

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1261

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Increased Funding to Enhance Accessibility and ADA Compliance on Campus

AUTHORS: Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Samantha Kinggard

SPONSORS: Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Majority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Deputy Majority Party Leader Chalisa Budhai, Senator Saketh Damara, Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator John Lin

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible campus environment for all students, including those with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal mandate, necessitating the provision of equal access and opportunities to individuals with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, a considerable portion of the existing campus infrastructure requires upgrades to meet the evolving standards of accessibility and to cater to the diverse needs of disabled students; and,

WHEREAS, allocating more funds towards enhancing accessibility and ADA compliance reflects a tangible commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university community; and,

WHEREAS, improved accessibility will significantly contribute to the academic success, personal growth, and overall university experience of disabled students; and,

WHEREAS, addressing accessibility challenges requires a coordinated effort involving infrastructural upgrades, technological enhancements, and continuous monitoring and evaluation of the campus environment; and,

WHEREAS, feedback from disabled students and concerned stakeholders has highlighted the pressing need for better accessibility provisions on campus; and,

WHEREAS, other universities have successfully allocated resources to significantly improve campus accessibility, demonstrating the feasibility and impact of such initiatives; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the vital importance of adhering to ADA standards and promoting a universally accessible campus environment for all students.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the critical need for substantial funding to address the current accessibility challenges on campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the university administration to allocate more funds towards making campus more accessible for disabled students while enhancing ADA compliance, and to actively engage with the disabled student community to understand and address their unique needs, in accordance with the spirit of this resolution.

Proviso: A copy of this legislation shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, the Disability Resource Center Director Jenna Gonzalez, the Disability Resource Center Accessibility Specialists Drew Dees and Zita Gonzalez.