

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF FLORIDA HOUSE BILL NO. 233 WHICH AMONG NUMEROUS PROVISIONS PROHIBITS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM SHIELDING INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING STUDENTS FACULTY AND STAFF WITHIN THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM, FROM "SPEECH THAT THEY MAY FIND UNCOMFORTABLE, UNWELCOME, DISAGREEABLE OR OFFENSIVE," AND REQUIRES ANNUAL ASSESSMENT SURVEYS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WITH REGARD TO INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS, FLORIDA HOUSE SPEAKER CHRIS SPROWLS, FLORIDA EDUCATION COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORCORAN, STATE SENATOR ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ AND TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES "JIM" MOONEY, JR.; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Key West adopted "One Human Family" as its official philosophy more than 20 years ago, to signify the City's embrace of diversity, inclusion and equality, and the residents of Key West continue to strive to be a shining example of that simple philosophy in our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the Florida House recently passed, and Governor DeSantis recently signed House Bill 233, which essentially requires students and institutions to embrace speech that is disagreeable or offensive, so long as it is protected under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 233 additionally requires institutions within the Florida College System to conduct annual surveys of students, faculty and staff ostensibly to document the extent to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented, and the extent to which students, faculty and staff feel free to express their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, by nominally addressing "free speech" issues that do not exist on Florida campuses, House Bill 233 expands opportunities for misleading and outrightly false speech to be presented on Florida campuses, and creates a mandated survey process with no assurance of privacy or confidentiality, that requires all individuals within the Florida College System to report and attest to their intellectual and political beliefs on a form which could potentially be used against them in future hiring or educational processes.

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that repeal of House Bill 233, as passed by the Florida House of Representatives would protect the health, welfare, privacy and safety of students, educators and staff in the City of Key West and the State of Florida; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission urges the Florida House to immediately repeal House Bill 233, which prohibits the State Board of Education from shielding Institutions within the Florida College System from "speech that they may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable or offensive," and which requires annual assessment surveys of students, faculty and staff with regard to intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Speaker of the Florida House Chris Sprowls, Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and State Representative James "Jim" Mooney, Jr.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2021.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2021.

Mayor Teri Johnston	_____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Gregory Davila	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK