

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1018**

**TITLE: Resolution Proclaiming February 21st as Gator Disability Inclusion Day**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Caroline Schapansky**

**SPONSOR(S): Member-at-Large Aleah Henley**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida (UF) is committed to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and equitable campus environment where all students, including those with physical and intellectual disabilities, can thrive academically, socially, and personally [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities contribute to the richness of campus life and bring unique perspectives and experiences to the University community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the UF Student Senate recognizes the importance of providing a platform to celebrate and raise awareness of the achievements and contributions of students with physical and intellectual disabilities, ensuring they feel valued and included within the university community; and,

**WHEREAS**, students would greatly benefit from enhanced visibility of students with physical and intellectual disabilities and to create an environment where these students are recognized for their strengths, achievements, and resilience; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is important that the University of Florida continues to promote educational access and resources that support students with disabilities, while actively advocating for their needs, rights, and inclusion within all aspects of university life; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the contributions and achievements of students with physical and intellectual disabilities by formally recognizing disability awareness on campus.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that public celebrations recognize disability awareness on campus by the creation of events and activities aimed at promoting awareness and celebrating the diversity of students with disabilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the Disability Resource Center Academic Achievement Scholarship Awards be recognized as a way to honor students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, academic success, and contributions to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that student-driven support and mentorship programs be recognized as a means to connect students with disabilities to campus resources, providing guidance, encouragement, and fostering a sense of community.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the Student Senate calls for the formation of a dedicated task force, comprised of students, faculty, and staff with expertise in disability services and inclusion, to help guide the development of disability-focused events, resources, and initiatives across campus.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that events are accessible and inclusive, with proper accommodations for students with various types of disabilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the University's commitment to inclusivity is reflected in all campus programming, from athletics to arts and sciences.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the needs and concerns of students with physical and intellectual disabilities are integrated into UF's broader strategic planning initiatives.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government recognizes February 21st as Gator Disability Inclusion Day, in celebration of the faculty, staff, and students with physical or intellectual disabilities, the Disability Resource Center and the Dean of Students, will work alongside the Student Senate and other relevant campus organizations to support these initiatives and provide necessary resources, including funding, to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of Disability Awareness and other related programs.

*Proviso: The authors of this bill would like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Disability Resource Center and all faculty and staff working to make the University of Florida a more accessible and inclusive environment for all students. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Disability Resource Center Jenna Gonzalez*

[1] <https://disability.ufl.edu/>



Blake Cox  
Senate President

2/10/25

Date