

**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): Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Danielle Loftis,  
Senator Isha Khan, Senator Anna Huber, Senator Anusha Chaudhary**

**WHEREAS**, over the previous decade, the Florida state legislature has repeatedly 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 allows healthcare providers and insurers to discriminate, permits discrimination in hiring, and restricts medical boards from disciplining doctors for spreading misinformation [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, this legislation directs the Board of Governors to remove majors and minors related to critical race theory and gender studies and restricts spending on DEI programs [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, this legislation denies the legal existence of transgender individuals by requiring them 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 inhumane practice of conversion therapy[9-10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, this legislation criminalizes trans and nonbinary individuals for using public bathrooms that align with their gender rather than their sex assigned at birth[11]; 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 by creating a hostile and unwelcoming environment, 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, reducing workplace protections, and increasing the risk of discrimination in hiring and employment practices[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**, restricting gender-affirming care and mandating harmful practices like conversion therapy pose significant public health risks, undermining evidence-based medical standards and endangering the well-being of LGBTQ individuals[18]; 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 actively speak out against all legislation targeting LGBTQ history, education, freedoms, and rights; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the University implement policies ensuring inclusive discussion and instruction of sexual orientation or gender identity within the constraints of state law; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University to promote open and inclusive discussions on race, gender, and sexual orientation in workplaces and educational settings, while seeking ways to legally navigate state-imposed restrictions; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University to maintain and expand programs related to critical race theory, gender studies, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, finding legal pathways to sustain these initiatives; and,

**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, and advocate for policy changes that recognize gender identities on official documents; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the rights of trans and nonbinary individuals to use public bathrooms that align with their gender identity, and opposes criminalization efforts; and,

**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; and,

**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; and,

**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; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University to provide resources and support to combat the negative mental health impacts of discriminatory laws on LGBTQ individuals; and,

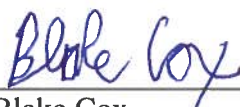
**THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate reaffirms its commitment on fostering a culture of tolerance, inclusion, and justice; and,

**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; and,

**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: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President Benjamin Sasse, Chair of the UFBOT Morteza "Mori" Hosseini, 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.aclufi.org/en/press-releases/aclu-florida-opposes-house-committee-passage-trans-erasure-bill>
- [10] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1639>
- [11] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1521>
- [12] [https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/profile\\_state/FL](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>
- [19] <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public>
- [20] [https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1058&context=book\\_chapters](https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1058&context=book_chapters)

  
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Blake Cox  
Senate President

12/3/24  
Date