

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1023**

**TITLE: Resolution Recognizing and Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health Resources and Opportunities**

**AUTHOR(S):** Minority Party Leader and Women’s Caucus Co-Leader Faith Corbett, Women’s Caucus Co-Leader Catherine Giordano, LGBTQ+ Caucus Leader Oscar Santiago, Senator Taylor Hoerle, Senator Connor Panish

**SPONSORS:** Senate President Elizabeth Hartzog, Senate Pro-Tempore Olivia Green, Chairman John Brinkman, Chairwoman Tanner Thompson, Deputy Minority Party Leader Mohammed Faisal, Majority Party Leader Emily Pecora, Judiciary Vice-Chairman Mason Solomon, Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Joseph Andreoli, Senator Catherine Gomez, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Savannah Partridge, Senator Ana Troncoso, Senator Ashley Shakib, Senator Claire Borland, Senator Raymond Hautamaki, Senator Samantha Sparks, Senator Schayenne Hernandez, Senator Sidney Ruedas, Senator Ryan Athay, Senator Jagger Leach, Senator Bradley Thomas

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, June 24th, the Supreme Court overruled Roe v. Wade in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on May 11th, 2022, the Women's Health Protection Act failed in the U.S. Senate, demonstrating a failure to codify Roe v. Wade [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on April 14th, 2022, Florida Legislature passed HB 5, the Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality Act, which bans all abortions after 15 weeks of gestation [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Judge John C. Cooper of Florida’s Second Judicial Circuit has publicly claimed intentions to issue a temporary statewide injunction, as he cites Section 23 of the Florida State Constitution: “Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life except as otherwise provided herein.” [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the future is uncertain for rights to sexual and reproductive health and resources in Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 1950s and 1960s, estimates of illegal abortions ranged from 200,000 to 1.2 million and most legal abortions required the approval of a standing hospital committee, taking

up unnecessary time [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, each year, about 7.9% of maternal deaths can be attributed to unsafe abortions, and the most affected are women and girls either living in poverty or belonging to marginalized groups, or both [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that 75% of women that seek abortions come from low-income backgrounds, and 59% of women that seek abortions are already mothers [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, transgender and gender non-binary individuals are often left out of the abortion conversation, with 462 to 530 trans or nonbinary patients obtaining abortions in 2017 alone [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, women in their 20s accounted for more than 50% of abortions [9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as displayed in a Duke Scientific Study based in Zambia, “The Psycho-Social Benefits of Access to Contraception: Experimental Evidence from Zambia”, when given access to contraception, women and girls are given more control over their sexual and reproductive health which may reduce anxiety and stress levels and overall less risk for development of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) or depression [10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as demonstrated in previous mentioned study, access to guaranteed and free contraception leads to “immediate effects on a woman’s psycho-social health” and a “0.070 point increase on the mental health index (95% CI [0.006, 0.133] p=0.031)”, which is statistically significant [10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, historically, the fight for accessible contraceptives on campus has been alive and present at the University of Florida, for example, the National Women’s Liberation pushed for a 24-hour contraceptive vending machine on campus in 2018 [11]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that although the estimated cost of emergency contraception, or plan b, in the state of Florida is between \$10 and \$70 [12], the University of Florida provides emergency contraception (plan b) for a reduced cost; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student

Senate recognizes that the University of Florida offers, through Gatorwell, the following sexual and reproductive health-related resources and services to enrolled students: free condoms, free lubricants, free dental dams, free confidential HIV testing, one-on-one education-based consultations regarding general sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, and contraceptive options counseling [13]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the University of Florida offers, through the Student Health Care Center, the following sexual and reproductive health resources and opportunities without appointments: free condoms, free menstrual products, sexual health brochures [14]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the University of Florida provides, through the Student Health Care Center, the following sexual health services available via teams and appointments: counseling on anything related to sex, including sexuality, information on all birth control options, sexually transmitted infection prevention, testing, and treatment, medically vetted literature on sexual health, potential problems, and more [14]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports a person's right to sexual and reproductive health; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the continuation of resources and information regarding sexual and reproductive health.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Supreme Court of the United States Public Information Officer Patricia McCabe, Governor Ron Desantis, Florida Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls, Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson, Florida Agricultural and Consumer Services Commissioner Nikki Fried, University President Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Board of Trustees Chair Mori Hosseini, Chief Diversity Officer Marsha McGriff, Gainesville City Commission, Alachua County Commission, Women's Student Association President Brenda Sanchez, Pride Student Union President Tayler King, Women's Health Advocacy Alliance President Danelle Antelo, Latino Medical Student Association President Sebastian Tirado-Vélez, Planned Parenthood Generation Action President Jianna Daddario, and Gainesville Chapter of National Women's Liberation Chair Emily Calvin.*

- [1] [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\\_6j37.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf)
- [2] <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/11/politics/senate-abortion-rights-vote-roe-v-wade/index.html>
- [3] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/5>
- [4] <https://www.wesh.com/article/florida-abortion-ban-ruling/40475035#>
- [5] <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2003/03/lessons-roe-will-past-be-prologue>
- [6] [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/SexualHealth/INFO\\_Abortion\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/SexualHealth/INFO_Abortion_WEB.pdf)
- [7] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/teresaghilarducci/2021/12/24/59-of-women-seeking-abortions-are-mothers-facing-high-poverty-risk/?sh=5b4f4f3e264f>
- [8] <https://abcnews.go.com/US/push-inclusion-abortion-rights-movement/story?id=84542537>
- [9] <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/ss/ss7009a1.htm>
- [10] <https://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=45903>
- [11] <https://www.wcjb.com/content/news/Feminist-group-pushes-for-Plan-B-vending-machine-on-UF-campus-488659251.html>
- [12] <https://health.costhelper.com/morning-after-pill.html>
- [13] <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/health-topic/sexual-health/#:~:text=Free%20condoms%2C%20lubricants%2C%20and%20dental,and%20For%20contraceptive%20options%20counseling>
- [14] <https://shcc.ufl.edu/services/primary-care/sexual-health/>