

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1690

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Timely Negotiations Between UF Health and UnitedHealthcare

AUTHOR(S): Student Body Treasurer Saketh Damera, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

SPONSOR(S): Health Caucus Chair Daniel Weinberger, Judiciary Chairman Aaron Rubaii, Senator Jaxen Ranson, Senator Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator E, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Fahim Islam, Deputy Minority Party Leader Max Banach

WHEREAS, UF Health operates 12 hospitals, 26+ emergency and urgent care locations, and more than 140 primary care and specialty practices throughout the state of Florida, providing essential healthcare services to a significant portion of the population, including students at the University of Florida [1]; and,

WHEREAS, ongoing negotiations between UF Health and UnitedHealthcare may disrupt access to healthcare services for thousands of patients, including members of the University of Florida community, starting September 1, 2024, if an agreement is not reached [2]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Health has stated that it is seeking a fair and sustainable agreement that addresses the rising costs of healthcare, including increases in wages and supplies [3]; and,

WHEREAS, UnitedHealth Group has reported record profits, with a revenue of \$371.6 billion in 2023 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, UnitedHealthcare has not agreed to the terms proposed by UF Health, which UF Health claims are necessary to maintain the quality of care provided [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Health Care Center and UF Health have made assurances that students covered under the university's student health insurance plan will continue to have access to all UF Health facilities without any adverse impact, even if an agreement is not reached [5]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Health has locations across Florida, and the potential disruption of care for patients, including those on Medicaid and other health insurance plans provided by UnitedHealthcare, would have a significant impact on the health and well-being of individuals and families across the state [6]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly urges both UF Health and UnitedHealthcare to reach a fair and timely agreement that prioritizes the health and well-being of all patients, especially students and members of the UF community; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports UF Health in its efforts to secure a fair and sustainable contract and calls on UnitedHealthcare to respond promptly and constructively to UF Health's proposals to avoid unnecessary disruption of care for patients.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to UF Health President and System CEO Dr. Stephen J. Motew and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. David R. Nelson.

[1] <https://ufhealth.org>

[2] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2024/08/healthcare-contract-dispute-could-leave-uf-health-patients-uninsured-statewide>

[3] <https://www.wcjb.com/2024/08/28/uf-health-patients-risk-losing-health-insurance-coverage-negotiation-deadline-approaches/>

[4] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2024/01/12/unitedhealth-group-profits-hit-23-billion-in-2023/>

[5] <https://shcc.ufl.edu/for-students-with-united-healthcare-insurance/>

[6] <https://ufhealth.org/locations>

 9/5/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date