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Legislative Session: Week Eight

Dear Friends,

Week Eight of the 2022 legislative session has been a grueling one. Budget conferencing ceased as of Thursday evening and is now "bumped" to each the House and Senate Appropriations Chair for final reconciliation. Next week is our final week, and then my office will return home and provide a lengthier end-of-session newsletter with the "good, bad and ugly" of everything passed and appropriated. Stay tuned. In the meantime, wishing you a safe and great weekend!

All

the

best,



Lori Berman



The Florida Legislative Jewish Caucus hosting Florida State University's Chapter of Hillel

Controversial Bills to Watch

[CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education](#)

The bill would effectively erase LGBTQ students, families, and history by banning classroom discussion about sexual orientation and gender identity in elementary and middle schools or at any level “in a manner that is not age-appropriate.” The Legislature cannot force LGBTQ people back into the closet by policing identity or stopping kids from talking about their same-sex parents. The bill’s dangerously vague provisions would have a chilling effect on

support for LGBTQ youth, and it is scheduled for the Senate floor on Monday, March 7.

CS/SB 524: Election Administration

After much questioning and debate, this bill has now passed the Senate and will head to the House for a final vote. Senate Democrats offered a multitude of amendments, [including the one I put forward](#) to delete the section creating the unnecessary, duplicative creation of an Office of Election Crimes and Security. This office is a political ploy to please the Governor and is wasteful to the taxpayers. As has been said repeatedly by the Governor, the 2020 election was the gold standard. This is merely an office to investigate an almost non-existent amount of claims of election fraud and will be unfairly used to target voter registration groups and local election officials.

HB 5

The Republican's 15 week abortion ban passed off the floor of both the House and Senate, and now heads to the Governor's desk. The bill provides no exception for rape, incest or human trafficking, and is in clear violation of Roe v. Wade and Florida's Constitution. Florida will now follow the lead of states like Mississippi and Texas in passing restrictive abortion laws for women. [To watch my speech, click here.](#)



Florida Legislature Approves new Congressional Maps that DeSantis Vows to Veto

On Friday, The House and Senate approved their congressional redistricting plans, with Governor DeSantis stating he would veto it. Breaking with precedent, DeSantis inserted his office in the redistricting process and apparently wanted a more partisan gerrymandered map. His congressional proposal, which was ignored by the Legislature, would have created boundaries that would give Republicans an advantage in 18 of the state's 28 congressional districts (including a new one), compared to the current 16-11 Republican to Democrat split.

I voted against the new congressional map because it clearly dilutes the voting power of minority communities of interest, particularly in North Florida with the 5th Congressional District . However, if and when a veto is made, I would

vote to override it. Governor DeSantis' undue political influence on such an important and constitutional legislative responsibility cannot succeed.



Birth to 22 Announces 2022 Virtual Community Conversations Dates

The dates of the Community Conversations are March 8, March 24, March 29, and April 4, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The topics of discussion surround Birth to 22's Action Teams which include: Achieve Success in Higher Education, Strengthening Out of School Time (OST), Ensuring Safety & Justice, Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community, Health & Wellness, Education for Employment

Pathways for Disconnected Youth, Social Emotional Learning, Economic Access, and Parenting Supports & Role Models.

Each conversation will highlight two action teams in the breakout discussions. Students can earn 2 hours of community service per conversation attended.

To register for an upcoming community conversation, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-32124028061>.

Additional information can be found on the Birth to 22 Engagement Team website at <http://pbcbirthto22.com/engagement/>.

For questions, contact Palm Beach County Youth Services at (561) 242-5713.



Senator Berman Meeting with the Democratic Women's Club of Florida

Lori Berman

Daily update · March 3, 2022

[Poll: Floridians overwhelmingly support state — not federal — control of water - Florida Politics](#)

Florida Politics

Lauren Book, Kathleen Passidomo, Ben Albritton, Bobby Powell, Tina Polsky and **Lori Berman** for supporting the legislation.

[15-week abortion ban getting closer to passage in the FL Senate - Florida Phoenix](#)

Florida Phoenix

Lori Berman, who represents part of Palm Beach County, questioned Stargel on why she picked 15 weeks for the abortion ban. Republican State Sen.

[Bridge tenders disciplined for sleeping on job, refusing to let emergency vehicles pass - WPTV](#)

WPTV

Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach, told Contact 5 that she now plans to speak with state transportation officials and her colleagues.

[Annette Taddeo recounts having to end her wanted pregnancy during abortion bill debate](#)

Florida Politics

Lori Berman held her hand and she seemed to hesitate to find the words. Taddeo was introducing an amendment that asked to drop the bill's ...

[Florida Senate Taking Up Abortion Legislation | NewsRadio WFLA | Florida News](#)

NewsRadio WFLA

On Wednesday, we'll vote no. In November, we'll vote NEXT. pic.twitter.com/FZY8TWeWo3. — Senator **Lori Berman** (@loriberman) March 1, 2022



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