

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1044

TITLE: Resolution Acknowledging the Impact of Hurricane Ian in Southwest Florida

AUTHOR(S): Senator Hana Ali, Senator Mohammed Faisal, Senate Pro-Tempore Catherine Giordano

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WHEREAS, on September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian hit Southwest Florida as a Category 4 hurricane [1]; and,

WHEREAS, massive storm surges, strong winds, and heavy rain affected densely populated areas, including as Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel Island, Naples, Port Charlotte, and their surrounding areas [2]; and,

WHEREAS, at least 119 deaths have been recorded in the state of Florida due to the hurricane's strong impacts [3]; and,

WHEREAS, in the Lee County area, around 52 people died as a result of storm surges, which was the leading cause of death [4]; and,

WHEREAS, total flood and wind losses from Hurricane Ian are estimated to range from \$41 billion to \$74 billion [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida provides resources to students affected by Hurricane Ian, such as Aid-a-Gator and the Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry, for students facing financial hardships during this unprecedented time [6]; and,

WHEREAS, more than 40 UF/IFAS Extension agents served in disaster call centers in Hurricane Ian, providing water, non-perishable food items, and agriculture support to individuals impacted by the storm in Southwest Florida [6]; and,

WHEREAS, various organizations are actively seeking donations to help those affected by Hurricane Ian, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) [7]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that Southwest Florida is in a detrimental state following the landfall of Hurricane Ian; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that many lives were affected by Hurricane Ian and that we commemorate those that were lost; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages faculty and student leaders to do everything within their power to aid those struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Ron DeSantis, Mayor of Fort Myers Kevin B. Anderson, University President Kent Fuchs,, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, and University Interim Dean of Students Jonathan Yorkowitz, Campus Assistance and Resources for Empowerment (CARE) Assistant Dean and Director Nadene Reynolds.

[1] <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/29/1126022483/hurricane-ian-slammed-southwest-florida>

[2] <https://www.news-press.com/story/entertainment/2022/10/06/hurricane-ian-fort-myers-beach-sanibel-matlacha-north-captiva-pine-island-restaurants-standing/8194866001/>

[3] <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/07/us/hurricane-ian-victims-drowned.html>

[4] <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/local/2022/10/12/hurricane-ian-27-who-died-lee-and-hendry-counties-identified/10479458002/>

[5] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brendarichardson/2022/10/06/total-flood-and-wind-losses-from-hurricane-ian-range-from-41-billion-to-70-billion/?sh=1f359812a92d>

[6]

<https://news.ufl.edu/2022/10/hurricane-recovery/#:~:text=At%20least%2040%20UF%20IFAS,to%20crops%20and%20ornamental%20plants>.

[7] <https://www.wafb.com/2022/10/03/what-you-should-know-before-donating-hurricane-ian-relief/>