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Legislative Session: Week Six

Dear Friends,

This week wraps up our sixth week of the 2022 legislative session. With only three weeks left, policy committees have ceased meeting and the Legislature has pivoted to finalizing the budget and redistricting maps. The House and Senate will soon begin conferencing to match their budget proposals, line by line.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with my office with any questions, concerns, etc. I always enjoy hearing from my constituents.

All

the

best,

Lori Berman

Lori Berman



Senator Berman's Bill Actions

Human Trafficking — *PASSED APPROPRIATIONS*

SB 760

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE

Borne out of the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, SB 760 would raise the crimes of maintaining a house of prostitution and transporting a person for the purpose of prostitution from a second-degree misdemeanor to a second-degree felony. Additionally, the bill expands the definition of "coercion" to include alcohol, for purposes of proving crimes of human trafficking.

SB 1518

Lactation Spaces — *PASSED APPROPRIATIONS*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE

This bill will require Florida county courthouses, with some exceptions, to have a dedicated lactation space for attorneys, jurors, courthouse staff and courthouse patrons. In doing so, this removes barriers for women returning to the workplace and recognizes the health, economic impact and contributions of working mothers.



Watch Senator Berman Present Legislation

Florida Senate Passes \$109 Billion Budget

On Thursday, the Senate unanimously passed its budget proposal, [SB 2500](#), totaling nearly \$109 billion. The House passed its version earlier this week after much debate over a provision supported by Governor DeSantis that would withhold \$200 million from the public school districts which had mask requirements in effect, in defiance of his executive order. The Senate's budget does not include this diversion of public school funds. Both chambers will soon enter conference to hash out their differences.

Highlights of the budget:

Education

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K-12:

- Per-student funding \$8,110 an increase of \$352.37 (4.54%)
 - The Base Student Allocation \$4,612.70 an increase of \$239.79 or 5.48%
- FEFP increases provided to school districts to ensure all employees are paid a minimum wage of at least \$15 per hour beginning in the 2022-23 school year.
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$20 million increase for a total of \$140 million to help school districts and charter schools address youth mental health issues.

Teacher Salary:

- Proposes \$600 million in order to continue increasing teacher salaries to a minimum of \$47,500. An increase of \$50 million more.
- Provides \$1.8 billion in funding for early childhood education and care, a decrease of \$154 million (8.05%) (decrease of 2,645 students)

State PECO:

- Charter Schools – \$195.8 million (increase of \$12.9 million or 7.06%)

Pay Issues:

- Minimum Wage Increase to \$15 per hour for State Employees - \$100 million

In Health Care -

- General Revenue represents 29.3% percent of the total and Trust Funds represent 70.7% percent.
- Increases FY 2022-23 total funding by \$3.21 billion, or 7.1% percent, compared to the FY 2021-22 General Appropriations Act (GAA).
- Total FTEs: 31,201.26; increases FTEs by 170 compared to FY 2021-22 GAA.

In Civil and Criminal Justice -

- Total Funding: \$7.7 billion [\$6.75 billion GR; \$920.9 million TF]. Total FTEs: 44,602.50; increases FTEs by 2020.50 compared to FY 2021-22 GAA.
- Would increase FY 2022-23 funding by \$1.78 billion or 30.1 percent compared to the FY 2020-21 General Appropriations Act (GAA). The increase is primarily attributable to a 59.8% increase in expenditures in the upcoming year for the Department of Corrections.
- General Revenue represents 88 percent of the total and Trust Funds represent 12 percent.
- Prison Construction - Four New Facilities: o Two 4,500 bed facilities - \$1.3 billion GR o Two 250 bed hospital facilities - \$400 million GR

Transportation and Economic Development -

- General Revenue represents 3.3 percent of the total and Trust Funds represent 96.7 percent.

- **Would increase FY 2022-23 funding by \$2 billion or 14.6 percent compared to the FY 2020-21 General Appropriations Act (GAA). The increase is primarily attributable to greater planned expenditures in the upcoming year for the Department of Transportation.**



Action Alert: HB 5/SB 146 - 15 Week Abortion Ban

A bill I have mentioned in previous newsletters, HB 5 seeks to ban abortions after 15 weeks. Not only does this not hold water to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court's ruling Roe v. Wade but it also has to muster the higher privacy condition held in the Florida Constitution. Most constitutional scholars argue this bill does not have a legal leg to stand on, however, the Florida Legislature and the Governor are determined to follow Texas and Mississippi. What's

particularly frightening is that this proposal does not make exceptions for rape or incest. The bill passed on the House floor this past week after several hours of debate. It will now be headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, 2/21/22.

Below is a list of Republican Senators on this committee. If you feel strongly about this issue and wish to respectfully share your opinion with them, please do so before 1:00pm on Monday:

[Chairwoman Kelli Stargel](#)

[Vice Chair Aaron Bean](#)

[Senator Ben Albritton](#)

[Senator Dennis Baxley](#)

[Senator Jeff Brandes](#)

[Senator Doug Broxson](#)

[Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.](#)

[Senator George Gainer](#)

[Senator Ed Hooper](#)

[Senator Travis Hutson](#)

[Senator Debbie Mayfield](#)

[Senator Kathleen Passidomo](#)

[Senator Keith Perry](#)



Applications Being Accepted for OCR's FY-2023 Neighborhood Engagement and Transformation (NEAT) Grants Program

Palm Beach County's Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) is accepting applications for its Neighborhood Engagement and Transformation (NEAT) grants program. It provides grants of up to \$10,000 to neighborhood-based groups and/or organizations for resident-driven neighborhood improvement projects proposed within unincorporated Palm Beach County and the Lake Region municipalities of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee.

Projects must fall under one of the following categories to be eligible for funding:

1) Neighborhood Beautification; 2) Neighborhood Identification; 3) Neighborhood Organizing and Sustainability; 4) Neighborhood Outreach and Capacity Building; 5) Public Safety and Crime Prevention; 6) Community Gardens; 7) Neighborhood Green Projects; and 8) Emergency Preparedness.

The application deadline is May 18, 2022. Potential applicants must log/dial into the [mandatory virtual pre-application conference](#) on March 2, 2022 at

6:00 p.m. Confirmation of attendance must be received no later than March 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to receive log-in instructions and have your name on the confirmed list: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6646626/FY2023-NEAT-Grant-Preapplication-Conference>.

For additional information, visit: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/ocr/Pages/NEAT-Program.aspx>

Who: Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

What: Workshop for NEAT grants program

Where: Online

When: March 2, 2022 6-8 p.m.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2022

Lori
Daily update · February 17, 2022
NEWS

Berman

[Senate committee approves steep penalties for human traffickers, pimps - Florida Politics](#)
Florida Politics
Lori Berman, who agreed to work with Palm Beach County Public Defender Carey Haughwout on implementing fixes. “We do need to make sure to target ...

[JUICE — Florida Politics' Juicy Read — 2.16.2022 —Banning Abortion in Florida—Rubio ...](#)
Floridian Press
Senator Lori Berman-Governor DeSantis and House leadership want to defund some of Florida's largest public school districts by \$200 MILLION for ...

[Florida Governor thinks veggie burgers are making kids gay - Happy Mag](#)

Happy Mag
During an Education Committee hearing, Democrat Lori Berman asked, "Am I right to read that this bill would allow a parent to sue a school if ...

[Ladapo grilled by Democrats, praised by Republicans in second confirmation hearing](#) - [Miami Herald](#)

Miami Herald
Lori Berman, D-Lantana, asked Ladapo a series of questions about the state's high HIV rates and whether he supports the expansion of Medicaid ...

[Florida Surgeon General moves closer to confirmation, after tense hearing | WPEC](#)
WPEC

... Ethics and Elections Committee, including Palm Beach County lawmakers Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) and Sen. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach).

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