

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1154

TITLE: Resolution to Recognize and Promote the Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate Program

AUTHOR(S): Senator Freddi Rappoport, Senator Zachary Arzt

SPONSOR(S): Senate President John Brinkman, Senate Pro Tempore Saketh Damera, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, Senator Emma Antonik, Senator Aaron Amster, Senator Caroline Kelley, Senator Sam Kinggard, Senator Maya Idiculla, Senator Angelina Fentress, Senator Damian Rodriguez, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Nicole Gigliotti, Senator Reese Marcus, Senator Isabel Ponce, Senator Christian Jubran, Senator Jordan Gebaide, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Bianca Barrios, Senator Emma Gaul, Senator Reese Henley, Senator Laurel Wentworth, Senator Tyler Robson, Senator Nathaniel Thomas, Senator Wesley Littleton, Senator Conor Ruffin, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Laura Jane Bryan, Senator Catherine Isakson, Senator Megan McGuire, Senator Cole Gabbai, Senator Jason Von Holten, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Joah Levine, Senator Aaron Rubaii, Senator Coe Leavengood, Senator Shawn Kapersaud

WHEREAS, more than 2,000 antisemitic incidents have been reported in the United States following the events of October 7th, 2023 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, during the same period in 2022, there has been a 337-percent increase in antisemitic incidents [1]; and,

WHEREAS, since October 7th, Jews in America experienced nearly 34 antisemitic incidents per day [1]; and,

WHEREAS, since October 7th, there have been about 250 antisemitic incidents that specifically targeted Jewish institutions such as synagogues and campus Hillel centers [1]; and,

WHEREAS, on college and university campuses, the American Defamation League (ADL) has recorded a total of 400 antisemitic incidents since October 7th [1]; and,

WHEREAS, of the 2,031 total antisemitic incidents, at least 1,411 of them could be clearly linked to the Israel-Hamas War [1]; and,

WHEREAS, antisemitic incidents are being reported at record levels and have targeted Jewish students at the University of Florida when the phrase “Kanye was right about the Jews” was projected onto the TIAA Bank Field on October 29th, 2022 during the annual Florida-Georgia football game [2], [3]; and,

WHEREAS, extremists and antisemites perpetrate deadly violence against Jews, as crimes targeting the Jewish community consistently constitute over half of all religion-based crimes, 2020 there were 683 reported hate crimes against the Jewish people [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” program was started by UF Hillel in January 2020 to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate on the University of Florida campus and surrounding communities [4]; and,

WHEREAS, every year, the program hosts a “Bagel Day” event in which volunteers encourage members of the UF community to sign a pledge against antisemitism and acts of hate [4]; and,

WHEREAS, on January 31st, 2024, volunteers for the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” program will be tabling at various locations on campus to ask individuals to sign the pledge while handing out free bagels [4]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Hillel was awarded the 2022 Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz Innovation Award for the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” initiative from Hillel International [5]; and,

WHEREAS, individuals who sign the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” pledge are recognized on the UF Hillel website for their commitment to fighting antisemitism [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” pledge successfully collected 5,200 signatures (as of February 1st, 2024 at 1:30 PM EST) [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the current number of signatures on the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” pledge is around 1,000 more than 2023’s program [4]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the University of Florida Student Senate remains committed to fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate on campus, and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and honors the efforts of the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” program for protecting the interests and well-being of all Jewish students, faculty, and administrators at the University of Florida, and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, the University of Florida Student Senate stands strong in their support for the “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate” program and greatly encourages the student body to sign the pledge to commit to combating the rise of antisemitism on campus.

