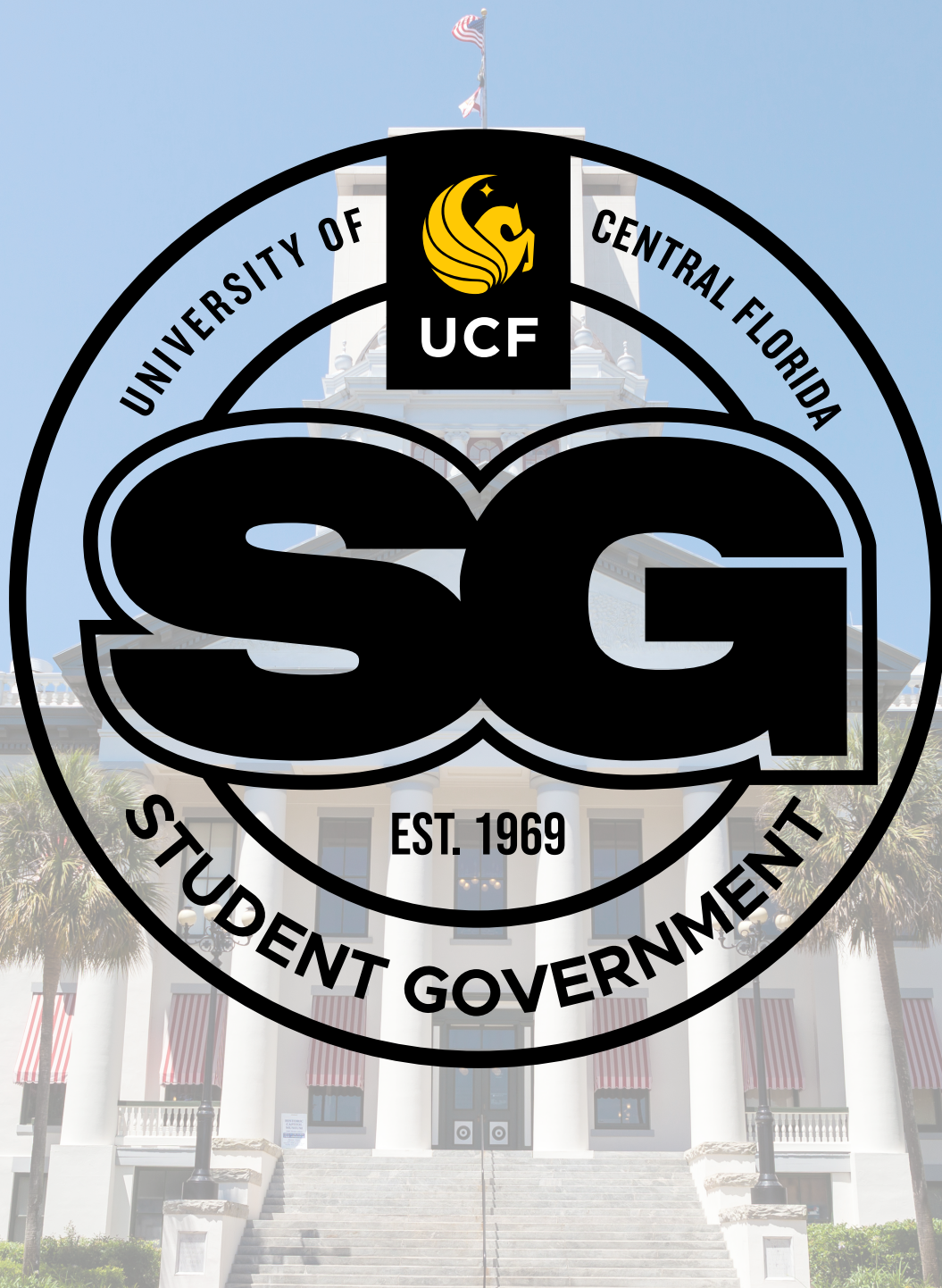


ADVOCACY AGENDA

THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA'S
DAY AT THE CAPITOL
FEBRUARY 17 2021



Advocate for Sexual Assault Prevention

HB 23 (Gottlieb) and SB 946 (Book) Statute of Limitations for Sexual Offenses

Impact

This bill eliminates the statute of limitations period for civil actions for certain sexual offenses.

Facts

According to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), approximately 19% of women and 5-6% of men are sexually assaulted during their time at college. Only 20% of female student victims, age 18-24, report to law enforcement. Only 7% of victims of incapacitated assault report to the police.

There are several reasons why people do not report these offenses immediately: They believe their experience was a personal matter, had a fear of reprisal, believed it was not enough to report, did not want the perpetrator to get in trouble, believed the police would not or could not do anything to help, reported to others but not the police, and more.

Purpose

This bill will give UCF Students more time to report instances of sexual assault and see action taken. The passing of this bill could potentially result in the reduction of sexual offenses on college campuses, making it safer for students to pursue higher education.

Take Action

Support HB 23 and SB 946
Statute of Limitations for Sexual
Offenses

Advocate for Health and Safety

Dispensing Medicinal Drugs - HB 29 (Willhite) and SB 262 (Harrell)

Impact

During times of emergencies or certain circumstances, this bill allows for hospitals to dispense supplies of prescribed medical drugs in specified amounts to emergency patients or upon discharge.

Purpose

During situations when Florida is in a State of Emergency (COVID-19, hurricanes, etc.), it is difficult for many students to continuously refill their prescriptions. This bill would make it easier for students to access and retrieve the prescriptions they need.

Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors on Public K-20 Campuses - HB 99 (Gottlieb) and SB 538 (Polsky)

Impact

This bill requires that state universities, FCS institutions, and public schools purchase or acquire a supply of Epinephrine Auto-injectors and maintain them in specific locations such as cafeterias for specific purposes. This also comes with requirements for supplies and protocols to be enabled. Lastly, it provides liability for use of such epinephrine auto-injectors.

Purpose

Students with severe allergies that require the use of an epinephrine auto-injector will be much safer when consuming food on the UCF campus in the event of an emergency.

Take Action

Support HB 29 and SB 262
Dispensing Medicinal Drugs

Support HB 99 and SB 538 Use
of Epinephrine Auto-injectors on
Public K-20 Campuses

Advocate for Diversity and Inclusion

Marriages Between Persons of the Same Sex - HB 6017 (Rayner) and SB 558 (Polsky)

This bill repeals Florida Statute 741.212 which states that "the term "marriage" means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the term "spouse" applies only to a member of such a union". This impacts our student body as a large number of UCF students are members of the LGBTQ+ community and deserve to have their marriages formally recognized by the Florida Legislature.

Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle - HB 179 (Brown) and SB 476 (Bracy)

This bill states that it is unlawful to discriminate against any person because of protected hairstyle in areas of housing, employment, and the K-20 public education system. Examples of protected hairstyles include afros, braids, twists and locks. The passing of this bill would allow UCF Students protection from any fear that their hairstyle will result in lawful discrimination when pursuing housing, employment and education.

Juneteenth Day - HB 185 (McCurdy & Rayner) and SB 480 (Bracy)

This bill designates Juneteenth Day as a paid holiday for employees of all branches & agencies of state government. There are approximately 7,700 African American students at the University of Central Florida. This bill recognizes the significant contributions of African Americans to the State of Florida and the nation as a whole.

Take Action

Support HB 6017 and SB 558
Marriages Between Persons of the
Same Sex

Support HB 179 and SB 476
Prohibited Discrimination Based on
Hairstyle

Support HB 185 and SB 490
Juneteenth Day

Advocate for Increased Access to Education and Scholarships

Support the Protection of the Bright Futures Scholarship

In the 2019-2020 school year, 111,973 students received a disbursement from bright futures, many of whom are UCF students. This scholarship is essential to many students' careers in higher education. It is imperative that the Florida Legislature continue to fund the Bright Futures Scholarship program and allow these students to attend major universities.

Internship Tax Credit - HB 531 (Daley) and SB 258 (Jones)

This bill establishes the “Florida Internship Tax Credit Program” and provides a corporate income tax credit for qualified businesses employing degree-seeking student interns if certain criteria are met. This will allow additional opportunities for students to receive internships while completing their degrees by offering tax incentives for companies that hire collegiate-level interns. Many students lost their internship opportunities this past summer due to COVID-19. This will help additional students enter the workforce immediately following graduation.

Student Eligibility Requirements for State Financial Aid Awards and Tuition Assistance Grants - SB 300 (Taddeo)

This bill ensures that for the purposes of receiving state financial aid awards, a student may not be denied classification as a resident based on his or her immigration status if they meet certain criteria. Many UCF students are unable to receive state financial aid awards because of their immigration status which leaves students struggling to pay for college, introducing this bill would give those students credibility to receive the state financial aid that they need.

Take Action

Support the protection of the
Bright Futures Scholarship
Fund

Support HB 531 and SB 258
Internship Tax Credit

Support SB 300 Student Eligibility
Requirements for State Financial Aid
Awards and Tuition Assistance
Grants