



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Steven D. Rhoads

Senate Democrats Block Bills to Combat Campus Antisemitism and Hold Colleges Accountable

STEVEN D. RHOADS May 14, 2025

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Once again, standing firm on party lines and against vulnerable New Yorkers

(ALBANY, NY) - Democrat members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education yesterday blocked two pieces of legislation sponsored by members of the Senate Republican Conference to address antisemitism on college campuses. These bills would have protected Jewish students and held colleges and universities accountable for allowing organized demonstrations of hate.

S.1752 by Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick enacts the “dismantling student antisemitism act,” or “DSA act” that would require mandatory sensitivity training on antisemitism and institute reporting requirements regarding antisemitism complaints and disciplinary processes on college campuses.

S.1268 by Senator Steve Rhoads prohibits state funding for any degree-granting institution of higher education if they permit certain pro-terrorist groups on campus, and any group or organization on such campuses that engage in or promote terrorist activities.

In light of protests on the campuses of **Columbia University** and **Brooklyn College**, now more than ever it is imperative we ensure protections for students simply looking to further their education. Yet in Albany, the powers that be are rejecting policies to hold these disruptors accountable and keep our students safe.

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“By rejecting these bills, Senate Democrats have made it clear that they are out of touch with reality and more interested in appeasing radical activists and terrorist sympathizers than protecting Jewish students from hate and harassment. It’s just common sense. There should be zero tolerance for antisemitism or hate of any kind on our college campuses—especially when funded by New York taxpayers. I will always stand up against hate and keep fighting to ensure that every student can learn in a safe, respectful environment,” said Senator Steve Rhoads, sponsor of S.1268.

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While Senate Democrats play politics with the safety of New Yorkers, the Senate Republican Conference remains committed to protecting the vulnerable—ensuring and reaffirming that hate has no place in our state.