

Senate Resolution No. 344

**BY:** Senator KAVANAGH

**RECOGNIZING** February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom Day

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize Thursday, February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom Day; and

**WHEREAS,** On February 23, 2023, the Student Press Law Center is holding a day of action known as Student Press Freedom Day, with this year's theme being "Bold Journalism & Brave Advocacy"; and

**WHEREAS,** The Student Press Law Center will host and promote trainings and community building opportunities that are designed to uplift student journalists' voices and prepare them to advocate for press freedom; and

**WHEREAS,** The Student Press Law Center established Student Press Freedom Day in 2018 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier Supreme Court case; this case greatly expanded the ability of school officials to censor student work; and

**WHEREAS,** Student Press Freedom Day responds to this case by celebrating the field of student journalism, promoting freedom of speech, and advocating for liberty from censorship; and

**WHEREAS,** Journalism is a pillar of democracy and a free press is protected by the U.S. Constitution, the responsibility and freedoms allowed therein should apply to student journalists guided by educational institutions; and

**WHEREAS,** Journalists and media across the country, which are needed in a democratic society, have come under attack; and

**WHEREAS,** New Voices of New York, the high school student organization in New York which advocates for student press freedoms, promotes the passage of the Student Journalist Free Speech Act; and

**WHEREAS,** The integrity of journalism is derived from the Code of Ethics as determined by the Society of Professional Journalists; and

**WHEREAS,** Student reporters are the next generation of journalists; recognizing the importance of the profession will support journalistic integrity and independence for journalists of the future; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom Day; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Student Press Law Center and New Voices of New York

chapters throughout the State of New York.