

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1162

TITLE: Resolution Requesting Student Legal Services to Assist Students with Immigration Services

AUTHOR(S): Senator Eric Oh, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan

SPONSORS: Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Lilliana Clark, Senator Samantha Kinggard, Senator Claudia Garcia, Senator Ayesha Khuddus, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Member at Large Isabel Ponce, Senator Elsa Brantmeyer, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Saketh Damara, Senator Matthew Reich

WHEREAS, the University of Florida serves a significant population of international students who contribute to the intellectual and cultural diversity of the campus [1]; and,

WHEREAS, international students often face complex and challenging immigration processes, requiring expert legal assistance to navigate [2]; and,

WHEREAS, legal assistance in immigration matters is often expensive and may be inaccessible to students, hindering their educational pursuits and potential contributions to the university community [3]; and,

WHEREAS, other universities, such as Emory University, have recognized the importance of providing legal support to international students, establishing initiatives to ensure proper immigration assistance [4]; and,

WHEREAS, such assistance would directly support international students, helping them maintain legal status in the United States and ensuring their ability to continue and effectively focus on their studies; and,

WHEREAS, international students are vital to improving the university's reputation globally in order to promote greater representation of individuals from all cultures and backgrounds; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of providing immigration legal support as a fundamental service for the success of international students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the necessity of expanding Student Legal Services to include immigration assistance, in line with best practices across higher education institutions.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon Student Legal Services to develop and implement a program to assist students with immigration services, aligning with the university's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and student success.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to *University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, Director of Student Legal Services Jon Adcock, and Dean of the International Center Marta L. Wayne.*

[1] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/home/about-ufic>

[2] <https://www.internationalstudent.com/immigration/f1-student-visa/>

[3] <https://www.upcounsel.com/immigration-attorney-fees>

[4] <https://law.emory.edu/academics/clinics/student-led-clinics/emory-immigrant-legal-services.html>