

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1024**

**TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Expanding LGBTQIA+ Specialized Counseling Services in Collaboration with the CWC**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Kate Mcnamara, Senator Arshan Falasiri, Senator Cassie Urbenz, Senator Lucas Nadeau**

**SPONSOR(S): Senate President Blake Cox, Senate President Pro-Tempore Julia Seifer, Majority Party Leader Maya Idiculla, Deputy Majority Party Leader Cole Bennet, Information & Communications Chairwoman Kystal Felix, Senator Danielle Collins, Senator Aditi Sarkar, Senator Freddi Rappoport, Senator Ella Furman, Senator Andrew Larsen, Senator Rafeh Kahn, Senator Priya Schramm, Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs Zeke Serrano, Gender and Sexuality Protection Agency Head Riley Towbin**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida is committed to cultivating mental health and wellness for all students and recognizes the importance of providing inclusive and specialized support services [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) has a longstanding commitment to providing essential mental health resources and has worked to develop a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system for the distinctive needs of our diverse student body [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ students have historically faced barriers to accessing comprehensive mental health care, and face significantly higher rates of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, harassment and feelings of marginalization [2][3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of LGBTQIA+ specialized counseling services and resources at the CWC is a crucial step in fostering a more inclusive and supportive campus environment and reflects the university's dedication to equitable and inclusive support for our students [4][5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that providing specialized counseling services and resources tailored to the LGBTQIA+ community leads to improved mental health and greater overall student satisfaction by cultivating a safe and welcoming, environment to discuss identity, experience with discrimination, and mental health concerns on campus [4][6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that we work to create an affirmative setting by providing LGBTQIA+ literature and resources, and include affirming language, pronouns and names on all allowable paperwork [5][1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, implementing and expanding the availability of these vital mental health resources will foster an inclusive environment and address the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ community [7]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of providing equitable and inclusive mental health services for all students.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for affirming and holistic mental health resources specifically directed towards LGBTQIA+ students in order to create a safe, developmentally supportive and affirming campus-community for students, staff, faculty, and alumni of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly supports collaboration with the CWC and the LGBTQIA+ community on campus to advocate for the implementation of LGBTQIA+ specialized counseling services and resources at the CWC to continue their ongoing commitment to supporting diverse populations and mental health.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Vice President of Health and Wellbeing Ernesto Escoto and CWC Assistant Director of Training Felicia Brown.*

[1] <https://counseling.ufl.edu/about/>

[2] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10187662/>

[3] <https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2022-86096-004.html>

[4] <https://dallasrainbowcounseling.com/specialized-lgbtq-counseling-is-different/>

[5] [https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/hdfs/documents/misc/Affirmative\\_therapy\\_handout.pdf](https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/hdfs/documents/misc/Affirmative_therapy_handout.pdf)

[6] <https://includedhealth.com/blog/lgbtq/how-affirmative-therapy-benefits-lgbtq-people/>

[7] <https://www.betterhelp.com/advice/inclusive-mental-health/community-healing-why-is-there-a-need-for-lgbtq-therapy/>

  
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Blake Cox  
Senate President

2/10/25  
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Date