

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1031

TITLE: Resolution Celebrating Pride Month 2020 and LGBTQ+ Students

AUTHORS: Deputy Chief of Staff Nick Meyer, Senator Sydney White, LGBTQ Affairs Cabinet Director Austin Freedman

SPONSORS: Student Body President Trevor Pope, Student Body Vice President Lauredan Official, Student Body Treasurer Jessica Jesurajan, Senate President Kyle Garner, Senate President Pro-Tempore Cooper Brown, Majority Party Leader Gabi Zlatanoff, Budget Chairwoman Sam Girschick, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Feraby Hoffman, LGBTQ+ Co-Caucus Leader Ryan Wilder, Senator Colin Solomon, Senator Faith Allen, Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Stephen Singleton

WHEREAS, in 1999, then-President Bill Clinton officially designated the month of June as “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month [1]”; and,

WHEREAS, in 2009, then-President Barack Obama continued and updated this tradition by declaring the month of June as “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month [2]”; and,

WHEREAS, the month of June was chosen due to the historical significance of the Stonewall Riots, which consisted of five days of violent protesting in response to wide-spread police incursions [3]; and,

WHEREAS, on the night of Friday June 27th, 1969, police officers invaded the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, NY, and attempted to arrest multiple LGBTQ patrons in an aggressive and public manner, eliciting a fervorous response from many witnesses including Marsha P. Johnson, a black transgender woman, who is largely credited with helping to begin the LGBTQ rights movement [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the month now represents a time to reflect on LGBTQ+ history, beginning before Stonewall and continuing to this day, and celebrate the acceptance of sexual and gender diversity [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has expressed a commitment to support LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff through resources such as the Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Division of Student Affairs LGBTQ Affairs office, Counseling and Wellness Center, and the Student Health Care Center; and,

WHEREAS, students, faculty, and staff at the University of Florida identifying as LGBTQ+ have, and continue to, positively impact our university and the greater Gainesville community through both individual work and through the support of numerous student and community organizations; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates the month of June as a proclamation of LGBTQ+ history, people, and culture while recognizing the importance it holds to many of our students, faculty, and staff.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff in their continued fight for equal rights and celebrates the accomplishments made thus far for the community.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Division of Student Affairs LGBTQ Affairs Director Tiffany Richards, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Division of Student Affairs LGBTQ Affairs Graduate Assistant Logan Nesor, LGBTQ Affairs Cabinet Director Austin Freedman, and Pride Student Union President Alex Hernandez.

[1] <https://clintonwhitehouse2.archives.gov/WH/Accomplishments/ac399.html>

[2] <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/pride.php>

[3] <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/articles/why-we-celebrate-lgbt-pride-a-brief-history/>

[4] <https://www.biography.com/news/stonewall-riots-history-leaders>

[5] <https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/>