

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1262**

**TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Distribution of Naloxone (Narcan) Throughout Campus to Combat the Opioid Epidemic**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Abby Whitaker**

**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 Damera, Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator John Lin, Senator Julia Seifer**

**WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic has claimed the lives of nearly 500,000 individuals in the United States from 1999 to 2019, and continues to be a significant public health concern; and,

**WHEREAS**, the widespread availability of Naloxone (Narcan) has been proven to be a crucial life saving measure in the event of opioid overdoses, as Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose; and,

**WHEREAS**, college campuses are not immune to the opioid epidemic, with students potentially being at risk for opioid misuse or overdose; and,

**WHEREAS**, creating a safer environment by distributing Naloxone (Narcan) in accessible and well-trafficked areas throughout the campus could result in lives saved in the critical moments following an opioid overdose; and,

**WHEREAS**, such an initiative aligns with harm reduction strategies advocated by numerous public health organizations and professionals; and,

**WHEREAS**, a number of other universities have already taken the step to make Naloxone widely available on their campuses, thus leading the way in combating the opioid epidemic within the college-age demographic; and,

**WHEREAS**, providing proper training and education on the use of Naloxone, as well as on the risks associated with opioid misuse, should accompany the distribution of Naloxone to ensure the safety and well-being of all students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proactive distribution of Naloxone (Narcan) showcases a commitment to student health and safety, as well as a firm stance against the ongoing opioid epidemic; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the critical importance of combating the opioid epidemic to ensure the health and safety of all students on campus.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the life-saving potential of widespread Naloxone (Narcan) distribution on campus as a pragmatic and compassionate response to the opioid crisis.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the administration to act swiftly in the implementation of a campus-wide Naloxone (Narcan) distribution program, and to provide education and training on opioid misuse and Naloxone usage, in line with the spirit of this resolution.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, the Director of Transport and Parking Services Scott Fox.*