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LEGISLATIVE SESSION WEEK 2

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Check out the buzz for Week 2 of the 2019 Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

Rallying At The Capitol:

On Tuesday I stood in solidarity with women from across the state to rally in support of passing the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida. The bill to ratify the ERA in Florida is currently being sponsored by Minority Leader Audrey Gibson in the Senate and Representative Dotie Joseph in the House, along with other co-sponsorships in the Senate and House. We only need one more state before the ERA gets ratified federally, so I will continue to work until our state and country acknowledge the

inherent, equal protections all constituents deserve regardless of their gender.

On Thursday I stood with Representative Anna Eskamani, Representative Amy Mercado, and approximately seventy women in response to a press conference supporting HB 235 & SB 792, which would prohibit women from accessing abortion services after they reach the six week mark of a pregnancy. It was invigorating to see so many women standing up against this blatantly unconstitutional legislation and advocating for women's access to reproductive healthcare, including access to a safe and legal abortion.

Notable Legislation This Week:

CS/SB 7012, Vaping

This legislation is the implementing bill for Amendment 9 which was passed by the voters in November by prohibiting vaping in an enclosed indoor workplace.

SB 944, Land Acquisition Trust Fund

In my Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, I voted in favor of SB 944, which requires an annual dedicated appropriation of \$100 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Florida Forever Trust Fund. Unfortunately, despite the successful passage by voters of the 2014 Water and Land Conversation Initiative known as Amendment 1, debate about how these funds are utilized on projects is still ongoing. Fortunately, this legislation was voted on unanimously and will now move on to its next committee stop.

SB 720, Renaming of Florida College System Institutions

I voted in support of this legislation in the Senate Education Committee this week. This bill would strip the name off of a building within Florida State University's Law School from a former Florida Supreme Court Justice with divisive, pro-segregation opinions.

My Legislative Agenda:

CS/SB 198, Trademark Classifications

My bill on trademark classifications, SB 198, passed its second committee stop this week. The bill seeks to align state trademark statutes with that of the federal and international standards.

CS/SB 844, At-Risk Adult Alert Plan

This week I also presented SB 844 in the Infrastructure and Security Meeting. This bill redefines the term “missing endangered person” to include a missing adult who meets the criteria for activation of the At-Risk Adult Alert Plan of the Department of Law Enforcement, as well as would require cooperation between state agencies and local law enforcement to establish and implement the At-Risk Adult Alert Plan. I am happy to report that the bill passed with a unanimous vote.

Have a great weekend and a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day!



Lori Berman, State Senator District 31

Header background painting by Palm Beach County artist Ralph Papa.

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