

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1137**

**TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Support and Resources for Postsecondary Students Experiencing Homelessness**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Angelina Fentress**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Gabe Vargas, Senator Megan McGuire, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Laura Jane Bryan, Senator Bianca Barrios, Senator Christian Jubran, Senator Ayesha Khuddus, Senator Owen Lekebusch**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida admits students who need financial assistance; currently more than 70 percent of UF students receive some form of financial aid [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hope Center for College conducted a survey of more than 195,000 student participants in 2020 and found that 48 percent experienced some form of housing insecurity [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, 8.0 percent of undergraduate students and 4.7 percent of graduate students experienced homelessness in the United States [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 20 percent of foster youth who graduate high school enroll in postsecondary education [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Representatives Woodson, Bartleman, Garcia, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Valdés, and Waldron of the House of Representatives introduced bill HB 1067: Postsecondary Students Who Are Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness, advocating for the dissemination of grants and personal liaisons for postsecondary students in need of support and resources to prevent homelessness, including those who have been or are in foster care [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, HB 1067 seeks to require the Department of Education and The Board of Governors of the State University System to identify these at-risk students and provide them the Fostering Independence Grant Program and allow for tuition and fee exemptions, as well as a support structure with liaisons that can personally assist these students [5]; then,


**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that all students deserve an equal opportunity to succeed and feel supported on our campus and beyond.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the growing need for affordable housing and funding to support those students in danger of facing homelessness, to best provide for our community and our student body.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the necessity to support the Florida Senate and HB 1067 and its effort to implement a program to better assist students facing homelessness on our campus, and campuses throughout the state.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Scott Angle, Student Body President Olivia Green, Vice President of Student life Heather White, University of Florida Bursar's Office, University of Florida Inter-Residence Hall Association, Student Account Manager Bonita Fletcher, Florida House Representative Woodson, Florida House Representative Bartleman, Florida House Representative Garcia, Florida House Representative Hinson, Florida House Representative Hunschofsky, Florida House Representative Valdés, Florida House Representative Waldron.*

- [1] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/process/financial-aid-basics/>
- [2] <https://hope.temple.edu/npsas>
- [3] <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/housing-insecurity-and-homelessness-among-college-students/#:~:text=In%20the%2012%20months%20prior,students%20grappling%20with%20housing%20instability.>
- [4] <https://gitnux.org/foster-care-college-statistics/#:~:text=Approximately%2020%25%20of%20foster%20youth,%2C%20but%20only%2020%25%20attend.>
- [5] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1067/BillText/Filed/PDF>

  
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John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
Date