



Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce that this week I filed SB 1030, which would repeal the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program (M-Cores). This multibillion-dollar boondoggle is not needed. This program, which was adopted by the Florida Legislature over my objection in 2019, would build 330 miles of unnecessary toll roads through Florida's rural west coast. The bill would not only shut down this fiscally dangerous concept but would return previously allocated dollars back to our budget so that necessary social service programs can continue to receive funding.

Aside from filing this bill, it was a long hard week in the Florida Senate, as we heard bills about School Vouchers and Guns in Churches. I am hoping that some of these bills can be stopped considering the monumental challenges we have in recovering from the economic effects of COVID.



Senator Polsky in Committee discussing SB 48

Regards,

Senator Tina Polsky

Here are some updates from Committee Week three:

SB 48-EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SSB 48 is a bill that would consolidate existing voucher programs, as well as add provisions that would increase spending and reduce oversight. While I understand the need to provide certain students with specialized care, I voted no on this bill because I believe the money spent on voucher school programs should be directed toward public schools, which hold the vast majority of students in our state. These private schools receiving state money do not require students to achieve the same standards as public schools, and they have less accountability. We need to fulfill the needs of all students in our state, rather than focusing on select students in voucher programs. I hope to work with my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that we do not end up neglecting the needs of our public schools and their students.

SB 510-STATE FUNDS

SB 510, sponsored by Senator Hooper, would prevent the legislature from sweeping monies from the Sadowski Trust Fund. I was happy to vote yes on this bi-partisan bill, which I know will go a long way to ensure that Floridians are able to find affordable and stable housing.

SB 498-SAFETY OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Another week, another controversial bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This week we debated SB 498, which would allow guns at churches and synagogues, even if there is a school on the property. I opposed this measure because I don't believe more guns create more safety. In fact, they create more chaos and violence. In addition, I believe this proposed change would create confusion at school properties shared with religious institutions. Unfortunately, this bill passed on a party line vote of 7 to 4.



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