

# New England **First Amendment** Coalition

*Protecting First Amendment Freedoms and the Public's Right to Know*

111 Milk Street, Westborough MA 01581 | 508.983.6006 | nefac.org      

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

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*Affiliations appear for identification purposes only.*

Dartmouth College Office of the President  
c/o President Sian Leah Beilock  
Parkhurst Hall, Suite 207  
Hanover, NH 03755

*SENT VIA EMAIL TO PRESIDENTS.OFFICE@DARTMOUTH.EDU*

May 3, 2024

Dear President Beilock,

I'm writing on behalf of the New England First Amendment Coalition, a non-profit non-partisan advocate for freedom of the press. We are deeply concerned about reports of two Dartmouth College student journalists being arrested while covering a protest on your campus Wednesday night.<sup>1</sup>

While we recognize the challenges presented by recent pro-Palestinian demonstrations occurring on college campuses throughout the country, we must also emphasize the need to respect the speech rights of students and to protect the ability of journalists to cover those demonstrations.

In response to the arrests occurring this week, we ask you to do the following:

- Publicly denounce the arrests of any student journalists who were covering the May 1 protest and doing nothing more than exercising their right to report on news-worthy campus events.
- Provide university resources and support to those student journalists and insist that any charges against them are dropped.
- Work with student journalists, their newsrooms and law enforcement to prevent any future arrests or other interference in campus newsgathering.

In the words of NEFAC President Gregory V. Sullivan, "freedom of speech and of the press is enshrined in our constitution and must thrive on our campuses. Whether public or private, universities must use the First Amendment as its guiding light when responding to these protests."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Justin Silverman  
*Executive Director*

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2024/05/campus-encampments-live-updates-police-start-taking-students-away> and <https://twitter.com/thedartmouth/status/1785910984202207402>.