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[Legislative Session: Week Two](#)

Dear Friends,

Week Two has concluded and another productive week took place.

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 1106

Greyson's Law — PASSED CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND ELDER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, I presented SB 1106, Greyson's Law. The bill passed the Senate Committee on Children, Families & Elder Affairs unanimously. Protecting our children must always be at the top of our priority list as legislators. This bill is the unfortunate product of the tragic death of four year old Greyson Kessler, who in May of 2021, was the child victim of a murder-suicide involving his father, who shared custody of Greyson, despite exhibiting dangerous, threatening behavior. Greyson's Law will make it more difficult for domestic abusers to gain or maintain custody of a child and create a new offense termed "coercive control" within domestic violence statutes.

Uniform Commercial Code — PASSED RULES COMMITTEE

SB 336

SB 336 sailed through its third and final committee stop, Rules, on Thursday. The bill is now ready for the "Special Order Calendar," which means it will head to the floor for a full Senate vote next. 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.



[Senator Berman presenting Greyson's Law to the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs](#)

[Click Here to Watch Senator Berman's Florida Internet & TV \(FIT\) Interview](#)

Controversial Bills to Watch

[SB 146/HB 5: 15 Week Abortion Ban](#)

The Florida House Professions and Public Health Subcommittee passed HB 5 this week, the Mississippi-style bill banning abortions after 15 weeks ([watch testimony here](#)). Under the bill, there are no exceptions in cases of rape or incest. It passed in a party-line vote.

The 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade is tomorrow, January 22, 2022. This landmark decision from the United States Supreme Court has ruled supreme for almost a half-century, yet threats toward it have only grown today. The fundamental right to an abortion has been threatened by numerous states, with Mississippi's legal battle awaiting a summer ruling by SCOTUS. Abortion is health care. I participated with Congresswoman Lois Frankel in a [zoom event](#) today to reiterate the need to fight this intrusive legislation.

[CS/SB 520: Public Records and Public Meetings](#)

The Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee advanced a measure I have spoken out against for many years. That is the public records exemption for our state's public college and university presidents. Conducting a nationwide search and knowing who the applicants are is an important part of the "open government in the sunshine" process and I do not believe this should be stripped away.

[SB 148: Anti-Woke Act](#)

Passed in the Senate Education committee on Tuesday, SB 148 is a severe

infringement on the freedom of speech. It would make it unlawful for an employer to engage in discussions, instruction, or training about race, gender, or the impacts of slavery and patriarchal systems. It would deputize employees to claim discrimination and sue their employer for engaging in such trainings or discussions. For no good reason, it would also eliminate instruction on mental and emotional health for K-12 students. Finally, it would shamefully censor educators from teaching students about race and gender, and the impacts of slavery and Jim Crow.

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](#)

Florida Redistricting

This week, Gov. DeSantis proposed a partisan and racially gerrymandered

congressional map to be considered by the Legislature. But the Senate handily rejected his proposal and instead passed its own redistricting plans that more closely abide by our constitutional requirements. Under the proposal, Florida would have 28 congressional districts following the 2020 Census, with the newly proposed seat situated along the I-4 corridor. The Florida House will be weighing in on this map as well before the final version is voted on and sent to the governor.

[Click Here for the Proposed Congressional Map](#)

[Click Here for the Proposed State Senate Map](#)

The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project Coalition

On February 9 at 4:00pm, the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches will present "Knowing our History to Achieve a Better Future," to give voice to the history of the more than 4,400 lynching victims in the United States, including two in Palm Beach County.

[**Click Here to Register on Zoom**](#)



**PBC COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT COALITION**

**"KNOWING OUR HISTORY TO ACHIEVE
A BETTER FUTURE"**

**GIVING A VOICE AND THE HISTORY TO
THE MORE THAN 4,400
VICTIMS OF THOSE WHO WERE LYNCHED
IN THE US
INCLUDING TWO PBC RESIDENTS**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022
4PM
VIA ZOOM**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



MODERATOR

Charlene Farrington

Executive Director of the
Spady Museum and PBC
Community Remembrance
Project Coalition Member



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Bryan Boysaw

Chair of PBC Community
Remembrance Project
Coalition



PANELIST

Richard Perry

PBC Community
Remembrance Project
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Barbara Chieves

Co-Vice Chair of PBC
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PANELIST

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Co-Vice Chair PBC
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Vice President of JCRC of
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PANELIST

Verdenia Baker

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