

### **DEAR FRIENDS:**

APRIL 2019, MID-SESSION RE

We are officially at the halfway point of this year's Legislative Session. Some of my bills moving through the committee process relate to creating the Bee License Plate, Assisted and Independent Living Task Force and addressing Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition in prison. We've had noteworthy milestones occur, some of which I've already shared, but just last week, a new development happened which I will be going into more detail below. Moving forward the process will now be switching gears to focus more intensely on the budget and the negotiation process.

As always, feel free to contact my office with any issues or concerns.

# Kerin Roude,

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#### **BILLS BEING HEARD IN COMMITTEE**

#### SENATE BILL 478- RE-ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

This bill proposes to re-establish the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Office of Drug Control would be managed by a director which the Governor would appoint, and the Senate would approve. This office would report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on substance abuse trends occurring in Florida, the status and funding of current substance abuse programs and services, and the status of the development and implementation of the state drug control strategy by the office. Additionally, this office would both educate and inform the public about the substance abuse crisis and available services. It would allow for there to be an institution dedicated to monitoring drugs our state. Not only would this office help vet harmful drugs in Florida but it would also play a significant role in reducing adolescent drug and alcohol use through educational campaigns at schools and community projects. I am very pleased that Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 19-97 re-establishing and restoring this essential Office. The Office of Drug Control would prove to be helpful and dedicated to bettering the overall health of Floridians.

### SENATE BILL 484- SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES/FLORIDA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The creation of this specialty license plate would help generate funds for the Florida State Beekeepers Association. These funds would be used to raise awareness of the importance of beekeeping to Florida agriculture by funding honeybee research, education, outreach, and husbandry. This bill would prove to be very beneficial in the safekeeping of bees as the are a critical attribute to our daily lives. This specialty plate would not only be popular around beekeepers but with the general public as well.

### **BUDGET PROCESS**

The Senate and House of Representatives recently introduced their versions of the budget. At this time the Senate has proposed a \$90.3 billion budget and the House of Representatives an \$89.9 billion. This means that both chambers now begin the budget conference process where they will be negotiating, and eventually agree, on the full budget to be sent the Governor.



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