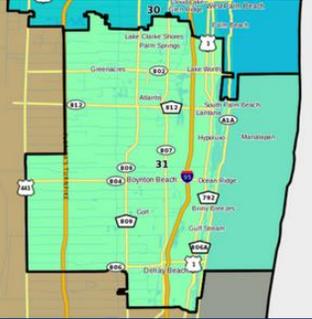


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THE BERMAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SENATE DISTRICT 31



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 BERMAN.LORI.WEB@FLSENATE.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICE
2300 HIGH RIDGE ROAD
SUITE 161
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33426
561.292.6014

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE
210 SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
404 SOUTH MONROE STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399
850.487.5031



STAFF
CHRISTI FEARNLEY
KASEY LEWIS
ABBY ROSS

FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It is with great sadness that I begin this month's newsletter by acknowledging the passing of two outstanding members of our community.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan R. Farmer of Boynton Beach was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving our country in Syria. His heroism and service to the United States will be remembered by all. My deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of this American hero.

Additionally, former president of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations (COBWRA) Barbara Katz passed away this month. Barbara has been a pillar of our community and was loved by all who had the pleasure of working with her. I am proud to have had the opportunity to call her my friend.

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Meetings

Last month, the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation wrapped up our final meetings prior to the 2019 Legislative Session. We participated in joint sessions with the Palm Beach County Commission, PBC School Board, and the PBC League of Cities to hear about their priorities for our community this year. Your delegation is more determined than ever to go to Tallahassee and bring back your state tax dollars to support the amazing work that is being done here in Palm Beach County. A special thank you to our wonderful Executive Director, Christine Shaw, who will be leaving her position this month to join Florida Atlantic University's Government Affairs team. The support you have given us during your time with the delegation has been invaluable and we wish you success in your future endeavors!



Swearing In The Florida Cabinet

On January 8th, 2019 Governor Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried were sworn into office on the steps of the Historic Capitol. It was an honor to attend the inauguration and various celebrations honoring our new Florida Governor and Cabinet. With the exception of the returning CFO, Florida has all new leadership in the executive branch. We will likely see a shift in

policy in many areas as the new cabinet begins to lay out their priorities for their departments and the State of Florida. It is my sincere hope that we will all work together these next few years to continue to make Florida a great place to live, work, and raise a family



Senator Lori Berman, Senator Janet Cruz, and Rep. Tina Polsky celebrate the newly elected Commissioner Nikki Fried at the Inaugural Ball.

Senator Berman's 2019 Legislative Agenda

The 2019 Legislative Session is just around the corner and February will be packed with committee meetings and bill hearings. As always, I will be advocating for increased access to quality and affordable healthcare, preserving and protecting our environment natural resources, proper funding of our public education system, increasing job opportunities and wages, and supporting initiatives that strengthen our state's infrastructure.

I have begun to file legislation and will continue to do so throughout the month. You can follow the bills I am sponsoring this year by visiting www.flsenate.gov. Below is a brief outline of the first few bills I have introduced in the Florida Senate.

SB 176, Sales Tax Exemption/Items that Assist in Independent Living: This legislation would exempt handrails, grab bars, and shower seats from Florida's sales tax in an effort to make independent living more affordable and accessible, allowing more of our seniors and differently abled individuals to age in place instead of moving to costly assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

SB 198, Trademark Classifications: This bill conforms Florida trademark law to be in compliance with current federal trademark law.

SB 410, Long-acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Pilot Program: This legislation requires the Department of Health to establish a pilot program to increase awareness and access to the most reliable methods of birth control, long-acting reversible contraceptives. The program would take place in Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Duval counties with the intention of lowering the rate of teen pregnancies and abortions by allowing women to take control of their reproductive healthcare regardless of their socio-economic status.

If you have any questions about my legislation or other bills being introduced in the Florida Senate please do not hesitate to contact my office. Once again, it is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Best

Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Berman" followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Berman, State Senator District 31

Our mailing address is:

Suite 161

2300 High Ridge Road

Boynton Beach, FL 33426