

Letter of Support to United Faculty of Florida (UFF) on behalf of UCCS's Faculty Assembly

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs Faculty Assembly stands in support of United Faculty of Florida (UFF), who have been fighting tirelessly to uphold the values and mission of higher education in Florida, which has profound implications for higher education across the United States.

We are writing a letter in support of UFF's efforts to protect academic freedom, freedom of thought in education, and the institution of tenure. We see the proposed legislation – House Bill HB 999 and its Senate companion SB 266 – as direct threats to these rights and values, which are critical for fulfilling our roles as educators and researchers. The work of UFF is protecting faculty across the United States, holding back the tide of legislative trends that aim to undermine the mission of higher education.

We stand in solidarity with our colleagues working in Florida. We agree to utilize our collective power – which can include counseling our undergraduate and graduate students to not attend universities in FL (impacting enrollments and retention), not taking higher education jobs in FL, and speaking to our alumni networks to stop donations to FL – to send a clear message to Florida's legislators that their politics are only hurting them and their constituents.

We believe in UFF, and we believe in the faculty who have fought to preserve their rights to research and teach what they feel is important. This work is critical. Their fight is our fight, and we stand in solidarity with our colleagues in FL.

Sincerely and with great respect,

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Minette C Church, Faculty Assembly President, on behalf of UCCS Faculty Assembly