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[Legislative Session: Week Three](#)

Dear Friends,

The third week of our legislative session has wrapped up and now marks the 1/3 point.

Please check out my legislative update below. As always, thank you for the honor of representing you in the Florida Senate. Feel free to reach out to my office anytime with any questions you may have, legislatively or otherwise (*Local/District office in Boynton Beach is 561.292.6014 and Tallahassee office is 850.487.5031*).

Stay

well,



Lori Berman

Senator Berman's Bill Actions

SB 406

Secured Transactions — *PASSED APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE*

SB 406 provides a legislative remedy to an 11th Circuit holding to protect Florida residents from unintentionally waiving rights to assets, such as an IRA or pension plan, that would otherwise be exempt from legal process under Florida law. The bill clarifies that any security agreement pledging those assets must specifically identify the exempt assets under Florida's Uniform Commercial Code, in order to constitute a valid and intentional assignment, pledge, or waiver. This provision is clarifying and remedial in nature and is supported by the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, the Business Law Section and the Tax Law Section of the Florida Bar.

SB 336

Uniform Commercial Code — *PASSED THE FLORIDA SENATE*

SB 336 passed on the floor of the Senate with unanimous support. SB 336 would follow the recent model UCC -- repealing this statutory override so that if the terms and conditions of a partnership agreement prohibit the transfer for collateralizing of a partnership interest without the other partner's express permission, then the terms of the partnership agreement are controlling and not overridden by statute. This bill is a "glitch" bill in which we're working with the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar.

SB 424

Specialty License Plate — *ADOPTED INTO SB 364 IN TRANSPORTATION*

SB 424 was adopted into Senator Bean's specialty license plate package in the Transportation committee. The bill will create the Florida Ethical Ecotourism plate, with funds being distributed equally to two environmental nonprofit organizations, the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism and Paddle Florida.

Senator Berman's CNN Interview

Last weekend, I joined Boris Sanchez on CNN to discuss what I believe to be one of the most authoritarian pieces of legislation I've seen in my tenure: Governor DeSantis' "Anti-woke Act." In short, here's what this censorship bill does:

- Employers will be more restricted in trainings about race, gender, or the impacts of slavery and patriarchal systems so as not to "cause guilt, anguish or psychological distress." This will in turn limit pertinent trainings.**
 - It deputizes employees to claim discrimination and sue their employer for engaging in such trainings or discussions;**
 - It shamefully censors educators from teaching students about race and gender, and the impacts of slavery and Jim Crow.**
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[Click Here to Watch Senator Berman's CNN Interview 1/22/22](#)

Dr. Ladapo Senate Confirmation Moves Forward

On Wednesday, [the Senate Health Policy Committee took up the confirmation of Dr. Joseph Ladapo](#), Governor DeSantis' pick for Surgeon General and Secretary of the Department of Health. During questioning, Democrats on the committee grew frustrated with Ladapo's evasions and muddled half-answers. On the question of whether he believed vaccines were effective in preventing COVID-19, Ladapo would not give a yes or no answer, nor did he endorse the use of masks. Dr. Ladapo's experience in epidemiology and infectious disease is minimal at best, and his politicization of public health is not what the state of Florida needs at this time. I will not be supporting his nomination in the Ethics and Elections Committee.



Dr. Ladapo Confirmation Hearing- Health Policy Committee
1/26/22

Controversial Bill to Watch

This week, the Senate Education Committee took up [CS/SB 1300](#), a bill related to School Districts throughout the state. This bill is riddled with issues.

One of the major provisions will now align school board members' salaries with the salaries of state legislators. This is wholly unfair as school board members in more rural, less populated counties do not have the same work demand and expectations as more populated counties, such as Palm Beach County. We know our school board members work full-time, if not more, and this is a bad path to go down.

Further, the bill requires that school districts hold public meetings open

to the community when selecting instructional materials for recommendation to the district school board and to publish on their website, in a searchable format prescribed by the DOE, a list of all instructional materials, include those used for specified required instruction. This is problematic and opens the door to another slippery slope of censorship in our schools. Materials on LGBTQ and other relevant, informative topics for our children should not be removed from school libraries or curriculum simply due to the feelings of certain school board members in select counties. Schools should be institutions of learning; a parent can choose to home school or send their child to private/religious school if they are so inclined to "insulate" their children. As I said in committee, this is an authoritarian action and I am in complete disagreement.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

President Biden's Administration this month launched a government website for Americans to order free COVID-19 tests. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four rapid antigen tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them if/when you need them.

[Order Free COVID-19 Tests Here](#)

[PBC COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)

[PBC COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

[State and Local Resources](#)





On a lighter note, the Annual "King of the Hill" softball game between the Democrats and Republicans resulted in a win for the Democrats (14-2) for the first time in over 20 years! An annual tradition hosted by Florida's Professional Firefighters, the evening offers good food, fun and friendly banter and is a reminder for us to have fun while we're here in Tallahassee.



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