



**Rutgers University Senate
Resolution in Support of Free Speech on Campus
January 2024**

WHEREAS, President Jonathan Holloway has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering an environment that supports free expression, civic preparedness, and the civil exchange of ideas through initiatives like his "Citizenship, Institutions, and the Public" Byrne Seminar;

WHEREAS, the importance of academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas are fundamental tenets of a robust educational environment, as underscored in President Holloway's public statements and endeavors;

WHEREAS, the "Chicago Statement," formulated by the University of Chicago, represents a comprehensive policy on free speech and is a model for institutions dedicated to preserving and promoting academic freedom and open dialogue¹;

WHEREAS, there have been instances of unwarranted and harmful exposure (doxxing) and harassment of members of the Rutgers community, particularly affecting historically marginalized groups, which are contrary to the principles of free speech and academic liberty;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate endorses President Holloway's commitment to championing free expression, civic preparedness, and the civil exchange of ideas on the Rutgers University campus, recognizing this as essential for the development of well-rounded, critically thinking citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate supports President Holloway's statements on academic freedom and freedom of expression, affirming these as cornerstones of our university's mission and essential to the preservation of a vibrant academic community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate formally endorses the Chicago Statement, adopting its principles as guiding tenets for Rutgers University, thereby committing to uphold a campus environment where free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the university community are not only allowed but encouraged;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate urges the Rutgers administration to take more proactive and effective measures to prevent members of the Rutgers community from being doxxed and harassed for exercising their right to free speech, and to protect those who have already been targeted;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate encourages the Rutgers administration to provide comprehensive support to students and faculty members who have been publicly maligned or defamed. This support should include, but not be limited to, academic assistance, mental health services, and legal resources to ensure their well-being and the continuation of their academic and professional pursuits without fear of retribution or stigma.

¹ <https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>