

**STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2023-1043**

**TITLE:** Senate Resolution to Protect Bright Futures for All Majors

**AUTHORS:** Senator Nathaniel Pelton

**SPONSORS:** Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Senate President Pro Tempore Nathan McGinnis, Majority Party Leader Evan Rafanan, Senator Timothy Sinclair, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Isabel Penin, Senator Miranda Holder, Senator Ana Alvarez, Senator Jagannath Jayanti, Senator Maximillian Banach, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Caitlyn Mathews, Senator Zoe Richter, Senator John Lin, Senator Asif Islam, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Mohammed Faisal, Senator Simone Liang, Senator Wavid Bowman, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Raj Mia, Deputy Majority Party Leader Navya Nair, Senator Andrew Taramykin, Senator Jonathan Stephens, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Quoc Pham, Senator Blake Cox, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator John Rassel, Senator Anna Huber, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Rachel Hartnett, Senator Courtney Mai, Senator Kathryn Holmes, Senator Arunabho Basu, Senator Cec Wood-Barron, Senator Jordan LoSardo, Senator Alex Simes, Senator Nicholas Brito, Senator Pari Patel, Senator Aaron Amster, Senator Danny Wolcott, Senator Colin Lasch, Senator Chancellor Wilson, Senator Amanda Lieber, Senator Samuel Rosenkranz, Senator Joaquin Rafael C. Marcelino, Senator Luke Asuncion, Senator Ethan Ghozali, Senator Alexander Valentin, Senator Mason Solomon, Senator Matt Reich, Minority Party Leader Santiago Alvarez, Senator Sidney Ruedas, Senator Jorge Perez, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Abigail Whitaker

**WHEREAS**, as of 2020, there are over 23,000 Bright Futures Scholarship Program recipients at the University of Florida [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, over 90% of incoming in-state Freshman students at the University of Florida receive the award [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bright Futures scholarship recipients receive funding for 75% or 100% of tuition, constituting financial awards for thousands of Florida students [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, Florida State Senate Bill 86 would have limited Bright Futures Scholarship funding based upon rules promulgated by the State Board of Governors, including the provision that funding be restricted to a list of career-readying majors [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, SB 86 passed through both the Committee of Education, Appropriations

Subcommittee on Education, and Committee on Appropriations in the Florida Senate [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, SB 86 passed in the Florida Senate in a 22 to 18 vote [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, SB 86 died in Messages in the Florida House of Representatives [4]; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the state legislature has continued to pass legislation threatening the eligibility requirements and opportunities within the Bright Futures Scholarship Programs, including the removal of the \$600 annual textbook stipend [3]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate opposes future action threatening Bright Futures Scholarship Program funding eligibility requirements and opportunities for all majors; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly endorses protections for Bright Futures Scholarship Program funding eligibility requirements and opportunities for all majors; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon Florida Lawmakers to protect funding for and prevent encroachment upon the Bright Future Scholarship Program's eligibility requirements and opportunities for all majors.


*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Benjamin Sasse, Director of UF's Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Tina Lamb, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters, Florida State Governor Ronald DeSantis, Florida State Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Florida State Senate President Pro Tempore Dennis Baxley, Florida State Senate Majority Leader Ben Albritton, and Florida State Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book.*

[1] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/types-of-aid/bright-futures/bright-futures-resource-page/>

[2] <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>

[3] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/05/sb-86-dies>

[4] <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/86>

 9/28/21  
Oscar Santiago Perez Date  
Senate President