



## 72<sup>ND</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

**Resolution #: 96**

**Primary Sponsor: Randall**

**Co-Sponsor: Harmon**

**Whereas:** The 2017-2022 Florida State University strategic plan for student success strives to “create an environment that encourages healthy behaviors and wellness” and the Victim Advocate Program is part of “a matrix of services that emphasize early intervention and appropriate referral and care,” and

**Whereas:** The Victim Advocate Program serves students, faculty, and staff of all genders and identities at Florida State University who have been victimized by any crime or are secondary victims to a crime 24/7, 365 days of the year, (including holidays), and

**Whereas:** The Victim Advocate Program provides FSU students who are victims of a crime with 24/7 crisis intervention, safety planning (no-contact order, injunction, etc.), temporary safe housing, information and referrals, letters of support to professors, course drops and withdrawals, financial aid guidance, filing for victim compensation, support with the medical process (e.g. SANE exam & STI testing), and support with formal processes (Title IX, legal, and/or student conduct), and

**Whereas:** The Victim Advocate Program’s services are not limited by date or geographic location of victimization, meaning that a student who was victimized at any point in their life is eligible to receive support, and

**Whereas:** In FY 2019-2020, the Victim Advocate Program counseled 695 primary and 97 secondary victims and has an ever-growing caseload, and

**Whereas:** The Victim Advocate Program has limited funds with which their three full-time staff members (1 advocate: 14,292 students) can operate – with little to no budgeted money for education and prevention, and

**Whereas:** Similar to other campus initiatives like kNOW more and Green Dot at FSU, the Victim Advocate Program could give regular presentations to campus stakeholders and provide informational material that is critical to prevention, and

**Whereas:** the Victim Advocate Program practices trauma-informed approaches that “[realize] the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; [recognize] the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; and [respond] by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices, and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization” according to the U. S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and

**Whereas:** Prevention and education are key to addressing any systemic problem yet the Department of Student Support and Transitions has not adequately funded efforts to inform the student body about resources that are available to them if they are victimized or directly connected to someone who has been victimized, and

**Whereas:** In addition to salaries, the Victim Advocate Program pays \$4000 to University Health Services and the FSU Center for Couple and Family Therapy to cover the cost of medical treatment and clinical counseling for victims of crime at FSU, and



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Whereas:** In response to the outpouring of stories from brave survivors of sexual assault and harassment in summer 2020, the FSU Student Senate took decisive action to address this issue by creating the Survivors Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee and FSU Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Angela Chong established a tri-campus taskforce with members from Tallahassee Community College and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to address sexual abuse, therefore

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-Second Student Senate at Florida State University that:** The Student Senate encourages any member of the student body who is a victim of a crime or is connected to a victim of a crime to contact the Victim Advocate Program via their 24/7 support line at (850) 644-7161.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Student Senate requests that the Office of Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate require professors to include the Victim Advocate Program's contact information and a brief description of their services on all course syllabi.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Student Senate encourages the Division of Student Affairs Office of Marketing and Communications to create marketing materials and social media campaigns that promote the Victim Advocate Program.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Student Senate encourages the Mental Health Council to collaborate with the Victim Advocate Program and all SGA agencies to create a brochure that addresses concerns related to victimization that are specific to each identity group.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Student Senate encourages the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to continue listing the Victim Advocate Program as a beneficiary of their "Line Dance" philanthropy event.

**Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to:**

Ahmad Omar Daraldik, Senate President

Kyle DiMatteo, Director of the SGA Mental Health Council

Sarah Lull Castillo, Director of the Victim Advocate Program

Chris Graham, Director of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Dr. Aron Myers, Director of the DSA Office of Marketing & Communications

Angela Chong, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Eric Chicken, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Sally McRorie, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Da'Shaun Scott, Student Governance & Advocacy Student Program Coordinator

Dr. Brandon Bowden, Student Governance & Advocacy Interim Director

OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Senate President

PASSED: 11/18/2020