

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2024-XXXX

TITLE: **A Resolution in Support of Initiating a Gender Affirming Care Advocacy Campaign**

AUTHOR(S): Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo

SPONSORS: Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Hunter Monson

WHEREAS, Gender-affirming care is defined as “a supportive form of healthcare [and] consists of an array of services that may include medical, surgical, mental health, and non-medical services for transgender and nonbinary people” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, The Student Government Senate of the University of Florida has supported and passed legislation in support of the expansion and protection of the rights of the peoples of the state of Florida to access to gender-affirming care, such as Student Senate Resolution 2022-1064 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Forty-one percent (41%) of LGBTQ+ youth have considered attempting suicide in the year 2023, of which youth who identify as transgender, non-binary, and/or people of color have a higher reported rate of suicide consideration than their peers [3]; and,

WHEREAS, One (1) in three (3) youth have reported that their poor mental health was most of the time or always due to legislation and policies that were apprehensive towards LGBTQ+ people [3]; and,

WHEREAS, The Office of the Governor of the state of Florida, Ron DeSantis, issued a memorandum to the institutions of the State University System (SUS) in requesting information regarding gender affirming care procedures being offered and executed on campus [4]; and,

WHEREAS, Students at the University of Florida, particularly those that identify as transgender or nonbinary, rely on the services and the privacy afforded to them by medical institutions of the University due to lower costs of treatment and accessibility [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Students at the University of Florida that identify as transgender or nonbinary have felt attacked and unsafe with this recent memorandum and state policies being passed in the state of Florida [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Florida State Representative Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) has stated that the lack of explanation of the memorandum is unethical, unsettling, and may lead to a “slippery slope” that may put privacy and accessibility of medical treatments at risk [5]; and,

WHEREAS, The University’s UF Health system complied with the memorandum and the University has stated that it will not “speculate” on the motives of the state government regarding the memorandum [6]; and,

WHEREAS, The Student Health Care Center (SHCC) at the University of Florida has a statement wherein the SHCC is “committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital

status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status” [7]; then,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED That the Student Government Senate of the University of Florida advocates for the creation, support, and initiation of a Gender Affirming Care Advocacy Campaign to support the transgender and nonbinary community.

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED That the Student Government Senate of the University of Florida remains faithful and diligent to the upkeep of the safety of the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Florida, the city of Gainesville, and the state of Florida.

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED That the Student Government Senate of the University of Florida maintains its support for the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of transgender and nonbinary peoples at the University of Florida, the city of Gainesville, and the state of Florida.

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED That the Student Government Senate of the University of Florida shall execute, advocate, and perform all things, actions, and procedures to commit itself to the end of maintaining and preserving the accessibility, affordability, privacy, and all rights hitherto incidental to the access and receiving of care for transgender and nonbinary peoples at the University of Florida, the city of Gainesville, and the state of Florida.

Proviso: A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to University President Dr. Ben Sasse, University Title IX Coordinator Dr. Russell Froman, Esq., University Student Health Care Center Dr. Jocelyn R. Gravlee, Presidential LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee co-Chairs Berta Hernandez & Stephanie Bogart, and Governor of the state of Florida Ron DeSantis.

Former Senator Joaquin R. C. Marcelino has aided in the drafting of this Resolution.

Resources

- [1]: <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/gender-affirming-care-young-people.pdf>
- [2]: <https://sg.ufl.edu/branches/legislative/senate-resources/>
- [3]: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/#intro>
- [4]: <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/01/desantis-requests-audit-of-gender-affirming-care>
- [5]: <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/01/gender-affirming-care-audit>
- [6]: <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/03/gender-affirming-care-audit>
- [7]: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/services/specialty-care/lgbtq-care-resources/>