

B.R.2018.03

CALLING UPON THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO EXPAND MEDICAL AMNESTY IN
ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: SGB President Max Kneis, SGB Judicial Chair Marina Sullivan, SGB
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CO-SPONSORED BY: Board Members Ciara Barry, Ian Callahan, Ami Fall, Maddie Guido,
Zuri Kent-Smith, Nihita Manem, Krishani Patel, Alex Spenceley; Collegiate Panhellenic
Association President Ellie Foley; Interfraternity Council President Christian Baker; and
National Pan-Hellenic Council President Brandon Bennett

27 FEBRUARY 2018

President Kneis introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

13 MARCH 2018

Read the second time and voted on.

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL AMNESTY

- 1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Student Government Board is to promote
2 the concerns, interests, needs, and welfare of the student
3 body of the University of Pittsburgh;
- 4 WHEREAS, each year approximately 1,825 college students in the
5 United States die from alcohol related injuries¹;
- 6 WHEREAS, the University of Pittsburgh's Medical Amnesty Protocol
7 provides that neither the student(s) calling, nor the
8 student(s) experiencing an alcohol or drug emergency will
9 be charged with violating any University of Pittsburgh
10 alcohol and drugs policy²;
- 11 WHEREAS, students are expected to seek immediate assistance for
12 others if they are experiencing an alcohol emergency;

1 of 2

[1] NIAAA (<https://tinyurl.com/zwztnrw>)

[2] Pitt Student Code of Conduct (pg. 9) (<https://tinyurl.com/yem3ma99>)

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania’s medical amnesty policy does not provide
14 protection for the person receiving medical attention for
15 alcohol related overdoses, while it does for a drug overdose³;

16 WHEREAS, neighboring states such as New Jersey, New York, West
17 Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have extended medical
18 amnesty laws to cover both the caller and person in need of
19 assistance in the alcohol related incident;

20 WHEREAS, after implementing a full medical amnesty policy, Cornell
21 University saw an increase in on-campus calls to emergency
22 services related to alcohol poisoning, a decrease in the
23 percentage of calls requiring hospital emergency room
24 visits, while drinking habits of students were found to have
25 remained unchanged;

26 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should enact laws to
27 better the general welfare and protect the lives of high
28 school and college students;

29 WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board
30 believes adding legal protection to the state criminal code
31 for the person receiving medical attention in an incident
32 involving alcohol will create a safer environment for college
33 students across the commonwealth; *now, therefore, be it*

34 RESOLVED, on this 13th day of March in the year 2018, the Student
35 Government Board calls on the Pennsylvania General
36 Assembly to consider extending the medical amnesty law;
37 *and be it further*

38 RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of
39 the Pennsylvania General Assembly; *and be it finally*

40 RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption
41 and shall reflect the official position of the University of
42 Pittsburgh Student Government Board.

43 ADOPTED: this 13th day of March 2018 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and
44 0 abstentions.

Max Kneis, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

[3] PA Code, Title 18 Chapter 63 Section 6308 (<https://tinyurl.com/y8dhqxtq>)

[4] Medical Amnesty Initiative (<https://tinyurl.com/ydxtyr6b>)

[5] Lewis & Marchell (<https://tinyurl.com/yae5b2v>)