

**Senate Bill**

**Act Number: 2023-05 (Revised)**

**04 December 2023**

**Introduced by: Senator Sara Hosbach, Senator Amanda Shortt, Senator Janelle Boamah, HGS Senator Stephen Raymond, Senator Patricia Kalaidjian, and Senate President Madison Weeks**

**Proposed by: Zachary Glaser, Isabella Apgar, Senator Sara Hosbach, Senator Amanda Shortt, Senator Janelle Boamah, HGS Senator Stephen Raymond, and Senator Patricia Kalaidjian**

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

**Whereas:** The Ramapo College mission statement prioritizes global awareness through diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and community engagement;

**Whereas:** The SGA represents the ideals of Ramapo College of New Jersey as expressed in the association's mission statement;

**Whereas:** SGA acknowledges the importance of addressing and engaging with educated, student-led discussions on international issues;

**Whereas:** The SGA—a nonpartisan organization—exists to serve and support the entire student body;

**Whereas:** The ongoing mass violence in Palestine, Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank (and the broader region)—including the involvement of the US government therein—has compelled significant public attention and has motivated strident debate, public protest, and even inspired acts of bigoted violence;

**Whereas:** We acknowledge that the horrors that are currently being committed, however unprecedented, emerged from and reflect an extensive history of imperial dissolution, colonization and decolonization, regional warfare, national conflict, occupation, siege, and civilian violence;

**Whereas:** Many Ramapo College students have personal connections to these territories and their peoples or possess strong opinions about the ongoing violence and its politics and history;

**Whereas:** Multiple students have vocalized to SGA members desires for greater acknowledgment and support from the institution and urge for a community approach;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA will observe a moment of silence at an upcoming General Meeting to honor the lives lost during the ongoing war and will recognize the destruction being endured in the affected territories.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Through a humanitarian lens, the SGA shall express its solidarity with the civilians of Palestine, Israel, and surrounding areas that have been negatively impacted by the attacks. This will be done through the SGA website, social media, and other proper forms of communication;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA will correspond with other on-campus organizations and departments to provide a student voice in discussions and plan appropriate/potential events. The SGA will work toward acknowledging the reverberations of the conflict on campus and assist the student body in navigating resources on and off campus;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The members of the SGA will make an effort to stay informed on the conflict through reputable sources in order to foster open and constructive discussion forums and encourage fellow Ramapo College students to do the same;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** We recognize that as we commit to learning more to understand this crisis, which is another round in a cycle of generational violence, we may continue to express our grief and objection to the taking of innocent lives and suffering.

*Shannon DeCicco*

**Shannon DeCicco**  
President '23 - '24

*Madison Weeks*

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Senate President '23 - '24