

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1372**

**TITLE: Resolution Celebrating Pride Month and Honoring LGBTQ+ Contribution to the University of Florida**

**AUTHOR(S): Lavender Caucus Chair Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Cameron Driggers, Senator Arshan Falasiri, Senator Tue Tran**

**SPONSOR(S): Student Senate Lavender Caucus Members**

**WHEREAS**, the month of June is dedicated to LGBTQ+ Pride Month, often shortened to Pride Month, in commemoration of the Stonewall Riots in June of 1969 [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1970, the First Gay Liberation March was held in Manhattan to mark the one-year anniversary of Stonewall [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pride Month was first nationally recognized in 1999, after thirty years, by president Bill Clinton [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pride Month is an annual celebration, occurring in many countries around the world, to honor and support the LGBTQ+ community, and has served to promote acceptance and love within the community and among allies; and,

**WHEREAS**, this commemoration month recognizes the irrefutable impact the LGBTQ+ community had on local, national, and global history, and its profound presence at the University of Florida [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pride Month also serves to recognize integral LGBTQ+ activists throughout history who have been pivotal to the proliferation of the Pride movement and acceptance of the community as a whole, such as Martha P. Johnson as a defender of transgender rights, Billie Jean King as an outspoken feminist and the first openly LGBTQ+ athlete, and Larry Kramer as an advocate for gay men during the HIV/AIDS crisis, especially to governmental health organizations [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as this month brings awareness to all types of LGBTQ+ history, it serves to recognize historical discriminations against the LGBTQ+ community, especially at the

University of Florida, and the institutional complicity in such discriminations during times such as the Johns Committee and lavender scare [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, much progress has been made at the University of Florida regarding safety, acceptance, and celebration of LGBTQ+ students, including numerous student organizations and groups that serve as resources to provide a safe space and community for LGBTQ+ students; and,

**WHEREAS**, in light of recent rhetoric and legislation regarding LGBTQ+ Floridians, students and faculty are in need of support on campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, various student organizations, facilities, advisories, and more at the University of Florida continue to operate with the mission of providing a safe space and resources for both LGBTQ+ students and faculty [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, these organizations and facilities include but are not limited to the Pride Student Union, UF LGBTQ+ Affairs, UF Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, LGBTQ+ Presidential Advisory Committee, UF oSTEM, UF Outgrad, Association of LGBTQ+ Alumni, OUTLAW at UF Law, and Queer Nation: UF LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Affinity Group [5]; then,

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ students and staff have continued to show resilience and pride in their respective and collective communities; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the month of June as Pride Month, commemorating the accomplishments and history of the LGBTQ+ community within this university and worldwide.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate remains committed to the protection and upliftment of LGBTQ+ students and staff throughout the year, consistently making efforts to represent these demographics.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to serving all students, and as such, is committed to providing resources, protecting rights, and promoting the inclusion of all individuals within this institution.

[1] <https://www.american.edu/cas/news/the-first-pride-was-a-riot.cfm#:~:text=Pride%20month%20started%20as%20a,City%20called%20the%20Stonewall%20Inn>

[2] <https://www.jba.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2669499/the-history-of-pride-month/#:~:text=The%20federal%20government%20first%20recognized,declared%20June%20LGBTQ%20Pride%20Month>.

[3] <https://lgbtq.hr.ufl.edu/committee/history/>

[4] <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/26/us/most-influential-lgbtq-activists/index.html>

[5] <https://lgbtq.hr.ufl.edu/lgbtq-resources/lgbtq-campus-orgs/>

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Pride Student Union President Jonathan Stephens, LGBTQ+ Affairs Cabinet Director Zeke Serrano, Gender and Sexuality Protection Agency Head Riley Towbin, LGBTQ+ Presidential Advisory Committee Co-Chairs Berta Hernandez-Truyol and Stephanie Bogart, and the Association of LGBTQ+ Alumni President Gordon Van Owen.*

 6/20/24

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Monish Vijayaraghavan  
Senate President

Date