

# A1395A/S1213: Abortion Pill Access on CUNY/SUNY Campuses

Advocates  
for Youth



Introduced by Assemblymember Harvey Epstein (D-74)  
and Senator Cordell Cleare (D-30).



## LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

- Under the bill, the 25 CUNY and 64 SUNY campuses across the city and state would be required to provide access to **medication abortion at student health centers** that serve over half a million students.
- Schools would also have the option to contract with a third party to provide the services.
- Schools that demonstrate they cannot fulfill the mandate would be required to **provide referrals off-campus to hospitals or clinics**.
- The legislation also establishes a “**public college and public university student health center abortion by medication fund**” jointly overseen by the State Comptroller, health commissioner, and chancellors from SUNY and CUNY.

## WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?

- 1) As New York becomes a destination state for abortion access post-Roe, our clinics are experiencing immense demand from patients out of state and increased protests and harassment from anti-abortion groups. We can **reduce wait times and funding pressure for clinics and abortion funds** by making on-campus abortion pills available to students.
- 2) On-campus provision makes it easier for those with **student health insurance coverage** to access abortion, **reduces travel time for students, and lessens informational barriers** to vital reproductive care.
- 3) We cannot let extremists exceptionalize and politicize abortion care. Medication abortion is **common, extremely safe**, and completely in line with the other services offered in primary care settings.

Over **1800 students and young people** from across New York signed a petition in support of on-campus access to medication abortion in NY.  
See the petition at [bit.ly/abortion-pills-ny](https://bit.ly/abortion-pills-ny).

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT ABORTION PILL ACCESS ON CAMPUS

- **California and Massachusetts** require public universities to provide medication abortion.
- Analysis showed that students on SUNY campuses faced an **average trip of 11 miles** to the nearest abortion providers. Proximity to clinics varies widely, with some campuses as far as **70 miles from the nearest abortion provider**.
- In states like New York, where abortion remains legal, abortion providers have already seen an influx of out-of-state patients since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. This number is likely to increase amidst the growing number of restrictive state laws.
- According to a Guttmacher Institute study from 2020, more than **54% of abortions** in the United States are done with abortion pills. Patients take two medications, mifepristone and misoprostol, to end their pregnancy **until ten weeks**.
- In NY State, Physicians, Physician-Assistants, Nurse-Practitioners, and Nurse-Midwives can provide medication abortion in-clinic, meaning that all primary care medical professionals can provide medication abortion in a clinical setting.

**To co-sponsor this bill, reach out to Jackson Fischer-Ward from AM Epstein's Office ([fischerwardj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:fischerwardj@nyassembly.gov)) and Chris LaBarge from Senator Cleare's Office ([chris.labarge@gmail.com](mailto:chris.labarge@gmail.com)).**

## BILL SUPPORTERS

- **Reproductive Justice Collective New York:** A broad coalition of student and youth organizers from Columbia University, CUNY, NYU, and SUNY schools. RJC recently won its 2.5-year campaign to have Barnard College become the first private college in the country to offer medicated abortion on campus.
- **Advocates for Youth:** Advocates for Youth works with young people to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs, and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth. Advocates' Youth Activist Network stands 75,000 strong on 1,200 campuses and in tens of thousands of communities.
- **Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts:** Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts is a non-profit, non-partisan, statewide organization representing New York's Planned Parenthood affiliates dedicated to protecting and expanding access to reproductive and sexual health care.