

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1038

TITLE: Resolution Urging the University of Florida Administration to Remove Wendy's from Campus Until it Joins the Fair Food Program

AUTHOR(S): Senator Mauricio Perez, Stephanie Beltran, Allocations Chairwoman Katelyn Hernandez, Alliance for Fair Food UF Campaign Manager Lucero Ruballos

SPONSOR(S): Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Student Body Treasurer-Elect Santiago Gutierrez, Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, Chispas President Giancarlo Tejada, Chomp the Vote Agency Head Dylan Santalo, Melissa Andrade, Derlis Leyva, Senator Matthew Diaz, Senator Maria Espinoza, Senator Rebecca Ragan, Senator Anthony Portugues, Senator Gabbi Hernandez, Senator Lindsay Kaighin, Senator Rhodes Evans, Senator Nick Meyer

WHEREAS, the University of Florida encourages its students to “lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit ^[1],” and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Government Senate has a precedent of demonstrated support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ (hereafter CIW) Campaign for Fair Food when it passed Resolutions 2009-1099 (Resolution Urging Aramark to Meet with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers) and 2011-105 (Resolution Urging Publix to Meet with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers); and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida students have a long-standing history of supporting Florida farmworkers that harvest the fruits and vegetables that end up on our tables; and,

WHEREAS, from 2001 to 2005, the “Boot the Bell” national campaign, led mostly by student governments, student groups, and national organizations, led over 25 universities and high schools across the country to end licensing agreements and contracts with Taco Bell, which ultimately led Taco Bell to sign the first Fair Food Agreement with the CIW; and,

WHEREAS, the CIW’s Fair Food Program was founded in 2011 as a direct result of the Campaign for Fair Food and functions as a unique partnership among farmworkers, farmers and 14 major food retailers to ensure fair wages and humane working conditions for farmworkers on participating farms ^[3]; and,

WHEREAS, the Fair Food Program eliminates sexual violence, eradicates generational poverty among farmworkers, and guarantees health and safety protections in the fields, which has helped prevent modern-day slavery in participating farms; and,

WHEREAS, partners of the Fair Food Program include 14 multi-billion-dollar companies, including Whole Foods, McDonald's, Subway, Chipotle, Trader Joe's, Walmart, Burger King, The Fresh Market, Stop and Shop, Bon Appetit, KFC, Pizza Hut, Aramark, and Compass Group ^[5]; and,

WHEREAS, the Fair Food Program's Code of Conduct includes zero tolerance provisions for forced labor, child labor, sexual harassment with physical contact, and other forms of violence ^[6]; and,

WHEREAS, the Code of Conduct also includes provisions for implementing fair wages, worker-to-worker education, increased transparency, healthy and safe work environments, supervisor training, and more ^[7]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Fair Food Program received the "Presidential Medal for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking ^[8]" and has received recognition from The Washington Post, New York Times, United Nations, White House, and former Presidents ^[9]; and,

WHEREAS, since the spring of 2014, the University of Florida registered student organization Chispas, along with many other student organizations, has participated in the "Boot the Braids Campaign," part of this mission included meetings with administrators to share student concerns about the promotion of Wendy's brand on campus and the two Wendy's restaurant locations at UF ^[10]; and,

WHEREAS, the food service provider to the University of Florida, Aramark, is already a partner of the Fair Food Program and works with its produce distributors to ensure ethical purchasing of tomatoes ^[11]; and,

WHEREAS, Aramark's contract with the University of Florida, which includes Wendy's on campus, is up for renewal in the next few years; and,

WHEREAS, Wendy's stands alone as the last of the five major fast food corporations and rejects participation in the Fair Food Program ^[12]; and,

WHEREAS, Wendy's stopped buying tomatoes from Florida farms because of the implementation of the Fair Food Program and deliberately moved its purchases to the Mexican agricultural industry ^[13], which is rampant with farm labor abuses such as slavery and sexual assault that go unchecked ^[14]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Southern Poverty Law Center found that 80% of farmworker women are sexually harassed or assaulted ^[15]; and,

WHEREAS, the Fair Food Program's 2017 Annual Report found that "The fatality rate for

farmworkers is 7 times higher than the rate for all workers in private industry ^[16],”

WHEREAS, Wendy’s supplier code of conduct, as assessed by international labor law experts, does little to address these concerns and fails to ensure that proper worker conduct and enforcement mechanisms are in place ^[17]; and,

WHEREAS, the CIW is encouraging a national boycott of Wendy’s until the company agrees to join the Fair Food Program and adhere to the Fair Food Code of Conduct ^[18]; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Student Government of the University of Michigan, one of the nation’s most revered top 5 public universities, passed a resolution to not allow Wendy’s as a vendor until it signs on to the Fair Food Program ^[19]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the CIW’s Fair Food Program as the gold standard for enforcing human rights in U.S. agriculture, as well as across global supply chains, due to well-documented evidence and the CIW’s widely-recognized credentials.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the UF student body and broader UF community to boycott Wendy’s until the fast-food giant joins the Fair Food Program.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate urges the UF administration and Aramark to end its business ties with Wendy’s until the fast-food company agrees to protect the human rights of farmworkers in its supply chain by joining the CIW’s Fair Food Program.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to UF Chispas President Giancarlo Tejada, Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, Student Body President-Elect Michael Murphy, President of the University of Florida W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, & Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Director Will Atkins, Assistant Vice President of Business Services Eddie Daniels, Vice President of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds.

[1]<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/uf-mission/Pages/home.aspx>

[2]https://ciw-online.org/blog/2006/10/mother_jones/

[3]<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/>

[4]<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/results/>

[5]<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/partners/>

[6]<http://ciw-online.org/wp-content/uploads/Fair-Food-Program-2017-Annual-Report.pdf>

[7]<http://ciw-online.org/wp-content/uploads/Fair-Food-Program-2017-Annual-Report.pdf>

[8]<http://ciw-online.org/blog/2015/01/presidential-medal-combatting-slavery/>
[9]<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/recognition/>
[10]https://www.alligator.org/news/local/protestors-challenge-wendy-s-defend-farm-workers-rights/article_4886acc8-9799-11e3-80bb-0019bb2963f4.html
[11]<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/partners/>
[12]<https://www.change.org/p/wendy-s-we-re-boycotting-you-until-you-support-human-rights-for-farmworkers-boycottwendys>
[13]<https://harpers.org/blog/2016/03/trumps-tomatoes/>
[14]<http://graphics.latimes.com/product-of-mexico-camps/>
[15]<https://www.change.org/p/wendy-s-we-re-boycotting-you-until-you-support-human-rights-for-farmworkers-boycottwendys>
[16]<http://ciw-online.org/wp-content/uploads/Fair-Food-Program-2017-Annual-Report.pdf>
[17]<https://www.thelantern.com/2017/04/letter-to-the-editor-ohio-state-administrators-should-listen-to-concerns-about-wendys/>
[18]<http://www.boycott-wendys.org/>
[19]<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/news-briefs/local-and-u-groups-cut-ties-wendy%E2%80%99s-amidst-nationwide-human-rights-campaign>