

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1016

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2021

AUTHORS: Member-at-Large Aaron Armando Arriaga, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Annabelle Groux, Senator Rocio Montero-Mask

SPONSORS: Senate President Pro-Tempore Blake Robinson, Judiciary Chairman Noah Fineberg, Member-at-Large Catherine Giordano, Senator Drew Pancione, Senator Simon Jee, Senator Santiago Clavijo-Gomez, Senator John Hazzard, Student Body President Trevor Pope

WHEREAS, the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April is to raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate communities on how to prevent it and bolster prevention efforts throughout the year [1]; and

WHEREAS, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center formally recognized April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in 2001 and President Barack Obama officially proclaimed it as a nationally recognized campaign in 2009 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, sexual violence is more prevalent at college compared to other crimes [3]; and,

WHEREAS, university administration, along with campus law enforcement, plays a significant role in addressing and responding to college sexual assault [3]; and,

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month by the Student Senate actively promotes the support of survivors and initiatives designed for sexual assault prevention by the University of Florida; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and will continuously support its campaign for raising public awareness about sexual assault and educating communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate will advocate for the safety and protection of all students and stands in solidarity with all survivors of sexual assault.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED sexual assault is an ongoing issue in universities across the country and the University of Florida Student Senate condemns any acts of sexual violence towards students, faculty, and other members of the Gator Nation.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull, Vice President of Human Resources Jodi Gentry, UF Police Department Chief Linda J. Stump-Kurnick

[1]<https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/nsvrc-marks-20th-anniversary-annual-sexual-assault-awareness-month-shine-light-building-safe>

[2]<https://nwalsexualassault.org/blog.html/article/2020/04/30/sexual-assault-awareness-month-history>

[3]<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence> [4]<https://osa.med.ufl.edu/policies-procedures/sexual-misconduct/>