014 academic year, Community Health provided free and confidential HIV/AIDS on campus once a week. Testing on campus allowed for more ease-of-access to students as far as transportation and time are concerned. Although there is no longer free testing on campus, the city of Boulder still conducts HIV/AIDS testing at various locations; however, the available testing sites in the city of Boulder are not in close proximity to the CU Boulder campus, limiting access to these clinics to students who do not have both the time and/or means of transportation to venture off-campus. In addition, the services offered off-campus are not technically free for the student body. Community Health's budget for free testing included \$1500 for advertising and \$5,150 for testing supplies, which included 25 boxes of HIV/AIDS tests (20 tests per box), two control tests, and two boxes of lancets (100 per box). It is the view of the University of Colorado Student Government that the CU-Boulder campus should reestablish its role in the Boulder community as a provider of HIV testing, support resources, and an advocate for HIV-positive individuals.

Resolution Summary

Collegiate students fall into an age group that acquires nearly half of all new STIs. Being at such a high risk for these STIs without treatment or prevention methods increases the chance that college-age students will contract HIV. In order to make CU both a safer and healthier campus, access for all students to affordable, accessible, confidential, and educational testing and prevention resources is highly important. The University of Colorado Student Government seeks the reinstatement of free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing on the CU Boulder campus as well as to expand access to general STI testing in order to create a safer and healthier campus.

Whereas, sources of free and confidential HIV/AIDS or STI testing are not easily accessible to many CU students;

Whereas, research suggests that young people aged 15-24 acquire nearly half of all new STIs;¹

Whereas, individuals who are infected with an STI are two to five times more likely to acquire HIV;²

¹ Weinstock H, Berman S, Cates W Jr. Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2004;36(1):6-10.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1998. [HIV prevention through early detection and treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases - United States. MMWR 47\(RR-12\):1-24.](#)

Whereas, strong STI prevention, testing, and treatment can play a vital role in comprehensive programs to prevent sexual transmission of HIV. Furthermore, STI trends can offer important insights into where the HIV epidemic may grow, making STI surveillance data helpful in forecasting where HIV rates are likely to increase;³

Whereas, there are 673 documented cases of HIV in Boulder County; 65 of which were diagnosed within the past five years;⁴

Whereas, HIV testing has a window period where an individual who tests negative could still have come in contact with the virus up to three months prior to the date of testing; *** (This means that many people may want to get retested three months after initial testing, increasing demand for testing. Window period explained: It takes up to 3 months for antiviral content levels in the blood to become detectable.)

Whereas, one in five Americans with HIV do not know that they are infected;⁵

Whereas, HIV targets CD4 white blood cells, lessening the body's secondary and tertiary immune responses and causing susceptibility to other disease. Early testing after subjugation to HIV allows for greater options for treatment and greater delay of the AIDS symptoms' onset;

Whereas, the Legislative Council seeks the reinstatement of free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing on the CU Boulder Campus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

Section 1: The University of Colorado Student Government believes that that free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing should be reinstated on campus because of the tangible and intangible benefits.

Section 2: The University of Colorado Student Government urges the University to increase access to more comprehensive STI testing for all students by making it affordable and available in different locations across campus.

Section 3: The University of Colorado Student Government recommends that the University provide funding and support for relevant on-campus resources (such as Wardenburg, Community Health, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Office of Victim Assistance) to provide support services for people who have HIV/AIDS or any other STI and their partners,

³ Wasserheit JN. 1992. Epidemiologic synergy: Interrelationships between human immunodeficiency virus infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 9:61-77.

⁴ Colorado.gov. 2013. Colorado HIV Surveillance Quarterly Report 4th Quarter 2013. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DCEED/CBON/1251621434445>

⁵ Itsyoursexlife.org. 2009. *HIV/AIDS 101*. <http://www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/hiv-aids/hiv-aids-101/get-yourself-tested/>

friends, and allies. This should include funding and support for programs and initiatives which seek to raise awareness about the de-stigmatization of HIV/AIDS and STIs, support groups, sensitivity training for students and staff, and referrals to legal resources.


Section 4: The University of Colorado Student Government offers its full support in reinstating free/confidential HIV/AIDS testing and expanding access to other STI testing on the CU Boulder campus.

Section 5: Upon passage, this resolution shall be distributed to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Senior Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health and Wellness, and the Wardenburg Student Health Board.

Section 6: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the legislative council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

Vote Count

03/20/2014	Amended to change Bill History	Acclamation
03/20/2014	Amended to change Bill History	Acclamation
03/20/2014	Amended to add Section 3	Acclamation
03/20/2014	Passed on 1 st reading as amended	Acclamation
04/03/2014	Passed on 2 nd reading	Acclamation



Chris Schaeffbauer
President of Student Affairs



Juedon Kebede
Legislative Council President



Marco Dorado
President of External Affairs



Ellie Roberts
President of Internal Affairs

