

Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union
PO Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-1665

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1060

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing October as LGBTQIA+ History Month

AUTHOR(S): Senator Joaquin Rafaele Cecilia Marcelino

SPONSOR(S): Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Deputy Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes, Senator Nathan McGinnis, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Wavid Bowman, Senator John Rassel, Senator Cassie Urbenz, LGBTQ+ Caucus Chair Oscar Santiago Perez

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate has made active efforts to support and acknowledge the LGBTQIA+ community at the University of Florida [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and Florida State Legislature have a history of restricting LGBTQ+ rights and freedoms—exemplified by the recently passed SB374/HB1557 (otherwise known as the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill) in the Florida Legislature, which restricts education of sexual orientation and gender identity, and the stalling of the Equality Act in the US Senate, which would include sexual orientation and gender identity to the 1964 Civil Rights Act [2][3]; and,

WHEREAS, there are around 886,000 LGBTQ people (ages 13 years old and up) living in the State of Florida [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the historical treatment of LGBTQIA+ persons in Florida is marked with “witch hunts”, political attacks, and overtly discriminatory laws [5]; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ people have historically been overrepresented in suicide death rates and have significantly higher rates of suicide attempts compared with heterosexual people, with 45% of LGBTQ youth (ages 13–24 years old) having seriously considered suicide in 2022 [6][7]; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth who found their school or community to be LGBTQ-affirming had lower reported rates of suicide attempts [7]; and,

WHEREAS, the Core Values of the University of Florida encompasses “Community” and “Inclusion” [8]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida “believe[s] that diversity is non-negotiable and essential for the benefit of all,” including “culture, disability identity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status” [9]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) features Florida Queer History (FQH) which has highlighted LGBTQIA+ personal experiences, struggles against discrimination, and violent hate crimes including the Orlando Pulse Club shooting [10]; and,

WHEREAS, US educational organizations led the way in 1994, and finally resolved in 1995 in the General Assembly of the National Education Association, in establishing LGBT History Month and marking the beginning of the movement counteracting discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ+ citizens [11]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes October as LGBTQIA+ History Month.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges and stands in solidarity with those who have fought for the hard-earned gains in LGBTQIA+ rights and liberties, and those who continue to do so.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to utilize resources such as the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Engagement to use as a safe space and to learn more about the community and its history.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University of Florida to develop more and build upon existing programs to support the LGBTQIA+ community at the University of Florida, including but not limited to: Expanding the Lavender Living Learning Community, promoting transgender health support provided in the Student Health Care Center, reaffirming our stance in the respecting of gender identities and sexual orientations in our campus community, and expanding mental healthcare access for LGBTQIA+ students; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages cooperation with the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Florida Queer History (FQH) in developing classes acknowledging the history of the LGBTQIA+ community and their struggles, both current and past, including their specific tribulations at the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages regular communication and cooperation between University of Florida administration with the LGBTQ+ Presidential Advisory Committee and the Senate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison, and other officials to maintain diversity and inclusion.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Kent Fuchs; Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Chair Bonnie Moradi; Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement Director Patricia Jordan; Office of LGBTQ+ Student Engagement Program Director Jamir Wright; SPOHP Director Dr. Paul Ortiz; Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White; Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Marsha McGriff; Pride Community Center

of North Central Florida President Tamara Perry-Lumardo; and University Interim Dean of Students Jonathan Yorkowitz.

- [1]: <https://sg.ufl.edu/branches/legislative/senate-resources/>
- [2]: <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/28/1089221657/dont-say-gay-florida-desantis>
- [3]: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/senate-lgbtq-equality-act/2021/06/19/887a4134-d038-11eb-a7f1-52b8870bef7c_story.html
- [4]: https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/FL
- [5]: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1381&context=nlr>
- [6]: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3662085/>
- [7]: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>
- [8]: <https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/>
- [9]: <https://www.honors.ufl.edu/about/diversity-equity--inclusion/>
- [10]: <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/projects/florida-queer-history-fqh/>
- [11]: <https://www.dodea.edu/dodeacelebrates/pride-month.cfm>



Olivia Green
Senate President

11/17/22
Date