

A Resolution Urging Florida Elected Officials to Withdraw Outrageous Legislative Bills Targeting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Safety of Students and Historically Accurate African American History

WHEREAS, the state of Florida wages an ongoing war on the rights, voices and safety of minority students.

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 14, a Florida House subcommittee voted to advance an expansion of the state’s “Don’t Say Gay” law.¹

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1320 and House Bill 1223 would ban classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation between prekindergarten and eighth grade.²

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1320 and House Bill 1223 would also prohibit requiring students and school staff from using pronouns that “do not correspond with [a] person’s sex.”³

WHEREAS, House Bill 1223 outrageously declares, “It shall be the policy of every public K-12 educational institution that a person’s sex is an immutable biological trait” and that it is “false to ascribe to a person a pronoun that does not correspond to such person’s sex,” erasing LGBT+ voices.⁴

WHEREAS, House Bill 1069 requires students in grades 6-12 to be taught that “sex is determined by biology and reproductive function at birth,” and enables parents to object to instructional materials and restrict school library access,⁵ an outright attack on the transgender community and child welfare.

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 13, Florida House Bill 999 passed and moved to the Senate.⁶ The bill usurps the academic freedom of higher education and stifles the work of minority students and faculty by prohibiting spending on diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/dont-say-gay-florida-gender-desantis-b381767d451953c9aeea3f035f822612>

²

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/03/05/florida-bills-would-ban-gender-studies-transgender-pronouns-tenure-perks/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/03/05/florida-bills-would-ban-gender-studies-transgender-pronouns-tenure-perks/>

⁶

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3900186-new-florida-bill-would-ban-diversity-inclusion-program-s-on-university-campuses/>

giving Florida’s governor control over curriculum review and faculty hiring.⁷ This bill also threatens to rid Florida institutions of Black Greek fraternities and sororities with its ambiguous and racist language.

WHEREAS, House Bill 999 would also remove essential majors and minors in “Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, or Intersectionality,” falsely claiming that courses are based on “unproven, theoretical, or exploratory content.” The bill urges colleges to promote the “philosophical underpinnings of Western civilization”⁸ at the expense of historically accurate African American history.

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 13, Florida legislators advanced Senate Bill 254, which would criminalize gender-affirming care for minors. Health care providers would be guilty of a third-degree felony for providing care, and the bill would ban the use of state funds for adult procedures.⁹ This is not only inhumane, but ignores scientific consensus on the overwhelming benefits of gender-affirming care.¹⁰

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 254 would also grant courts jurisdiction to modify child custody agreements to prevent “sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures ... in another state,”¹¹ a move designed to instill fear and uncertainty.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 668 and House Bill 1011 ban the “improper display of flags” on government property, and proposed amendments would specifically approve the Confederate States flag but prohibit the Pride flag,¹² an outright attempt to whitewash history and erase the LGBTQ+ community.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council condemns the Florida legislature for its egregious targeting of minority students, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of these shameful proposals.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2023/03/13/florida-bill-transgender-youth-treatment-illegal-doctor-license-insurance/>

¹⁰ <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/gender-affirmative-care>

¹¹

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2023/03/13/florida-bill-transgender-youth-treatment-illegal-doctor-license-insurance/>

¹²

<https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2023/03/14/flag-bill-gets-amendment-to-allow-confederate-flag-flown-in-florida>

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council stands in solidarity with the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and all student organizations that support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council stands in solidarity with LGBTQ+ identifying, African American, and all minority students.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges UCLA Chancellor Gene Block to issue a statement condemning these attacks on students, and to reaffirm UCLA's commitment to LGBTQ+ students and students of color.