

# Pulse in Tallahassee

Florida State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81  
Session Week #5  
April 1-5, 2019

Dear Friends,

We have officially entered the second half of the 2019 Legislative Session.

As we move forward, our top priority will be finalizing a balanced budget. The House and Senate have each passed their versions of the budget and now the House and Senate will conference in order to create a budget that combines the priorities of both chambers.

At the same time we are working on putting final touches on the bills still working their way through the process. Here are a couple of highlights from Week 5.



Rep. Polsky and representatives from Pace Center for Girls

## **In Committee**

- **HB 7089, Voting Rights Restoration**—This bill is the House of Representatives' attempt to address the implementation concerns with Amendment 4. As it currently stands, the bill mandates that restoration of voting rights can only occur once a felon has completed his/her terms of sentence, including the payment of court fees and restitution. The bill passed out of the State Affairs committee along party lines and is heading to its third and final stop, Judiciary Committee.



Rep. Polsky and members of the Children's Home Society, PBC Division

- **HB 1135, Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative**—This bill creates the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative and Initiative Technology Advisory Council. It is hoped that these initiatives will help develop, test, and implement new technologies and approaches for controlling and mitigating the impacts of red tide. The bill was passed out of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee unanimously, and is heading to its final stop, State Affairs Committee.

## **In Session**

- **The Budget**—During this week's session, the House passed its preliminary budget. This year's budget is an estimated \$89.9 billion, and includes \$23.5 billion for education, \$4.7 billion for criminal justice and corrections, and \$345.1 million for environmental protection. This preliminary budget passed 105-8, but myself and many of my colleagues had some concerns with it. The current budget has a \$200 million sweep of the State's Affordable Housing Trust fund and continues to offer teachers bonuses and not salary increases.

## **On the Horizon**

- **HB 741, Anti-Semitism**—This bill amends the Florida Education Equality Act to include religion as a protected class, and requires that any school K-20 treat discrimination motivated by anti-Semitism in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race. This bill has passed unanimously out of all three of its committees and will likely be heading to the House Floor for consideration.



Rep. Polsky and Hope Jackson, a constituent and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Sincerely,

Representative Tina Polsky

## **Representative Tina Polsky**



**Tallahassee Office:**  
1302 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe St  
Tallahassee, Fl 32399  
Phone:  
(850) 717-5081

**Boca Raton Office:**  
8177 Glades Rd  
Suite 209  
Boca Raton, Fl 33434  
Phone:  
(561) 470-2086

**Belle Glade Office:**  
110 Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr Blvd  
Belle Glade, Fl 33430  
Phone:  
(561) 829-1459

### **Email:**

Tina.Polsky@myfloridahouse.gov

@RepPolksky81

@TinaPolksky

@RepPolksky81