

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1051**

**TITLE: Resolution honoring the life of Vanessa Guillén**

**Authors: Senator Matthew Rodriguez, Senator Hannah Elmattougui, Senator Carlos Estrada, Senator Faith Allen**

**Sponsors: Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Kevin Trejos, Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Santiago Clavijo-Gomez, Senator Bryan Momin, Senator Monica Lea, Hispanic Student Association President Victoria Grant, Hispanic Student Association Chief of Staff Giancarlo Siu, Hispanic Student Association Vice President of Programming Mary Faas, Hispanic Student Association Vice President of Operations Sofia Reinoso, Hispanic Student Association Vice President of Communications Caterina Patriarca, Hispanic Student Association Secretary Elle Chumlongluck, Hispanic Student Association OPA Director Karolyn Ranero, Hispanic Student Association MLP Director Brian Nunez, Hispanic Student Association Julia Echemendia, Lucha Latina President Maria Forero, Lucha Latina Secretary Marianna Colon, Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. President Mauricio Perez, Mexican American Student Association President Luz Mata, Judiciary Chairman Franco Luis, Senator Marcus Nelson**

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, Vanessa Guillén, a 20-year-old Mexican-American soldier stationed in Fort Hood, Texas went missing; and,

**WHEREAS**, Vanessa Guillén had told her family about being sexually harassed at Fort Hood and how she did not feel like she could report it [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Vanessa Guillén's murderer, a Specialist at the Fort Hood Headquarters, fatally shot himself when confronted by law enforcement after his girlfriend told the investigators he had killed Vanessa Guillén [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Vanessa Guillén's remains were identified on July 6th after being discovered in the Leon River, ending the investigation [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, women of color overwhelmingly face sexual harassment in the workplace, with 77% of Latinx women surveyed by the Southern Poverty Law Center stating that sexual harassment was a major issue in the workplace [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has a large population of Hispanic/Latinx students, with the number of Hispanic and Latinx students increasing from 11.6% of the student body in 2006, to 19.11% in 2018 [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 15th multiple UF Latinx organizations hosted an online memorial and discussion forum in honor of Vanessa Guillén with over 60 students in attendance [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, sexual assaults are a major contributing cause to post-traumatic stress disorder in female service members and veterans [6]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate condemns all forms of sexual assault, encourages students to be a voice against sexual misconduct universally, and promotes sexual assault and misconduct education.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate encourages students to be an ally and advocate for both those who are members of the Hispanic/Latinx community and those who have been victims of sexual assault or misconduct.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate encourages students to utilize the resources provided by organizations such as, but not limited to: The UF Counseling and Wellness Center, GatorWell, and the Title IX Office to report acts of sexual misconduct and seek healing.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate honors the life of Vanessa Guillén and all other victims and/or survivors of sexual assault or misconduct.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President Kent Fuchs; Provost Joseph Glover; Student Body President Trevor Pope; Hispanic Student Association President Victoria Grant, Lucha Latina President Maria Forero, Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. President Mauricio Perez, Mexican American Student Association Luz Mata, Students Taking Action Against Racism Co-Chair Gabriela Pombo, Students Taking Action Against Racism Co-Chair Julianah Cleopha, Veterans Affairs Cabinet Director Jacob Van De Car, Womens Affairs Director Haley Palumbo, Student Life Division Chairwoman Faith Maniti,*

[1]<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/07/10/how-took-investigators-10-weeks-find-vanessa-guillens-body/5406051002/>

[2][https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/existeayuda/tools/pdf/factsheet\\_eng.pdf](https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/existeayuda/tools/pdf/factsheet_eng.pdf)

[3] [https://www.alligator.org/news/number-of-latinx-students-at-uf-almost-doubled-in-the-last-decade/article\\_e727e69e-3eff-11ea-8924-7be0785213c1.html](https://www.alligator.org/news/number-of-latinx-students-at-uf-almost-doubled-in-the-last-decade/article_e727e69e-3eff-11ea-8924-7be0785213c1.html)

[4] [https://www.alligator.org/news/latinx-students-reflect-on-the-death-and-disappearance-of-vanessa-guill-n/article\\_33286a66-d03f-11ea-b755-6b0c7a3112a0.html](https://www.alligator.org/news/latinx-students-reflect-on-the-death-and-disappearance-of-vanessa-guill-n/article_33286a66-d03f-11ea-b755-6b0c7a3112a0.html)

[5] <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>

[6] Yaeger D, Himmelfarb N, Cammack A, Mintz J. DSM-IV diagnosed posttraumatic stress disorder in women veterans with and without military sexual trauma. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2006;21(S3): S65–9.