STUDENT SENATE BILL 2026-1109

TITLE: A Resolution Honoring the Florida Student Association on Its Fiftieth Anniversary

AUTHOR(S): Senate President Molly Murphy

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, in 1976 the student body presidents of Florida's public universities, meeting as the State Council of Student Body Presidents, created the Florida Student Association, and the Association's records mark November 17, 1976, as its founding date; and,

WHEREAS, for fifty years the Association has advocated for Florida's university students before the Legislature and before the boards that govern the State University System; and,

WHEREAS, the nine universities then in the State University System built the Association from its first years, each paying twenty cents for every student enrolled; and,

WHEREAS, in its first year the Association pressed the Legislature to place a student on the Board of Regents and to require legislative approval before any change in State University System tuition could take effect; and,

WHEREAS, by 1985 the Association had become the lobbying voice for the state's 140,000 college and university students, had run a 1984 voter registration drive through which 26,000 students became registered voters, and had campaigned to hold a tuition increase to five percent; and,

WHEREAS, by 1987 the Association was nominating the students considered for the student seat on the Board of Regents; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2002 Florida voters wrote the Association into the Florida Constitution, providing in Article IX, Section 7(d) that the president of the Florida Student Association be a member of the new Board of Governors of the State University System; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors first met on January 7, 2003, with Association President Pablo Paez among its members, and that same year the Legislature placed the same seat in Section 1001.70, Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, since 2003 the chairs of the Association, each holding the student seat on the Board of Governors, have come from eleven of its twelve member universities; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 voters were asked, as Amendment 12, whether to replace the Association's president on the Board of Governors with the chair of a council of state university student body presidents, the amendment was not adopted at the general election of November 6, 2012, and the Association's president still serves on the Board; and,

WHEREAS, each year the Association brings student government leaders from its member universities to the Capitol for Rally in Tally, which in 2012 drew about 400 students from across the state; and,

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Association took part in a statewide voter registration drive and supported the expansion of Florida's medical amnesty law, enacted that year as Chapter 2019-81, Laws of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Legislature named the Association in Section 1004.26, Florida Statutes, designating it "the nonprofit advocacy organization serving the needs of the students of the State University System" and providing that it be governed by a board of directors made up of the twelve student body presidents of the state universities; and,

WHEREAS, the Association has grown from the nine universities of 1976 to all twelve universities of the State University System, the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of South Florida, the University of Central Florida, Florida International University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, the University of North Florida, the University of West Florida, New College of Florida, and Florida Polytechnic University, which together serve more than 430,000 students; and,

WHEREAS, in 1992 Bret Berlin, Student Body President of the University of Florida, served as chair of the Association; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2005 the Association's Board of Directors elected University of Florida Student Body President Joe Goldberg as its chairman; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida Student Body President Ryan Moseley served on the Board of Governors in the 2007-2008 year, when the Association listed him as chairman of its Student Body Presidents Council; and,

WHEREAS, the Association elected University of Florida Student Body President John Brinkman as its chairman and president for the 2024-2025 term, and he served on the Board of Governors; and,

WHEREAS, in June 2026 the Association appointed and confirmed an Executive Director to lead its day-to-day operations, and it has rebuilt its website, floridastudentassociation.com, where it now posts its meeting notices, records and recordings; and,

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2026, the Board of Directors adopted eleven amendments to the Association's constitution that open its meetings to public comment, require it to publish its meeting records and its budget, and make its Legislative Committee a permanent standing committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Association's committees on Campus Safety and Student Wellness, Student Life, Rally in Tally, the Legislative Branch and Athletics bring together student leaders from the

member universities, and its Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt the Association's 2027 Legislative Agenda on November 12, 2026, ahead of the legislative session that opens on March 2, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, the Association plans a workshop on December 3, 2026, at which student budget chairs, treasurers and advisors from all twelve universities will compare how their institutions budget the activity and service fee; and,

WHEREAS, the Association has proposed a Student Government Institute for the students who lead Florida's university student governments, to be held January 22 to 24, 2027, at the University of South Florida with USF Student Government as co-sponsor, pending the vote of its Board of Directors on November 12, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the Association is organizing a blood drive challenge with OneBlood among its member universities for the week of January 24 to 31, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Ian Seibert of Florida State University, Chair of the Association, also serves as its President and as a member of the Board of Governors for the term of June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, the student body president of the University of Florida serves on the Association's Board of Directors, and the students of the University of Florida are among those the Association serves; and,

WHEREAS, Tuesday, November 17, 2026, marks fifty years since the founding of the Florida Student Association; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate honors the Florida Student Association on its fiftieth anniversary, November 17, 2026, and commends the Association for fifty years of advocacy for the students of Florida's public universities.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate thanks the students of the University of Florida who have served the Association as Directors, chairs, officers and committee members, and honors the student leaders of every member university, past and present, who have carried its work forward.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate affirms its support for the student seat on the Board of Governors provided by Article IX, Section 7(d) of the Florida Constitution, and for the work the Association has begun this year on behalf of every student it serves.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Florida Student Association (admin@floridastudentassociation.com), Student Body President Matthew Bravo (president@sg.ufl.edu).