

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1119

TITLE: Resolution Celebrating Pride Month and Recognizing Continued Queer Resilience at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Change Caucus Leader Andrew Larsen

SPONSOR(S): Gender and Sexuality Protection Agency Head Arshan Falasiri, Senator Brooke Clayton, Executive Vice Chair of HORIZONS Tulista Belsky

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ organizers such as Harry Hay, Rosalie “Rose” Bamberger, and Rosemary Sliepen, and organizations such as the Mattachine Society and The Daughters of Bilitis advocated for LGBTQ+ acceptance and proactively fought against discrimination throughout the 1950’s and 1960’s [1][2]; and,

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Uprising of June 27th-July 3rd, 1969, in which the patrons of the Stonewall Inn resisted a violent police raid targeting LGBTQ+ identities and community, brought national attention to the LGBTQ+ equality movement [3]; and,

WHEREAS, transgender women of color, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, stood as pioneers at the forefront of the movement energized by the Stonewall Uprising and have faced some of the most violent repression [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the first LGBTQ+ equality marches in commemoration of the Stonewall Uprising were protests in addition to celebrations, saw participation in the thousands, and were held on June 28, 1970 [5]; and,

WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton proclaimed June 1999 as the first Gay and Lesbian Pride Month (later broadened to LGBTQ+ Pride Month) to celebrate diversity, honor the brave citizens involved in the Stonewall Uprising, and denounce discrimination [6]; and,

WHEREAS, Pride Month serves to celebrate queer identities, LGBTQ+ historical figures, and progress made towards LGBTQ+ equality; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration is also a memorial of the hardships the queer community has faced, such as the HIV/AIDS crisis, and systemic oppression including that perpetuated by the Johns Committee at the University of Florida as part of the Lavender Scare [7]; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ voices and organizations are still being targeted, the effects of which can be seen on campus with the closure of the LGBTQ+ center in 2024 and the Lavender Living Learning Community in 2025 [8][9]; and,

WHEREAS, despite rising hateful rhetoric, the University of Florida LGBTQ+ community is remaining strong through student organizations including the Pride Student Union, UF Pride in Business, and Lavender Media Productions among many others [10]; and,

WHEREAS, Student Government continues to defend LGBTQ+ students through the creation of the Gender and Sexuality Protection (GASP) agency and the HORIZONS program under the ROOTS agency [11][12]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes Pride Month, including its memorial of hardships faced, celebrations of progress made, and reminder of progress to be fought for.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to protect LGBTQ+ students and their rights to self-expression and equality.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate values the contributions of LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff along with members of the Gainesville community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate reaffirms the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and condemns all forms of discrimination, both on the interpersonal and institutional levels.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Gender and Sexuality Protection Agency Head Arshan Falasiri and Executive Vice Chair of HORIZONS Tulista Belsky

[1] <https://guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-studies/before-stonewall/mattachine>

[2] <https://guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-studies/before-stonewall/daughters-of-bilitis>

[3] <https://www.stonewallvets.org/>

[4] <https://guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-studies/stonewall-era>

[5] <https://nascsp.org/in-honor-of-pride-month-a-little-history/>

[6] <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-7203-gay-and-lesbian-pride-month-1999>

[7] <https://findingaids.uflib.ufl.edu/repositories/2/resources/1630>

[8] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2024/01/dei>

[9] <https://housing.ufl.edu/living-learning-communities/>

[10] <https://sourcesofstrength.psych.ufl.edu/lgbtq/>

[11] https://www.alligator.org/article/2024/09/uf-gender-and-sexuality-protection-agency?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest

[12] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SSB-2025-1035-The-ROOTS-Agency-Establishment-Act.pdf>

 6/4/25

Julia Seifer
Senate President
Date