STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-124

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Gator Nation and the Worldwide Community Affected by the Recent Natural Catastrophes

AUTHOR (S): Senator Andrea Rangel, Senator Anmol Shah, Senator Dylan Santalo,
Union of Active Puerto Rican Students President Angel David Santiago Ortiz
SPONSOR (S): Chomp the Vote Agency Head Jacob Faubion, Senator Noah Harden,
UMatter We Care Executive Director Omarley Spence, Senator Jonathan Nickas

WHEREAS, over 52,000 students from Florida, across the country, and around the world call the University of Florida and Gainesville their second home; and,

WHEREAS, in the last two weeks, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and an 8.1 magnitude earthquake have displaced many people from their homes, destroyed historic infrastructure, and caused a mass amount of deaths in different parts of the world; and,

WHEREAS, Hurricane Harvey was first issued as a tropical storm affecting the areas of the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America; eventually developing into the nation’s first Category 4 hurricane of 2017 which caused catastrophic floods, destruction, and approximately 72 fatalities in Louisiana and Texas[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma was a Category 5 hurricane that violently hit Florida and the Caribbean, the first Category 5 hurricane to hit Cuba in decades; the hurricane destroyed many ancestral and historic buildings, caused a shortage in food and other necessities, left thousands of people homeless, and resulted in approximately 37 fatalities[iv]; and,

WHEREAS, a magnitude 8.1 earthquake hit Mexico on September 9th, 2017, the most powerful earthquake to hit Mexico in the last century, which caused intense damage and 96 fatalities[v]; and,
WHEREAS, after Hurricane Harvey, President Kent Fuchs encouraged “Gators to make financial contributions to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army”, in an effort to offer assistance to all affected by the storm [iii]; and,

WHEREAS, UMatter We Care and the Office of Student Financial Affairs is offering counseling services to students and assisting them with financial issues which resulted from these disasters; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the continued education of hurricane and earthquake safety and urges all students to follow the instructions of authorities and take necessary precautions.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to utilize campus resources such as UMatter We Care, the Field and Fork Food Pantry, and others.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Senate supports all fellow gators and their families affected by the natural disasters and commemorates these devastating tragedies and lives taken.

Jackie Phillips
Senate President

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Parrott, Interim Dean of Students Heather White, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Director of Hispanic-Latino Affairs Gabe Lara, President of the Hispanic Student Association Robert Lemus
