

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-112

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Designation of Mental Health Awareness Week and the Mental Health Task Force Letter Writing Campaign

AUTHOR (S): Senator Dylan Santalo, Senator Katie Hernandez, Senator Branden Pearson, Mental Health Task Force Chairwoman Valeria Hernandez, and External Affairs Vice Chairman Brett Oehrle

SPONSOR (S): Senate President Ian Green, Judiciary Committee, Information and Communication Chairwoman Danielle Grosse, Majority Party Leader Jonathan Nickas, and U Matter We Care Executive Director Omarley Spence

WHEREAS, mental health is a person's condition regarding their psychological and emotional well being; and,

WHEREAS, currently an estimated 43.6 million Americans, 18 years of age or older, suffer from poor mental health[i]; and,

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of mental health conditions begin before the age of 24 and one in five young adults will experience a mental health condition during their time in college[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, more than 25 percent of college students are diagnosed or treated by a mental health professional annually[iii]; and,

WHEREAS, mental wellness is essential to living a productive life, as it affects all aspects of our lives; proper mental health promotes greater academic achievement and establishes healthy relationships[iv]; and,

WHEREAS, on January 31st, 2018, the Florida House of Representatives passed State Resolution 1910, which officially designated the week of February 3-10 as "Mental Health Awareness Week" in the state of Florida[v]; and,

WHEREAS, on February 7th, 2018, the University of Florida's Mental Health Task Force launched a Letter Writing Campaign to raise awareness and advocate for additional funding for the Counseling and Wellness Center; and,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Letter Writing Campaign collected 76 handwritten letters from passionate members of the student body as well as 47 template based letters to total 123 engaged students; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes the importance of providing readily-accessible mental health services to the student body.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to utilize resources such as U Matter We Care and the Counseling and Wellness Center.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Government Senate advocates for “Mental Health Awareness Week” to be declared at the national level.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes the strides made by the Mental Health Task Force’s Letter Writing Campaign and supports future lobbying efforts.



Ian Green
Senate President

2-28-18

Date

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center Dr. Ernesto Escoto, Dean of Students Heather White, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Ted Yoho, Florida Senate President Joe Negron, Florida Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran, Florida Senator Keith Perry, Florida Representative Clovis Watson, and Florida Representative Chuck Clemons.

[i] <https://www.samhsa.gov/disorders>

[ii] <https://nami.org/collegeguide>

[iii] <http://www.womenshealth.northwestern.edu/blog/importance-promoting-mental-health-universities>

[iv] <https://www.mentalhealth.gov>

[v] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/1910/ByVersion>