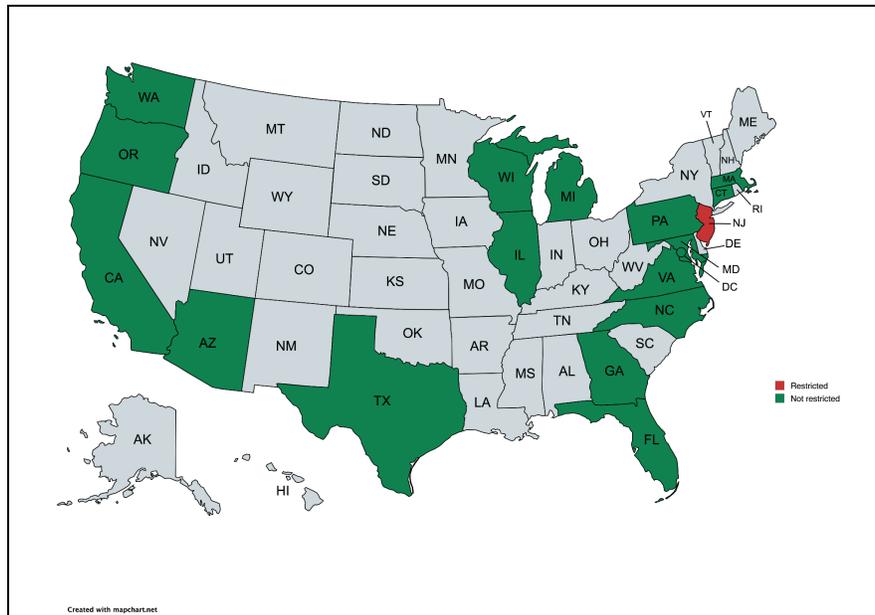


# Did you know that College Students are effectively gagged from organizing in Trenton on any legislation?

## Gag Rule REPEAL - S1669/A2128

New Jersey is the only state with this distinction.

In every state that the Student Public Interest Research Groups (Student PIRGs) has a chapter, New Jersey is the only state that prohibits legislative lobbying at the state level by any student organizations at public universities that are funded through waivable fees on the student term bill (**a voluntary contribution.**)



Student PIRGs complement and enhance students' academic experience, gaining valuable hands-on experience researching real world problems and policy solutions, educating others, and organizing activities to engage their fellow students. They find their voice and learn to advocate on issues they care about. But they have been barred from advocating on state issues and are losing out on the opportunity to experience the democratic process on the state-level.

**What work do the Student PIRGs do?**  
<https://studentpirgs.org/campaigns/>

- Break free from plastics
- Hunger and Homelessness
- Textbook Affordability
- New Voters Project
- Environmental
- Save America's Oldest Forests
- Save the bees
- Democracy & Civic Engagement
- Waste is out of fashion
- Zero Hunger
- Clean water & air
- Climate & clean energy



## How does New Jersey effectively prevent the students from using their voices in the state legislature?

For the past 30 years, student leaders with NJPIRG Students have been legally barred from advocating on state legislation. If they organize to lobby or hire a legislative agent, they forgo about \$500,000 a year in funding that is raised through elective waivable fees on their tuition bills. This was a *highly effective* and *legal* way to keep them away from speaking out in support of or against any legislation.

### How do we reverse this injustice?

We repeal the “Gag Rule” by **passing bill S1669/A2128** into law thereby restoring students’ rights.

### What does this waivable fee look like for students?

Below is a screenshot of what this waivable looks like on the tuition bill. Note that only students in the academic divisions that NJPIRG won in the 2022 student referendum gets assessed this fee and have this option to waive the fee. It is easy to read and makes it clear that they *can reduce their tuition bill balance* by checkmarking the box declining to contribute this fee. That is, **this small contribution is voluntary and students are NOT REQUIRED to donate. Currently, about 35% of eligible students choose to waive the fee each semester.**

