

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1019**

**TITLE: Resolution Encouraging University of Florida Students to Participate in “The Great American Takeout”**

**AUTHORS: Senator Faith Allen and Senator Kevin Trejos**

**SPONSORS: Senate President Kyle Garner, Senate Pro-Tempore Cooper Brown, Majority Party Leader Gabi Zlatanoff, Minority Party Leader Colin Solomon, Chairwoman Feraby Hoffman, Chairman Seth Longland, Senator Kevin Marti, Senator Elizabeth Hartzog, Senator Sydney White**

**WHEREAS**, the restaurant and foodservice industry in the United States employed 12 million out of the total restaurant and foodservice workforce of 15.6 million, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, restaurants and bars across the United States lost 5.5 million jobs in April, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in April, it was noted that there were 6.4 million employees on the payroll at eating and drinking places in the United States [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, three decades of restaurant jobs have been eradicated during the past two months, according to the National Restaurant Association [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Gainesville City Commission passed a \$3.2M Coronavirus Relief Package to support local businesses [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to WUFT, one of the owners of Gator’s Dockside reported a 75%+ cut in sales volume [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, “the Great American Takeout” is a country-wide effort to promote the wellbeing of small businesses [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, “the Great American Takeout” is an effort sponsored by Pepsi, UF’s official drink sponsor [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, “the Great American Takeout” is a recurring day where Americans are encouraged to go out and order takeout from local restaurants [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to a CNN article, local and national restaurants are banding together to ask people to support the restaurant industry by ordering takeout, in support of “the Great American Takeout” [5]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes the immense pressure the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the restaurant industry across America, from complete closures to partial openings.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate encourages the student body to regularly support small businesses in the Gainesville area, as well as across the United States.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate urges students to take part in “The Great American Takeout.”

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Student Body President Trevor Pope, Dean John Kraft, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Robert E. Thomas, Senior Associate Dean and Director S. Selcuk Erencuc, Senior Associate Dean and Director Gary McGill, Associate Dean and Director Alex Sevilla, Assistant Dean Sherry Deist, Assistant Dean and Director John Gresley, Assistant Dean Robert Thomas, Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias, Diversity Cabinet Chair Robyn Louis, Congressman Ted Yoho, President and CEO of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce James Godet, and Alachua County Small Business Enterprise Assistance Program, and the North Florida District Office for the Small Business Association.*

[1]<https://restaurant.org/Articles/News/Three-decades-of-restaurant-jobs-were-lost>

[2]<https://www.wuft.org/news/2020/04/28/gainesville-city-commission-passes-3-2m-coronavirus-relief-package-for-households-and-businesses/>

[3]<https://www.wuft.org/news/2020/04/24/gainesville-community-supports-local-restaurants-impacted-by-covid-19/>

[4]<https://thegreatamericantakeout.com>

[5]<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/24/business/great-american-takeout-trnd/index.html>