

Resolution Title: Resolution in Support of the Safety and Freedom Ensured Act (SAFE Act)

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the Safety and Freedom Ensured Act (SAFE Act), S. 1709, a bipartisan bill supported by diverse organizations, corrects many concerns that members of higher education have with certain provisions of the PATRIOT Act; and

WHEREAS, the SAFE Act will permanently narrow the “sneak and peek” provisions known as delayed notification warrants that allow law enforcement agencies to perform searches without informing the subject in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the SAFE Act would modify section 215 of the PATRIOT Act that now allows the FBI to obtain Americans’ medical, business, library and even genetic records without probable cause; and

WHEREAS, the SAFE Act curtails the expanded authority of the Justice Department to seize personal information about Americans by issuing subpoenas at the sole discretion of the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has argued against altering section 215 by stating that opposition to the PATRIOT Act is opposition to patriots; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT support the SAFE Act, S. 1709, and urge the AFT to work to enact it into legislation.

WHEREAS, the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (entered into force 1/3/76 in accordance with Article 27) mandates that “Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;” and

WHEREAS, open access to college unites the interests of K-12 and college teachers because it expands the population eligible to participate in the powers and pleasures of education; and

WHEREAS, the education and life chances of a significant segment of the population – especially people of color and new immigrants – as well as the economic health and vitality of all working people are at risk as social inequality continues to widen in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this access is being threatened; and

WHEREAS, maintaining high academic standards emphatically does not mean preventing high school graduates from entering senior colleges because they are in need of certain developmental or remedial courses; and

WHEREAS, the resolution was adopted by delegates to the New York State United Teachers Resolution Assembly but is due to expire in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New York State United Teachers strongly support the right of all high school graduates to have an equal opportunity to obtain a college education at affordable tuition (with progressive introduction of free college education), and therefore among other strategies, strongly supports the appropriateness of developmental and remedial courses in all public colleges and universities.