

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1717

**TITLE: Graduate, Union, and Institutional Development Enhancement(GUIDE):
Section 3, Volume I: Condemning and Addressing Anti-LGBTQ Rhetoric**

AUTHOR(S): Senator Austin Britton, Senator Cassandra Urbenz

SPONSOR(S): Senator Danielle Loftis, Senator Anna Huber, Senator Anusha Chaudhary

WHEREAS, over the previous decade, the Florida state legislature has enacted laws targeting various aspects of LGBTQ history, education, freedoms, and rights as a community and as individuals; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation limits discussion and instruction of sexual orientation or gender identity in all K-12 grades [1,2,3]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation mandates the use of a person's assigned sex at birth in school settings, forcing officials to deadname and misgender students [2]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation restricts discussion on race, gender, and sexual orientation in workplaces and schools [4]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation criminalizes gender-affirming care for minors and restricts such care for adults, allowing the state of Florida to use the “risk” of gender-affirming care to determine custody rights [5]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation bans transgender athletes' participation in sports consistent with their gender identity [6]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation restricts spending on DEI programs with exceptions for student organizations and for compliance with federal regulations [8]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation requires transgender individuals to identify as their sex assigned at birth on driver’s licenses and ID cards [9-10]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation requires health care plans to cover the practice of conversion therapy [9-10]; and,

WHEREAS, the passage of these laws results in Florida having an overall negative score regarding LGBTQ policy [12]; and,

WHEREAS, the passage of this legislation ranks Florida second to last in LGBTQ+ safety [13]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation, enacted between 2021 and 2024, contradicts the rising support for LGBTQ nondiscrimination laws in Florida, which has reached 80% [14]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation exacerbates mental health challenges among LGBTQ individuals leading to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation [15-16]; and,

WHEREAS, these laws negatively impact the economic well-being of LGBTQ individuals by restricting job opportunities and reducing workplace protections, [16]; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation restricts comprehensive education on critical social issues, depriving students of the opportunity to learn about and understand diverse perspectives and experiences [1-10,17]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida, as a top public institution with a national reputation, has an obligation to lead by example [19,20]; then,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University to maintain academic discussions related to critical race theory, gender studies, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, while respecting state law.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the University to respect the gender identities of all individuals on campus.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that in support of trans and nonbinary individuals, that the University should strive diligently to ensure that every student and employee has access to, and each building has, at least one marked gender neutral bathroom.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that towards this end, the University of Florida continue to provide online resources showing locations of gender neutral bathrooms.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls for enhancing the safety and well-being of LGBTQ individuals on campus, aiming to improve Florida's ranking in LGBTQ+ safety.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University to provide resources to support mental health LGBTQ individuals.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate reaffirms its commitment on fostering a culture of tolerance, inclusion, and justice.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University to provide comprehensive education on critical social issues, ensuring students gain a well-rounded understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the Student Body President through his role on the Board of Trustees for the University of Florida to raise these issues and advocate for LGBTQ individuals as indicated above.

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THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate insists the University uphold its moral obligation to protect LGBTQ students and workers, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all.

Proviso: Vice President of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds, UF-GAU Co-Presidents Eva Garcia-Ferres and Cassandra “Cassie” Urbenz, UFF-UF President Meera Sitharam, Chief Bargainer Patrick Keegan, LGBTQ+ Affairs Cabinet Director Zeke Serrano, Pride Student Union President Jonathan Stephens and Student Body President John Brinkman.

- [1] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1557>
- [2] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1069>
- [3] <https://flrules.org/Faw/FAWDocuments/FAWVOLUMEFOLDERS2023/4952/4952doc.pdf>
- [4] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7>
- [5] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/254>
- [6] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/1028>
- [7] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1580>
- [8] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/266>
- [9] <https://www.aclufl.org/en/press-releases/aclu-florida-opposes-house-committee-passage-trans-erasure-bill>
- [10] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1639>
- [12] https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/profile_state/FL
- [13] <https://www.safehome.org/data-lgbtq-state-safety-rankings/>
- [14] <https://www.prrri.org/research/findings-from-the-2022-american-values-atlas/>
- [15] <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/The-Trevor-Project-2022-National-Survey-on-LGBTQ-Youth-Mental-Health-by-State-Florida.pdf>
- [16] <https://www.everydayhealth.com/emotional-health/why-floridas-dont-say-gay-or-trans-law-puts-lgbtq-individuals-mental-health-at-risk/>
- [17] <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/gender-journal/online/volume-xxiii-online/the-dangerous-consequences-of-floridas-dont-say-gay-bill-on-lgbtq-youth-in-florida/>
- [18] <https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>
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