

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1021**

**TITLE: Resolution Calling for Increased Access to Mental Health Resources for Students with Physical Disabilities**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Anjani Sharma and Senator Madelyn Karmelek**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) is committed to providing comprehensive mental health services to all students, fostering their emotional and psychological well-being; and,

**WHEREAS**, students with physical disabilities face unique challenges, including navigating accessibility barriers, experiencing social isolation, and managing additional stressors related to their disability, which can adversely impact their mental health; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) identifies individuals with physical disabilities as a population with a heightened risk of mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression due to societal and systemic barriers [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, data from national studies indicate that students with physical disabilities are less likely to seek mental health care due to a lack of tailored resources and stigma surrounding both mental health and disability [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current resources provided by the CWC do not fully address the specific mental health needs of students with physical disabilities, limiting their access to tailored counseling, support groups, and therapeutic interventions [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, inclusive and accessible mental health services contribute to a more equitable and supportive campus environment for all students; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate will collaborate with the Counseling and Wellness Center to enhance its mental health resources for students with physical disabilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate will collaborate with the Counseling and Wellness Center to increase the availability of counselors trained in disability-inclusive care.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate will collaborate with the Counseling and Wellness Center to develop support groups and peer-led workshops specifically for students with physical disabilities.

**THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate will collaborate with the Counseling and Wellness Center to ensure that all counseling services are fully accessible, including physical accessibility to facilities and virtual accessibility through inclusive technology.

**THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate will work alongside the Counseling and Wellness Center to collaborate with campus organizations, such as the Disability Resource Center, to address intersectional challenges faced by this population.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the CWC allocates additional funding and staff resources to these initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports and prioritizes this effort, recognizing its critical role in fostering a campus culture of inclusivity and equity.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Senior Vice President of Health Affairs David R. Nelson and Vice President of Health and Wellbeing Ernesto Escoto.*

[1] <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>

[2] <https://www.apa.org/pubs/highlights/spotlight/issue-282>

[3] <https://counseling.ufl.edu/services/guide-to-services/>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Blake Cox  
Senate President

2/10/25  
Date