

RESOLUTION 0003

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
University of Pittsburgh**

24 February 2009

Introduced by Board Member Sudipta Devanath (a.k.a. Nila)

WHEREAS, Colleges and universities have a special obligation to equip students for a lifetime of civic participation, and the health of our democracy depends on an active, informed citizenry.

WHEREAS, In the Higher Education Act of 1998, Congress required universities to make a “good faith effort” to offer voter registration to students, but only 17% are in full compliance according to a 2004 Harvard University study.

WHEREAS, According to a 2005 Harvard University study, students are "more likely [than any other cohort of Americans] to cite registration mistakes or a lack of registration knowledge as a reason why they did not vote."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, On this 17th day of March, in the year 2009, The Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh hereby recommends and encourages the passing of the Student Voter Opportunity to Encourage Registration Act of 2008 (otherwise known as the Student VOTER Act), a federal bill that would require all universities that receive federal funds to *offer* voter registration to students at the same time they register for classes by amending the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA or “Motor Voter Act”) to designate universities that receive federal funds as “voter registration agencies.”