

MARCH 2019, WEEK 2 R

Dear Friends:

Time in Tallahassee has been flying by and the second week was eventful with many bills being heard both on the Senate floor and in committees. The clock has begun ticking, leaving the legislature only seven weeks to discuss the budget as well as healthcare issues and education. There was one particular bill that I feel the need to highlight as I believe it is an important issue that faces our community.

As always, please contact my office if you have any questions or need assistance.

Kerin Rorder

Senate Bill 7064: Oil Drilling

This legislation came before me last week in the Senate Agriculture Committee, which was presented as a ban on fracking in Florida. The bill, SB 7064, defines and bans "fracking" in the state; however, it omits a significant part of the problem. While well stimulation, injecting fluids into rocks to increase production, would be banned under this bill, it overlooks other techniques that would ban all fracking in our state. SB 7064 would only ban hydraulic fracturing and acid fracturing, but does not ban the

controversial process of matrix acidizing, which threatens Florida's water resources in a number of ways:

- Large amounts of acid can permeate beyond the well area into water-producing zones.
- Toxic byproduct must be disposed of, often through underground injection.
- The chemicals are toxic to humans, causing eye and skin irritation, organ damage, cancer and other adverse health effects.

I voted against this bill to ensure our environment is safe as a whole; the state's water supply should not be placed in jeopardy. It is essential that our water supply and the health of all Floridians be the top priority. To that end, I am a cosponsor of SB 314, which bans hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and matrix acidizing, and better addresses the concerns of everyday Floridians.

Senate Bill 182: Medical Use of Marijuana

The first week of Legislative Session this bill came before the Senate for a vote. I am glad to report that the Florida Legislature has passed the Medical Use of Marijuana bill and that it was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on March 18, 2019.

Following	the	Process
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Should you want to learn more or track any bills introduced this Legislative Session, please click the button below for the Senate's website.

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