

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1108

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Bangladeshi Student Association's International Mother Language Day Event Programming

AUTHOR(S): Senator Asif Islam

SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Volunteers for International Student Affairs Vice President of Internal Affairs Hana Ali, Pakistani Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz, UF Bangladeshi Student Association President Elama Ali

WHEREAS, International Mother Language Day is a worldwide observance held on the 21st of February that promotes linguistic and cultural diversity and encourages the use of mother languages to preserve and pass on cultural heritage [1]; and,

WHEREAS, International Mother Language Day honors the lives sacrificed for the recognition of Bangla as a national language and the Bangladeshi struggle for liberation on the 21 February 1952 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the day commemorates the students of the University of Dhaka along with members of the public whose lives were lost in protest against the eradication of Bangla as a national language of the region, at the time known as East Pakistan, against the will of the majority; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladeshi Student Association (BSA) at the University of Florida plays a vital role in promoting cultural awareness and understanding among students [3]; and,

WHEREAS, International Mother Language Day is of significant importance to the Bangladeshi community and other linguistic and cultural communities on campus [4]; and,

WHEREAS, universities worldwide, including Louisiana State University and Columbia University, actively commemorate International Mother Language Day with the support of their respective student governments; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Bangladeshi Student Association has been organizing annual events to celebrate International Mother Language Day, fostering unity and appreciation for linguistic diversity within the university community [4]; and,

WHEREAS, during the Student Organization Operational, Event, and Travel Requests process commencement on October 25, 2023, and subsequent biannual review of said requests for

