

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1158**

**TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Expansion of University-Funded access to Paywall Blocked Resources for Students**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Charlotte Russo, Senator Elsa Brantmeyer**

**SPONSORS: Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Member at Large Isabel Ponce, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Samantha Kinggard**

**WHEREAS**, in today's rapidly changing global landscape, access to current events and the latest research is essential for a well-rounded education; and,

**WHEREAS**, many reputable news outlets and academic journals restrict access to content behind paywalls, limiting the ability of students to engage with vital information [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida currently provides access to certain academic journals and resources, but does not extend this access to all paywall-blocked magazines and news outlets; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida should seek to expand University-funded access to paywall blocked resources, allowing students to stay in tune with pressing current events and academic developments; and,

**WHEREAS**, a well-informed student body contributes to a more vibrant and engaged academic community, fostering critical thinking and active citizenship; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that students who have access to a broad range of information sources tend to perform better academically [2]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of unrestricted access to information as a fundamental right of students and an essential component of their education.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to expand University-funded access to paywall-blocked magazines and news outlets, supporting the academic and civic development of students.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the administration to act swiftly to ensure that all students have equal access to essential resources.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Heather White, and Dean of University Libraries Judith C. Russell.*

[1] <https://www.axios.com/2022/01/11/media-startups-subscriptions-elite>

[2] <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1353463.pdf>