

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1225****TITLE:** Resolution Commemorating the Life of Jaahnavi Kandula**AUTHOR(S):** Senator Hana Ali

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Ana Alvarez, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Asif Islam, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Indian Student Association Presidents Hansa Pasyavala and Darshna Bhatt, Pakistan Student Association President Aaron Sindhu, Bangladesh Student Association President Elama Ali, Hearts for Henna President Rismin Riyas, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Navya Nair, Sri Lankan Student Association Presidents Gregory Peiris and Sihini Atalugama, Judiciary Chairperson Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Anamika Naidu, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator John Lin

**WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2023, Jaahnavi Kandula was struck by a car and killed by Officer Kevin Dave in Seattle, Washington [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Kandula attended Northeastern University as a graduate student pursuing a degree in Information Systems [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Kandula arrived from Bangalore, India, to the United States to provide for herself and her single mother [2]

**WHEREAS**, on September 13, 2023, a video was released of a response by Officer Daniel Auderer about the death, stating the girl's life had "limited value" and to "write a check of \$11,000" [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Officer Kevin Dave's license had been suspended in 2018 in the state of Arizona [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco had raised concerns and expressed their sentiments with Seattle and Washington State authorities [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Officer Daniel Auderer's comments reflect a larger racist national sentiment that is indicative of the systemic racism against South Asian students; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jaahnavi Kandula's death represents the disturbing trend, such as with the murder of Purdue student Varun Manish Chheda and Coppell Middle School student Shaan Pritmani [6,7]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the life of Jaahnavi Kandula; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT** the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to prioritizing the safety of South Asian students; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT** the University of Florida Student Senate encourages faculty, University of Florida Police Department and student leaders to do everything within their power to protect South Asian students and prevent police misconduct on school campuses.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution will be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Indian Students Association, Pakistani Students Association, Bangladeshi Students Association, and Sri Lankan Students Association.*

[1] <https://www.timesnownews.com/world/who-was-jaahnavi-kandula-telengana-student-killed-by-police-cruiser-in-seattle-article-103638470>

[2] <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/who-was-jaahnavi-kandula-how-did-she-die-in-seattle-accident-101694662941407.html>

[3] <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-66803960>

[4] <https://conandaily.com/2023/07/24/what-seattle-washington-cop-kevin-dave-did-to-northeastern-university-student-jaahnavi-kandula/>

[5] <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/indian-consulate-raises-concern-over-cop-laughing-at-students-death-in-us-4387308>

[6] <https://nypost.com/2022/10/07/pals-heard-screams-through-game-as-varun-manish-chheda-was-slain/>

[7] <https://telanganatoday.com/viral-video-of-indian-american-student-getting-bullied-is-raging-the-internet>

 9/22/23  
Oscar Santiago Perez Date  
Senate President