

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1010

TITLE: Resolution Acknowledging the Conclusion of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month

AUTHOR(S): Senator Saketh Damera

SPONSORS: Senate President Elizabeth Hartzog, Senate President Pro-Tempore Olivia Green, Judiciary Chairman John Brinkman, Budget and Appropriations Chairwoman Catherine Giordano, Majority Party Leader Emily Pecora, Senator Krish Talati, Senator Aneesh Chatrathi, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Ryan Athay, Senator Johnny Liu, Senator Timothy Shin

WHEREAS, As designated by the Government of the United States of America, APIDA Heritage Month is observed during the month of May from May 1st to May 31st [1]; and,

WHEREAS, APIDA Month serves to celebrate the history and contributions of Americans from the Asian Continent and Pacific Islands, while inspiring discussion on issues pertaining to the Asian community [1]; and,

WHEREAS, From the most recently provided (Fall 2020) metrics, the University of Florida possesses an undergraduate student body that is 9.72% Asian and a Graduate and Professional student body that is 5.95% Asian [2]; and,

WHEREAS, The years 2019-2022 have represented a tumultuous time for Asian American students at UF and in public schools, stemming from a rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes as evident by the recent incident of violence against Shaan Pritmani at Coppell Middle School in Dallas, Texas [3][4]; and,

WHEREAS, President Kent Fuchs and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull have publicly expressed support for Asian American students and condemned the national rise in hate and racial violence against the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander Desi Affairs (APIDA) provides resources to University of Florida students to explore and define their complex cultural and intersectional identities and address culturally unique issues through education [6]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes APIDA Month, celebrating the many feats of, and reflecting on the issues affecting Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the conclusion of APIDA Heritage Month does not mark the end of the problems facing the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the continued discussion of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American history by UF administration and students, and initiatives addressing the issues APIDA students, including that of racial hate in public schools and universities, past the conclusion of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month on May 31st.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joe Glover, Chief Diversity Officer Marsha McGriff, Asian American Student Union President Chloe Choi, Indian Student Association Presidents, Divyang Bhatt and Lohith Srikakalopu, Pakistani Student Association President Kainat Khan, and Bangladeshi Student Association President Priyoti Awal

[1] <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/448/text>

[2] <https://cdo.ufl.edu/strategy/metrics/>

[3] <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/05/09/about-a-third-of-asian-americans-say-they-have-changed-their-daily-routine-due-to-concerns-over-threats-attacks/>

[4] <https://telanganatoday.com/viral-video-of-indian-american-student-getting-bullied-is-raging-the-internet>

[5] <https://statements.ufl.edu/statements/2021/march-/presidents-statement-on-anti-asian-violence.html>

[6] <https://apia.multicultural.ufl.edu>