

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1211

TITLE: Senate Resolution Promoting and Supporting On-Campus Thrifting Initiatives

AUTHOR(S): Green Caucus Chairman Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Senator Ana Alvarez, Senator Raj Mia, Judiciary Chairperson Jonathan C. Stephens, Minority Party Leader Simone Liang, Senator Anna Huber, Senator Navya Nair, Senate President Pro Tempore Nathan McGinnis, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Chancellor Wilson, Senator Abby Whitaker, Senator Samantha Kinggard, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Ethan Ghozali

WHEREAS, there is an increasing demand for sustainable and cost-effective clothing choices among students; and,

WHEREAS, over 13 million tons of textile waste is created in the US annually, with 85% of waste dumped into landfills or burned, as of 2017 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, by 2030, estimates for global annual textile waste stand at over 130 million tons of waste [1]; and,

WHEREAS, globally, the fashion industry is responsible for 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions with 1.2 billion tons of gas released into the atmosphere annually [1]; and,

WHEREAS, 20% of global wastewater is released as a result of the manufacturing processes of the fashion industry [1]; and,

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown positive environmental impacts associated with the purchase of secondhand clothing including the reduction in manufacturing, consumption, and waste of resources [2]; and,

WHEREAS, thrifting allows individuals to maintain a stylish wardrobe at low costs, which particularly helps low-income individuals and college students [3]; and,

WHEREAS, thrift store shoppers save \$1,760 on average annually, saving crucial funds for other necessities [4]; and,

WHEREAS, studies have finally concluded that thrifting opens unique opportunities that foster social expression and interaction while growing a sense of community for those who participate [5]; and,

WHEREAS, numerous peer institutions have created on-campus thrifting opportunities for their students, including the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Texas, and the University of Michigan [6][7][8].

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the environmental and social harms of the fashion and textile industries.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the socioeconomic, community, and environmental-based benefits of thrifting and second-hand retail.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University of Florida Administration, the Student Government Executive Branch, student organizations, and pertinent entities to collaboratively promote and support on-campus thrifting initiatives, including clothing swaps, and the establishment of a student government sponsored on-campus thrift store location.

