



## Friends and Neighbors:

Week Three of legislative session has concluded. We are now about one-third of the way through the process with a lot happening. The first Appropriations spreadsheets have "dropped" and we are actively reviewing the initial draft. You can find all documents [here](#). The budget process takes many permutations before the final budget is voted upon by the full Legislature, and we will certainly keep you posted. Hoping you and yours had a great weekend!

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lori Berman' followed by a horizontal line.

**Lori Berman**

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### Legislative Update

SB 130: Domestic Violence, "Greyson's Law"

Last Wednesday, SB 130 was heard on the Senate floor; you can watching the hearing [here](#) (the portion related to our bill begins at the 04:13:00 mark). After I presented the bill, Senator Hutson made a motion for any Senators who wished to co-introduce this bill and every senator chose to do so. What a tremendous show of support for Ali, Greyson and so many others. We will always remember this bill as a huge forward step in the direction protecting Florida's children.

SR 1724: "Amblyopia Awareness Month" in Florida

This resolution spreads awareness of amblyopia, which is the most common cause of vision loss in children, and can cause permanent vision loss if not detected and treated early in life.

**Additional bill updates:**

SB 256: Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees

This legislation prohibits public employee unions from collecting dues through paycheck deduction, which is the preferred method. This bill is unnecessary and a direct attack on unions, who have collective bargaining and wage negotiations on behalf of so many of our essential employees, including nurses, doctors, teachers and so many other hard working Floridians.

CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 1: Education

This legislation is a sweeping reform in how vouchers will be applied. It creates universal vouchers called "education savings accounts," with all K-12 students being eligible regardless of family income, potentially creating a cost of over \$3 billion dollars to fund. This will be detrimental to public schools, as a large portion of their funding will be funneled into private and religious schools as a result of this bill. Furthermore, there are no salary caps which concerns me as any family can apply, even if they have the financial means to send their child to private school. This past Thursday, this bill did receive a favorable vote on the Senate floor - with my resounding "no" vote. Unfortunately, this bill is now on its way to the Governor's desk for signature.

SB 1320: Child Protection in Public Schools

This bill prohibits students, educators, and school employees from being required to refer to students by their chosen pronouns if they do not correspond with their sex. Also, changes how the term "sex" is taught, changing the definition to "binary, stable, and unchangeable," completely invalidating our transgender youth and educators. Furthermore, prohibits sex-education relating to LGBTQ+ until grade nine. This bill poses many dangers to our youth, limiting their education and continuing to invalidate their gender identities, forcing them to conform to an identity that doesn't represent them.

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### **Equal Rights Amendment Anniversary**

March 22nd marked the 51st anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment. This amendment granted equal rights for all American citizens regardless of their sex, stating, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex..." It is important to remember this historic amendment and recognize our continued fight in ending the gender gap we still see today.

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## **"King of the Hill" Softball Tradition**

On Wednesday evening, House and Senate members joined together to compete in a friendly game of softball. The game has been a long-going tradition and wonderful for camaraderie and morale! Thank you to our state's firefighters for always putting on a fun event and providing a delicious dinner!



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## **Back Home in Palm Beach County**

### Runoff Election

Incumbent Woodrow Hay and former City Commissioner Mack McCray of District 2 are moving to a runoff election scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th. For more information about voting on Tuesday, click [here](#).

We look forward to seeing the result!

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### **Noelle Whitfield - District 26's Page of the Week**

We'd like to give a special shoutout to our "page" Noelle Whitfield! Thank so you much for helping out this week during your spring break. It was a joy to have you be a part of Team Berman this week! The "page" program is a great opportunity for high school students to gain hands on legislative experience, to read more click [here](#). We hope you had a great time too!





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