

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1573**

**TITLE: Back to School Support Act Volume One – Resolution**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Nathaniel Pelton**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Sarah Hoffer, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu,  
Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Fahim Islam**

**WHEREAS**, the National Retail Federation and Prosper Insights & Analytics annual survey, released in July 2024, expects households across the United States to spend roughly \$875.00 on school supplies including clothing, shoes, school supplies, and electronics [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the annual median household income in the City of Gainesville in 2022 was \$42,453, while the annual median household income in the State of Florida in 2022 was \$69,303, equating to \$26,850 or 38% less annual median household income within the city than the state indicating lesser socioeconomic standing and opportunity in the local community [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the year of 2022, 28.2% of the City of Gainesville population were experiencing poverty, while 12.7% of the State of Florida population experienced poverty, representing a 15.5% higher poverty rate in the city than the state indicating a heightened probability of poverty among the local community [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, low-income families and students at the University of Florida are most at-risk of lacking resources necessary to afford back to school supplies, particularly at the start of a new school year, when purchases of such magnitude can be financially burdensome for students, and many incoming freshmen experience financial independence for the first time; and,

**WHEREAS**, a key solution to the affordability of back to school supplies is supply drives. “A successful school supply drive ensures every student has an equal chance in the classroom. When students have the necessary supplies, the impact is significant. They feel 94% more prepared for studies, their self-confidence increases by 76%, and they participate in class 83% more. [...] Facing difficult decisions, some families have to choose between basic needs like food and purchasing school supplies. As a result, some students come to school lacking the essential tools for learning.” [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Core Value of Community advocates for the creation of a “safe, welcoming community and a shared purpose that builds a sense of belonging and togetherness.” [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as part of this shared commitment, it is the prerogative of the University of Florida Student Government and Student Senate to support and uplift fellow students and future Gators, allowing them to have the resources to succeed in an increasingly difficult financial climate; now,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the University of Florida Administration and the University of Florida Student Government Executive Branch to collaborate, organize, and host biannual on-campus back to school supply drives, including but not limited to, notebooks, pens, pencils, calculators, backpacks, and binders. UF Administration and Student Government Executive Branch may determine the policies regarding policy collection and distribution.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the University of Florida Student Government and relevant stakeholders to collaborate on the promotion of such drives to reach the UF student community, including social media, email, and further advertising announcements.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly encourages all members of the student body and university community to participate and support these back to school supply drives.

*Proviso: A copy of this bill of law shall be sent to Student Body President John Brinkman and Student Body Vice President Laura Thomas.*

[1]<https://nrf.com/media-center/press-releases/majority-back-class-shoppers-have-already-begun-purchasing-school-items>

[2][https://data.census.gov/profile/Gainesville\\_city,\\_Florida?g=160XX00US1225175](https://data.census.gov/profile/Gainesville_city,_Florida?g=160XX00US1225175)

[3]<https://betterworld.org/blog/schools/successful-school-supply-drive/>

[4]<https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/>



9/5/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan  
Senate President

Date