

Assembly Resolution No. 872

BY: M. of A. Lupardo

RECOGNIZING February 22, 2024, as Student Press Freedom Day

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize Thursday, February 22, 2024, as Student Press Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2024, 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 22, 2024, 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.