



Resolution: 22-23 Resolution XII: Recognizing Student Reaction and Possible Repercussions of Florida *HB 999*

Author(s): Vice Chair Montoya, Senator Hicks, and Senate Pro Tempore Range

To read as follows:

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023, Florida House of Representatives Bill 999, was officially filed and gives new guidelines to the Florida Postsecondary Educational Institutions; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida is apart of the Florida State University System and is subjected to the rules and regulations of the Florida Board of Governors and the legislation passed in the Florida Congressional Legislature; and

WHEREAS, HB 999 requires American History be presented in a way that ensures it is not “contrary to the creation of a new nation based on universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence,” and stops the support and funding of any university activities that “espouse diversity, equity and inclusion or critical race theory rhetoric.”; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida aspires to “ [enable] students from varied backgrounds to meet their career and life goals.”; and

WHEREAS, two of the University of West Florida’s values are equity, in which “UWF is committed to providing accessible resources and opportunities for all individuals from different social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.” and diversity, in which “ UWF is inclusive, appreciative, and respectful of the diversity among all people and their ideas.”; and

WHEREAS, in order to foster the environment necessary to support its values and mission, the University of West Florida has thirteen identity based registered student organizations and four minors pertaining to critical race theory or intersectionality; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida in accordance with the Student Government Association is responsible for inclusivity for all students of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida Student Government Association has recognized and celebrated different cultures including writing resolutions for Black History Month, Filipino American History Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida Student Government has continually been committed to increasing and improving diversity on campus by hosting an annual diversity week and implementing an ad hoc diversity committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University of West Florida Student Government Association recognizes the potential impact of the passage of HB 999 on student’s well being, education, and comfortability on campus.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of West Florida stands with those who are being affected by the legislative proceedings and the organizations and students who could possibly be disadvantaged by the passage of HB 999.

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Mr. Patrick Marshall

Student Body President

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Ms. Ariauna Range

Senate Pro Tempore