

Introduced By: Senator Elle Beneche
Sponsored By: LGBTQ+ Caucus; Disability Caucus Chair Johnson; Black Caucus Chair Metellus, Latin/Hispanic Caucus Chair Escobar
Contact: sglgbtqcaucus@ucf.edu
First Reading: January 30, 2025
Committee Action: Passed 8-0-1
Second Reading: February 13, 2025
Final Vote:



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 56-29**

[Proclamation Recognizing February 7th, 2025, as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.03(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, February 7th is recognized nationally as Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a day dedicated to addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the Black community and raising awareness about prevention, testing, and treatment;
WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black Americans represent 13% of the U.S. population but account for 40% of all people living with HIV and 42% of new HIV diagnoses annually;
WHEREAS, The CDC also reports that 1 in 7 people living with HIV are unaware of their status, highlighting the importance of access to testing and education, particularly in disproportionately affected communities;
WHEREAS, Black Americans face systemic barriers to healthcare access, including stigma, discrimination, and a lack of culturally responsive medical care, which exacerbate health disparities in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
WHEREAS, In Florida, including the Orlando area, Black men and women continue to experience disproportionately high rates of new HIV diagnoses compared to other racial or ethnic groups, emphasizing the need for localized outreach and intervention;
WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida (UCF) and its diverse student body, including its Black students, are committed to fostering a campus environment that promotes health equity and raises awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment;
WHEREAS, UCF provides free or low-cost HIV testing, counseling services, and educational workshops through Student Health Services, empowering students to make informed decisions about their sexual health;
WHEREAS, Student organizations at UCF, such as the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) and the Black Student Union (BSU), actively promote health initiatives to break stigmas and educate students about the impacts of HIV/AIDS;
WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serves as a call to action for the UCF student body and the broader Orlando community to reduce stigma, increase testing, and ensure equitable access to healthcare and treatment; and
WHEREAS, Local and national organizations, such as the Florida Department of Health, the Black AIDS Institute, and UCF Student Health Services, collaborate to address the impact of HIV/AIDS through awareness campaigns, research, and outreach programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that February 7th, 2025, is recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at UCF to honor the resilience of the Black community, raise awareness and fight the stigma against HIV and AIDS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to the UCF Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Multicultural Student Center, UCF Student Health Services, Black Student Union, National Pan-Hellenic Council, ColorMeQueer, Pride Student Association, Partners In Health ENGAGE@UCF, Black Men in Medicine, Black Women in Medicine, International Medical Outreach, and SG Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator Jasmine Kaur.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

Allison Pohlmann
Senate President

02/21/2025

Date

Bryce Lister
Student Body President

03/10/2025

Date