

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1151**

### **TITLE: AUTHORIZATION ORDERING SENATE BUDGETARY FUNDS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE VENDING MACHINE PROJECT**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Isabella Scramoncin**

**SPONSOR(S): Mental Health Co-Chairperson Wavid Bowman, Senator Asif Islam, Senator Anamika Naidu, Senator Anghelo Gangano**

**WHEREAS**, students at the University of Florida have demanded for many years that a contraceptive vending machine be installed on campus for the express purpose of supporting students' reproductive rights; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to statistics collected by the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, for the academic year 21-22, which is the latest data available to students, 57% of undergraduate students are females [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to a study published in the National Library of Medicine, 72% college students have had sexual intercourse [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the same study, condoms are the most commonly used type of contraceptive, followed by oral contraceptives (pills) [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on June 24th, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States of America overturned decades of precedent (*Roe* and *Casey*) by ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that the right to abortion was not constitutionally protected under the 14th amendment, leaving the issue for the individual states to legislate on [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 3rd, 2022, the Florida State Legislature passed HB 5, a 15-week ban on abortion, [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on April 3rd, 2023, the Florida State Legislature passed SB 300, a 6-week ban on abortion, which would effectively ban abortion in the State of Florida, because by that point in their pregnancy, many women are unaware of their pregnancy [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the passage of SB 300 is the latest in an onslaught of legislation by the Florida legislature which attacks LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, and reproductive rights; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Morning After Pill (MAP) is an over-the-counter drug which is taken to prevent pregnancy after sexual intercourse, with peak effectiveness within 12-24 hours of intercourse, and decreasing effectiveness within 72-120 hours of intercourse [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, when choosing the location for the installation of a contraceptive vending machine, easy accessibility is of the utmost importance if it is to serve the student body effectively, taking into account the fact that the longer a student waits after having intercourse to use oral contraceptives, the less effective the medication becomes; and,

**WHEREAS**, when a meeting was held between members of Student Government and UF Pharmacy on August 9th, 2018, Newell Hall was identified as a potential location for the contraceptive vending machine due to its centralized position on campus and its hours of operation (runs 24 hours a day) [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to data collected by GatorWell, at the University of Florida, only 34.7% of students who engaged in sexual intercourse used birth control pills [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on the same data, only 25.8% of students who engaged in sexual intercourse used condoms [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on the same data, only 21.3% of students who engaged in sexual intercourse used both condoms and birth control pills [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on the same data, 88.3% of sexually active students reported using a birth control method either “most of the time” or “always” [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on the same data, 16.0% of sexually active students reported having used, or having had a partner who used, emergency contraception (i.e., the Morning After Pill) within the last 12 months [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a clear and present demand by students attending the University of Florida for accessible forms of birth control has been established; and,

**WHEREAS**, this project would establish a contraceptive vending machine specifically at an on campus location, so as to avoid all the travel impediments one might face when going off campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, this project would increase the affordability of the emergency contraceptives for students, as the prices at pharmacies can oftentimes be prohibitive for students; and,

**WHEREAS**, contraceptive vending machines increase privacy for students compared to 24/7 pharmacies because there is no need to interact with anyone; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a social stigma associated with publicly purchasing contraceptives, especially for women, and this contraceptive vending machine can serve to mitigate the number of women being harassed, shamed, and judged for seeking out reproductive care; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to a recent report by USA Today, at least 39 colleges and universities across 17 states have implemented emergency contraceptive vending machines on their campuses [9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, reports from AP News and Self have shown that contraceptive vending machines at universities are legal and fiscally responsible [10,11]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the recommended budget for the implementation of this project is similar to those provided at other universities, such as Boston University, where their report indicates they spent: \$5,075.00 on stocking product and maintenance fees combined, \$2,688.00 on the vending machine itself, for a grand total of \$7,763.00, not including cost of shipping or emergency repairs (i.e., in the event of a hurricane, or other unforeseen circumstances) [12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 5th, 2022, the Student Senate of the University of Florida passed SSB2022-1023, “Resolution Recognizing and Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health Resources and Opportunities” [13,14]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 19th, 2022, the Student Senate of the University of Florida passed SSB2022-1027, “Student Body Resolution Addressing the Need for 24/7 Access to Emergency Contraception on the University of Florida Campus” [15,16]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the passage of these resolutions featuring authors and sponsors from both caucuses shows that, even across the passage of time, the sentiment of the Student Senate has consistently been in favor of expanding access to reproductive healthcare on campus at the University of Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, as stipulated in Article III, Section 5 of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, the Senate President shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the Student Body [17]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as stipulated in Article III, Section 6(j) of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, the Student Senate has the power and duty to “provide for the control and disbursement of Student Body funds” [17]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as stipulated in Article IV, Section 4(e) of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, a power of the Student Body President is to “create and appoint committees or commissions not provided in this Constitution, if deemed necessary, provided that these bodies do not contravene Student Body law” [17]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Student Senate Bill 2022-1026 allocated \$138,000.00 USD into the line item entitled “SG Projects Line” under “Administrative Account-602” under the Student Body President’s control [18]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDERED THAT** the Student Body President disburses \$10,000.00 USD from the FY23-24 Budget line entitled “SG Projects Line” under “Administrative Account-602” to create the ***Emergency Contraceptive Vending Machine*** project, which will be responsible for: setting a location for the installation of the vending machine, finding a suitable vendor to purchase the vending machine from, acquiring permits and authorizations from the appropriate university entities, purchasing the contraceptives to stock the vending machine with, restocking the vending machine on a regular basis, and collaborating with other campus entities such as GatorWell to find affordable, fiscally responsible methods in order to provide contraceptives via the vending machine at affordable prices for students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDERED THAT** the Student Body President shall convene a special commission that is tasked with overseeing the ***Emergency Contraceptive Vending Machine*** project and the operation of the \$10,000.00 allocated funds (named at the discretion of the Student Body President), with Reproductive Rights Chairwoman Faith Corbett as the Chair of the commission.

*Proviso: A copy of this authorization will be sent to the following people: Student Body President Olivia Green, Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre, Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Senator Isabella Scramoncin, Reproductive Rights Chairwoman Faith Corbett, Women’s Student*

*All excess funds not utilized by the project shall return to the FY23-24 Budget Line item entitled "SG Projects Line" under "Administrative Account-602".*

- <https://data-apps.ir.aa.ufl.edu/public/diversity/UF%20Equity%20Report%202022.pdf>
- [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10551664/#:~:text=In%20the%20results%2C%20levels%20of,%25\)%20were%20currently%20sexually%20active.](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10551664/#:~:text=In%20the%20results%2C%20levels%20of,%25)%20were%20currently%20sexually%20active.)
- [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\\_6j37.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf)
- <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/5/ByCategory>
- <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/300>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/morning-after-pill/about/pac-20394730#:~:text=The%20morning%2Dafter%20pill%20is,primary%20method%20of%20birth%20control.>
- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WVMYzckXbXqxcqyXO\\_-TCNfD9X9KYnV/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WVMYzckXbXqxcqyXO_-TCNfD9X9KYnV/edit?usp=sharing) [HYPERLINK](#)  
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- <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/R2022-1023-Resolution-Recognizing-and-Supporting-Sexual-and-Reproductive-Health-Resources-and-Opport.pdf>
- <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/07-05-2022.pdf>
- <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-1027-Student-Body-Resolution-Addressing-the-Need-for-24.pdf>
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