

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX

TITLE: Resolution Urging the Creation of a Naloxone Distribution and Education Program on Campus

AUTHOR(S): Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Christian Jubran, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

SPONSORS: Judiciary Chair Aaron Amster, Senator Vivienne Serret, Senator Roman Quattrocchi

WHEREAS, there were over 107,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021, with opioids being involved in 68% of them [1]. Additionally, Florida had the second highest number of drug overdoses of any state [2]; and,

WHEREAS, studies have shown Naloxone distribution among the public can reduce opioid overdose deaths by more than 20% [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Health already has a free Naloxone distribution program at locations around greater Gainesville, which does not include locations on or in close proximity to campus. The University of Florida as a whole has fallen behind other similar institutions, such as The University of Central Florida and Florida State University; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the opioid epidemic, Health Street distributed Naloxone to the Gainesville community, supplied by the Florida Department of Children and Families [4]. This initiative was well received by students at the University of Florida, which was evident due to the numerous times Health Street returned to distribute the product; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of a free Naloxone distribution and education program could save the lives of students and reduce the effects of the opioid epidemic on members of the University of Florida community; and,

WHEREAS, Naloxone is safe, effective, and easy to administer. Free distribution would help eliminate any stigma surrounding the drug, making students more likely to have it on hand and be in a situation to use it if necessary. But, the current Naloxone availability, which costs \$25 per dose, is not sufficient; and,

WHEREAS, There has been a collaborative effort by students and university employees within various organizations to create more widespread access to Narcan and opioid education; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for the distribution of free Naloxone and greater educational materials surrounding the subject of opioids and opioid overdoses.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the university administration to protect the health and safety of the student body and allocate sources to a Naloxone program, which will do so.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon the administration to collaborate with GatorWell, Health Street, and the Student Health Care Center to create and implement a Naloxone distribution program that primarily serves students.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, SHCC Director Jocelyn Gravlee, MD, CAQSM, SHCC Assistant Director-Clinical Operations Matt Walser, PA-C, Director for GatorWell Dr. Monica Webb, Assistant Director for GatorWell Jennifer Kennymore, Healthstreet Founding Director Linda Cottler, PHD, MPH, FACE, Healthstreet Deputy Director Catherine Striley, PHD, MSW, MPE, Healthstreet Director of Operations Carolina Rosales, GatorWell Health Promotion Specialist Jonah Neville, Clinical Assistant Professor Dr Joel Rowe, IFC Advisor Chris Fernandez, Director of Collaborative Initiatives Andrew Telles.

[1] [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7226a4.htm#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20provisional%20data%20indicated,\(IMFs\)%20\(1\).](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7226a4.htm#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20provisional%20data%20indicated,(IMFs)%20(1).)

[2] https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug_poisoning_mortality/drug_poisoning.htm

[3] <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/naloxone-opioid-overdose-life-saving-science>

[4] <https://healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/2021/01/25/healthstreets-response-to-the-opioid-crisis/>