

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1019

TITLE: Resolution Condemning the Antisemitic Acts of February 1st and 2nd of 2023

AUTHOR(S): Senator Cassie Urbenz, Deputy Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes, Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Senator Oscar Santiago Perez

SPONSORS: Senator Miranda Holder, Senator Evan E. Rafanan, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Navya Nair, Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Alexander Valentin, Senator Nathan McGinnis, Majority Party Leader Blake Cox, Judiciary Chairman Sean Harkins, Senate President Pro-Tempore Catherine Giordano, Information and Communications Chairwoman Phoebe Funai, Member-at-Large Mara Vaknin, Member-at-Large Ana Troncoso, Senator Nyla Pierre, Senator Jacey Cable, Senator Danny Kopelman, Senator Matt Reich, Senator Sam Platovsky, Senator Clayton Bush, Senator Samuel Rosenkranz, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Presley Baesler, Senator Brendan Kligerman, Senator John Brinkman, Senator Jacob Kanfer, Senator Bianca Barrios, Senator Sidney Ruedas, Senator Gretchen Howard, Senator Wilson Roberts, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Ethan Ghozali, Senator Aaron Amster, Senator Johnny Liu, Senator Samantha Kinggard, Senator Haley Rubin, Senator Charlize Ramos, Senator Drew Okun, Senator Shelby Schultz, Senator Viridiana Lopez-Lugo, Senator Corey Bader, Senator Abi Whittaker, Senator Mason Solomon, Senator Joah Levine, Senator Grace Shoemaker, Senator Danny Wolcott

WHEREAS, on the night of February 1st, 2023 antisemitic sentiments were found written in chalk around campus, specifically referencing Kanye West’s antisemitic rhetoric; and, [2]

WHEREAS, these sentiments included the date “2/2/2023” with no further context; and, [2]

WHEREAS, in the afternoon of February 2nd, 2023 students were alarmed that there was a neo-Nazi presence on campus as a group with signage of “Ye was Right, Change my Mind”; and, [1]

WHEREAS, the *Chomp Hate* campaign was tabling nearby giving out stickers to students, showing solidarity with the community and encouraging limited interaction with the extremists; and,

WHEREAS, President Kent Fuchs put out a statement committing increased police presence on campus to ensure student safety and address concern; and, [2]

WHEREAS, many students were in fear as this was juxtaposed with a ‘suspicious’ package was found inside of Turlington Hall; and, [1]

WHEREAS, this package was met with both UFPD and Alachua County Bomb Squad response, increasing student concern that this may be an antisemitic act; and, [1]

WHEREAS, although these events were ultimately unrelated, students were concerned with the

package being connected to the threatening chalk messages from the previous day; and, [1]

WHEREAS, this occurred not a full week after January 27th, which is recognized as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and [2]

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate has recently authored two bills, (*SSB 2022-1057 Resolution Condemning the Rise in Antisemitism* and *SSB 2023-1003 Resolution to Recognize and Promote the Cream Cheese Not Hate Campaign*) standing with the Jewish community and remains unwavering in its support during this time; then, [3] [4]

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate condemns any and all antisemitic actions occurring on UF campus and beyond; and,

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate *Chomps Hate* and stands firm in protecting and uplifting our students; and,

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate will continue advocating for and uplifting available support systems for Jewish students, such as UF Chabad and UF Hillel; and,

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida campus is a place of community and comfort, and that the Student Government at the University of Florida commits itself to creating and maintaining safe spaces for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Ben Sasse, Vice President of Student Life Heather White, Chief Diversity Officer Marsha McGiff, UF Hillel Rabbi Jonah Zinn, UF Hillel Chief Advancement Officer Jamie Zinn, UF Chabad Rabbi Berl Goldman, Interim Dean of Students Dr. Jonathan Yorkowitz, Student Director for Spread Cream Cheese, Not Hate Aedyn Gorenberg, Jewish Student Union President Sam Hendler, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters, Student Body Vice President Daniel Badell, and Student Body Treasurer Sierra Kantamneni.

[1] - <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/02/bomb-squad-university-of-florida-package-turlington-hall-antisemitism-kanye-ye>

[2]-

https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/02/antisemitic-chalk-kanye-west-university-of-florida?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_featured

[3]-

<https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SSB-2023-1003-Resolution-to-Recognize-and-Promote-the-Spread-Cream-Cheese-Not-Hate-Campaign-1.pdf>

[4]-

<https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SSB-2022-1057.pdf>