

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1088

TITLE: Resolution to Protect Funding for DEI Communities on Campus

AUTHOR(S): Senator Catherine Isakson, Senator Gabe Vargas

SPONSOR(S): Senator Maya Idiculla, Senator Laurel Wentworth, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Coe Leavengood, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator AJ Amster, Senator Bianca Onorato

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is an institution that recognizes the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and initiatives on campus and takes active efforts to implement them; and,

WHEREAS, a bill passed by the Florida state government has restricted public colleges from the usage of state or federal funds on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and initiatives [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida reported the usage of \$5.3 million on diversity-related programs, with \$3.4 million originating from state funds [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of DEI programs at the University of Florida provide transformative education experiences and development opportunities for students [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the protection of funding for DEI programs and communities at the University of Florida affected by the state legislation, aligns with the university's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and,

WHEREAS, DEI initiatives are found to foster feelings of inclusion amongst students, which are crucial to student success [4] ; and,

WHEREAS, DEI programs at other universities have proven to benefit academic performance, health outcomes, and overall engagement [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a need to keep DEI funding protected for organizations and committees on campus that rely on those funds for survival.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes many organizations and communities are funded by DEI funds, and cutting

their essential funding will prove catastrophic to the survival of many organizations and communities on campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the University Administration, the Division of Student Life, and the Board of Trustees to seriously consider continued funding for many of the communities and organizations on campus that previously received DEI funding.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Chief Diversity Officer Marsha McGriff, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White.

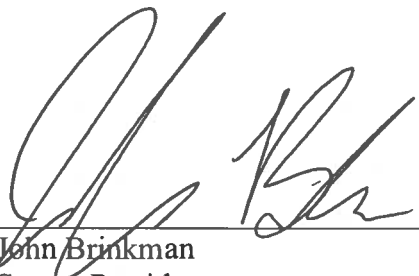
[1] <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/4005028-desantis-signs-bill-defunding-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-programs-at-florida-universities/>

[2] <https://thecapitolist.com/florida-universities-spending-millions-of-dollars-on-controversial-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei-programs/>

[3] <https://www.ufl.edu/about/diversity/>

[4] <https://theconversation.com/5-ways-that-college-campuses-benefit-from-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-programs-208905#:~:text=Students%20perform%20better%20academically&text=As%20a%20result%20of%20DEI,faculty%20of%20color%20are%20hired.>

[5] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/01/02/minority-students-sense-place-higher-two-year-four-year-institutions>



John Brinkman
Senate President

2/7/2024
Date