

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1029**

**TITLE: Resolution Supporting Those Affected By the 2019 Polar Vortex**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Tyler Kendrick, Senator Gabi Zlatanoff**

**SPONSOR(S): Senate President Michael Murphy, Senate Pro-Tempore Libby Shaw, Allocations Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Majority Party Leader Cooper Brown, Minority Party Leader Felipe Gatos, Senator Matthew Diaz, Senator Abby Morris, Senator Branden Pearson, Senator Olin Calvin, Senator William Zelin**

**WHEREAS**, a polar vortex is defined as, “a large pocket of very cold air, typically the coldest air in the Northern Hemisphere, which sits over the polar region during the winter season” [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, ninety million people have seen temperatures of -17°C or below and some 250 million Americans overall have experienced the polar vortex conditions across the states of Illinois, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the governors of Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Alabama have issued states of emergency in response to the extreme weather and dangerous conditions [5,6,7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, 1459 flights have been canceled, ninety flights have been delayed at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, and US postal services in at least ten states have been delayed due to extreme weather conditions [3,4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, at least 21 people have died in one of the worst cold snaps to hit the US Midwest in decades including University of Iowa student Gerald Belz, who was found frozen to death outside an academic hall on campus [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Kent Fuchs said, “Whether in reaching out to earthquake victims in Nepal or tornado victims in our own country, we in the UF community have shown over and over again that we care about those outside our campus. U Matter, We Care helps us extend that care to those inside our own community. It is an important initiative for our university, and I hope you will join me in continuing its success” [9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the polar vortex has generated an excessive loss of money for the U.S economy [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, AccuWeather estimates the brutal cold snap will cost the U.S. as much as a staggering \$14 billion, more than twice the cost of the 1990 California freeze [1]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that students and their families have been put in difficult situations as a result of the destruction caused by the polar vortex and stands in solidarity with the Gator community affected by this natural disaster.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports U Matter, We Care Ambassadors' efforts to aid all those in distress by the 2019 polar vortex.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David W. Parrott, Dean of Students Heather White.*

[1] <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/what-is-a-polar-vortex/21793077>

[2] <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/world/381566/us-midwest-awaits-thaw-as-death-toll-from-polar-vortex-rises>

[3] <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/01/29/polar-vortex-halts-u-s-mail-parts-midwest/2716080002/>

[4] <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/weather/live-blog/live-blog-2019-winter-weather-storm-tracker-n964531>

[5] <https://www.wxyz.com/news/governor-whitmer-declares-state-of-emergency-in-michigan-ahead-of-arctic-temperatures>

[6] <https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/1/29/18202298/polar-vortex-illinois-disaster-declaration-state-of-emergency-chicago>

[7] <https://kstp.com/weather/wisconsin-gov-tony-evers-declares-state-emergency-snow-impending-dangerous-cold/5225265/>

[8] <https://www.express.co.uk/news/weather/1080357/US-weather-latest-USA-death-toll-2019-polar-vortex-snow-extreme-cold>

[9] <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/about>