

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1032**

**TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline as a Critical Campus Mental Health Resource**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Daniel DiBari**

**SPONSORS: Judiciary Vice Chair Mason Solomon, Senator Shelby Schultz, Senator Bradley Thomas, Senator Abhay Tak**

**WHEREAS**, on July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act went into effect, designating “988” as the new, official, nationwide phone number for the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline assists thousands of people with overcoming crises daily with an anticipated doubling of calls, chats, and texts after phone number transition [1][2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial to ensure access to reliable mental health services to all University of Florida stakeholders and the surrounding communities since nearly 1 in 5 U.S. adults live with a mental illness [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline will serve a pivotal purpose in augmenting campus mental health resources [4][5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, improvements to the current campus mental health infrastructure would allow support for a more significant number of students [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, only 8.66% of University of Florida students were served by the Counseling & Wellness Center in 2021, while up to 44% of college students reported experiencing signs of anxiety and depression [7][8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, accessibility barriers hinder the demonstration of help-seeking behaviors among college students [9]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline as a critical mental health resource for University of Florida students.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the use of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in addition to the mental health services at the campus, municipal, and national levels.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of

Florida Student Senate pledges its continued support for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and the expansion of like mental health services.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Dr. Joseph Glover, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Dr. Angela Lindner, Outgoing Vice President for Student Life Dr. D'Andra Mull, Dean of Students and Incoming Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, and Counseling and Wellness Center Director Ernesto Escoto.*

[1] <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/07/15/us-transition-988-suicide-crisis-lifeline-begins-saturday.html>

[2] <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/988-fact-sheet.pdf>

[3] <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

[4] <https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/suicide/>

[5]

<https://www.facebook.com/UFPublicSafety/posts/pfbid02FioqmYPX8EzJJpjqRSKBsASvmUgzGPPGVSe5LWiqi9DxmjM4DhyUos4PWJXqN8mUI>

[6] <https://health.ucdavis.edu/news/headlines/new-988-number-is-the-911-for-mental-health-emergencies/2022/07>

[7] <https://issuu.com/cwcannualreport/docs/cwc-annualreport-2020-21>

[8] <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/college-students-and-depression>

[9] <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40221479>