

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2006-XXXX

**TITLE: A Bill in Support of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines
A Bill Recognizing the Role of the University of Florida's Research in Global Health
Development**

**AUTHORS: Heal the World, Florida Free Culture, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines,
Vietnamese Student Organization**

SPONSORS: Senator Gavin Baker

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is recognized as a major research university, receiving nearly \$500 million in funding for sponsored research in FY 2004-05; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida excels in medical research, with its research resulting in many important medical inventions, and with the Health Sciences Center receiving \$257 million in research funding in FY 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, an unacceptable number of the global poor who need essential medicines lack access to them; and

WHEREAS, university scientists are major contributors in the drug development pipeline, conducting more than half of the United States' basic research, and are responsible for the development of important health technologies; and

WHEREAS, University of Florida students play an important role in the research process of medical developments at UF, with approximately [# of students @ UF in research]; and

WHEREAS, the Patent and Trademark Law Amendments Act of 1980, also known as the Bayh-Dole Act, enabled universities to retain title to the intellectual property of inventions resulting from research, and charged universities to use patent protection to “effectuate the transfer of government-funded inventions to the public”; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Intellectual Property Policy states that “an invention which is made in the field or discipline in which the creator is engaged by the University or made with the use of University support is the property of the University”; and

WHEREAS, the University engages in exclusive licensing of its patents, which prevents generic competition for medicines for the duration of the patent; and

WHEREAS, generic competition is a means to achieve lower prices for patented medicines; and

WHEREAS, a decrease in the price of medicines typically correlates with greater access for individuals in lower- and middle-income countries, and that generic competition is a means to achieve low prices for patented medicines; and

WHEREAS, the University can include provisions in its patent licenses that would allow essential medicines to be produced and sold as generics in lower- and middle-income countries, and the Equitable Access License created by Universities Allied for Essential Medicines provides a viable framework for these provisions; and

WHEREAS, ~~universities have~~ the University of Florida has the power to help make medicines and health technologies more accessible for the world's poor through ~~their~~ its licensing policies; and

WHEREAS, ~~universities have~~ the University of Florida has an avowed commitment to advancing the public good, and improving access to essential medicine is consistent with this obligation; and

~~WHEREAS, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a student advocacy group with chapters at over thirty major research universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. UAEM has been campaigning for universities to acknowledge their role in global public health, and to improve access to health goods in developing countries by changing their technology licensing policies;~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the students ~~body~~ of the University of Florida recognizes the university's importance in promoting greater access to ~~biomedical end products~~ essential medicines and health technologies in lower- and middle-income countries ~~and increasing research conducted on neglected diseases;~~ and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the students ~~body~~ of the University of Florida endorses UAEM's statement that "improving human welfare, including globally, is the most important goal of university technology transfer," and urges the University of Florida administration to incorporate ~~it~~ its intent into current licensing practices.