

URGENT! Salem State College Discrimination---- Your Action Needed, Now!

*****Forward Widely*****

A transitioned female student and member of Join The Impact MA, a LGBT activist organization, is being discriminated against regarding equal rights to housing. After applying for school housing at Salem State, she was denied fair entrance into female housing on campus, and forced to provide unnecessary documentation. This is blatant discrimination and an attack on her privacy.

Housing selection at Salem State College took place on Tuesday, April 6th, and they refused her the ability to apply for housing recognizing her legal sex. Salem State's commentary that she "accurately [indicate her] biological sex... as male" is outright unacceptable. We need to unite and fight for what's right....NOW!

Please pass on this email and write/email/phone the Salem State departments listed below as soon as possible! Salem State College must be made aware that their actions are unacceptable and hurt us all.

Please contact info@jointheimpactma.com for more information.

Below you'll find a sample letter you can write to the college administrators to respond to this issue.

Write/Email/Phone the following individuals:

Kathy Neville, Residence Life
352 Lafayette St
Salem, MA 01970
978.542.6416
kathleen.neville@salemstate.edu

Stanley Cahill, Student Life
352 Lafayette St
Salem, MA 01970
978.542.6400 or 978.542.6401
stanley.cahill@salemstate.edu

Dr. Patricia Maguire Meservey
352 Lafayette St
Salem, MA 01970
978-542-6134
president@salemstate.edu

Sample Letter:

To whom it may concern

This letter is regarding one of your students at Salem State College.

I have been informed that she has been denied fair entrance into female housing on campus. She has followed procedure with both Resident Life and Student Life offices to have her gender/sex designation within the school systems changed successfully (albeit after exhaustive research and work), yet the college is still creating additional road blocks.

On April 1, she received a letter from the Office of Student Life informing her of the aforementioned denial of student housing. The letter stated that a Massachusetts license indicating "Sex: Female" was not enough, and a birth certificate is needed in order for her housing request to be accepted. She has already provided her driver's license which is more than any other student is asked to do when applying for housing, or for admission to the college.

The college's letter provided her with three housing options: live in gender-neutral housing; live in male-only housing, or not apply for housing at all. The letter also insisted that she "accurately [indicate her] biological sex... as male." The college has no right to assign what they feel is an "accurate" biological sex for any individual, especially after she had not documented any paperwork confirming her biological sex status to the college.

She has been forced to select Gender-neutral housing as a male, regardless of her legal identity. This housing option is considered an option for those who identify as transgender at Salem State. As she identifies as female, and not transgender, this fails to make any sense. She has already tried living in gender-neutral dorms and was placed on an all-male floor, alienating her and making her feel unsafe. Gender-neutral housing requires transgender residents to "out" themselves to all roommates in the shared six-person apartment, violating her right to privacy, and potentially creating a dangerous situation. She will not apply for male-only housing as she is a female, possibly creating a tangible threat to her person and a potential liability to the college.

Salem State College is acting in direct contradiction to their mission statement which states that they "provide a high quality, student-centered education that prepares a *diverse community* of learners to contribute responsibly and creatively to a global society, and serve as a resource to advance the region's cultural, social and economic development". The discriminatory stance that the school has taken should not and will not go overlooked.

I am asking that this issue be resolved quickly and easily by granting her access to the housing she has requested. There are no special accommodations that must be made for her to be treated like any other female student.

I look forward to hearing from your office about the corrective measures that will be taken to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,