

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1057

TITLE: Resolution Standing Against Anti-Semitism

AUTHORS: Allocations Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Abby Morris, Gators for Israel President Nick Adams

SPONSORS: Students Taking Action Against Racism Agency Head Ana Mata, Chomp the Vote Agency Head Dylan Santalo, Chabad Vice President Drew Jacobson, Jewish Student Union President Colin Silverman, Zeta Beta Tau President William Engle, Senator Nick Meyer, Senator Branden Pearson, Senator Austin Freedman, Senator Amol Dahliwal, Senator Lindsay Kaighin, Senator Gabriela Hernandez, Senator Brady Alexander, Senator Andrew Goren

WHEREAS, the Department of State defines anti-Semitism as, “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” [1];

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has one of the largest populations of Jewish students in the United States, with 18 percent of the total undergraduate population being religiously or ethnically Jewish [2]; and,

WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 27, 2018, an assailant disrupted the Tree of Life synagogue’s congregation, resulting in the death of 11 congregants and wounding four police officers and two others [3]; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida students stood in solidarity with the Jewish community at a candlelight vigil dedicated to the victims of this shooting; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, statistics show that in 2017 there was a 37 percent increase in hate crimes against people who are culturally or religiously Jewish [4]; and,

WHEREAS, House Resolution 183 states, “Condemning anti-Semitism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values and aspirations that define the people of the United States and condemning anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against minorities as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contrary to the values and aspirations of the United States.” [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives recently passed House Resolution 183 which condemns anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hatred by a 407-23 vote [6]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University of Florida administration to stand firmly against anti-Semitism in solidarity with their Jewish student population.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate stands firmly against anti-Semitism and in the efforts of supporting students who identify as Jewish, religiously and/or ethnically.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Student Body President Ian Green, UF Hillel CEO Adam Grossman, Jewish Student Union President Colin Silverman, Lubavitch Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center, Alpha Epsilon Pi President Eric Jacobowitz, Alpha Epsilon Phi President Rebecca Michel, and UF Dean of Students Dr. Heather White.

[1] <https://www.state.gov/s/rga/resources/267538.htm>

[2] www.alligator.org/news/uf-jewish-students-hold-vigil-to-honor-pittsburgh-victims/article_cc6d2f4c-dbed-11e8-be07-2b8cf499b702.html

[3] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/27/us/active-shooter-pittsburgh-synagogue-shooting.html>

[4] www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-hate-crimes-report/u-s-anti-semitic-hate-crimes-spiked-37-percent-in-2017-fbi-idUSKCN1NI2H6

[5] <https://www.npr.org/2019/03/07/701074291/house-votes-to-condemn-anti-semitism-after-rep-omars-comments>

[6] www.cnn.com/2019/03/07/politics/house-democrats-resolution-vote-ilhan-omar/index.html