

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1074

TITLE: Resolution Requesting Student Legal Services to Assist Students with Immigration Services

AUTHOR(S): Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Hunter Monson

SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Vivian Phung, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Pride Student Union President Jonathan Stephens

WHEREAS, the University of Florida serves a significant population of international students who contribute to the intellectual and cultural diversity of the campus [1]; and,

WHEREAS, international students often face complex and challenging immigration processes, requiring expert legal assistance to navigate [2]; and,

WHEREAS, legal assistance in immigration matters is often expensive and may be inaccessible to students, hindering their educational pursuits and potential contributions to the university community [3]; and,

WHEREAS, other universities, such as Emory University, have recognized the importance of providing legal support to international students, establishing initiatives to ensure proper immigration assistance [4]; and,

WHEREAS, such assistance would directly support international students, helping them maintain legal status in the United States and ensuring their ability to continue and effectively focus on their studies; and,

WHEREAS, international students are vital to improving the university's reputation globally in order to promote greater representation of individuals from all cultures and backgrounds; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of providing immigration legal support as a fundamental service for the success of international students; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the necessity of expanding Student Legal Services to include immigration assistance, in line with best practices across higher education institutions; and.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon Student Legal Services to develop and implement a program to assist students with immigration services, thus amending any future contract(s) between the University of Florida Senate and Student Legal Services and aligning with the university's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and student success [5].

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, Director of Student Legal Services Jon Adcock, and Dean of the International Center Marta L. Wayne.

Former Senator Eric Oh aided in the initial drafting of this resolution.

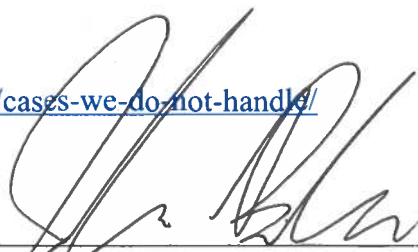
[1] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/home/about-ufic>

[2] <https://www.internationalstudent.com/immigration/fl-student-visa/>

[3] <https://www.upcounsel.com/immigration-attorney-fees>

[4] <https://law.emory.edu/academics/clinics/student-led-clinics/emory-immigrant-legal-services.html>

[5] <https://studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/services/cases-we-do-not-handle/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

2/7/2024
Date