

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1075**

**TITLE: Resolution Supporting the National Puerto Rican Student Coalition**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Alfredo Ortiz**

**SPONSOR(S): Latinx Caucus Leader Mauricio Perez, Senator Alana Rush, Senator Mary Faas, William Zelin, Senator Rebecca Ragan**

**WHEREAS**, different economic and environmental crises have affected Puerto Rico in its recent history leading Puerto Rican students to pursue an education elsewhere in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a leading university in the State of Florida and the nation, the University of Florida is in a position to bring about significant change and contribute to the recovery of the Puerto Rican people at the campus, local, statewide, and national levels; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Student Senate has recognized the crisis in Puerto Rico and the challenges faced by stateside Puerto Ricans, and has supported Puerto Rican students in their pursuit of education following the devastation of the island; and,

**WHEREAS**, the national movement led by the National Puerto Rican Student Coalition develops a network of Puerto Rican students displaced by the different crises, and organizes said network for the benefit of Puerto Ricans across the United States by advocating for the rights of the community and the recovery of the homeland; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate understands the significance of the National Puerto Rican Student Coalition's initiative to connect all Puerto Ricans, whether they were born stateside or have become displaced from their homeland, with their history by making it available to students across campuses in the United States.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** the University of Florida Student Senate encourages other Puerto Rican student organizations across the state and the nation to contribute to and support the National Puerto Rican Student Coalition in their efforts to unify the displaced Puerto Rican student population, advocate for the rights of the Puerto Rican people, serve as a forum for the discussion of the Puerto Rican situation, and preserve the history of the Puerto Rican homeland.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the mission of the National Puerto Rican Student Coalition.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to National Puerto Rican Student Coalition Executive Director Jose Luis Rivera, City University of New York Center for Puerto Rican Studies Director Edwin Melendez, University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras Student's General Council Directive President Neftalí Sánchez Cordero, Speaker of the City University of New York Senate Dina Elhadidy, Dean of the International Center Leonardo A Villión, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, Director of Hispanic Latino Affairs Bianca Z. Quiñones, University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies Assistant Director Lenny Ureña, STAAR Agency Head Derlis Leyva, Diversity Cabinet Chair Stephanie Beltran, and Hispanic Student Association President Isabella Oliver, UEPA President Kimberly Ramirez.*