



THE BERMAN BRIEFING



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SENATE DISTRICT 26

Friends and Neighbors:

We are in the waning days of the 2023 regular session. Session will "sine die" next Friday, May 5, assuming all goes well and on time. I will bring you an update next Friday, but a longer, more comprehensive session recap will be sent within a few weeks post-session. In addition, I will be delivering updates to the municipalities of District 26 and providing information and presentations to community organizations. I look forward to seeing you, our constituents, back home in the district soon!

All the best,

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

Lori Berman

Bills of Concern

[SB 7050: Elections](#)

Unfortunately, this bill passed the Senate mid-week and was recently debated on the House floor. While there were many amendments proposed to better this bill by the Senate Democrats, they all failed. I worry about the impact this bill will have on voter registration drives through third party voter organizations and other negative impacts, making it more difficult for new registrants to vote.

[SB 1674: Facility Requirements Based on Sex](#)

This legislation bans transgender individuals from using the bathroom for which they identify, forcing them into a restroom that isn't representative of who they are. This places these individuals into an extremely uncomfortable and potentially unsafe situation. This legislation is unnecessary and will be harmful to those who identify differently than their sex at birth. Amidst other issues, this bill adds to the stack of other "culture wars," largely led by our Governor.

SB 1718: Immigration

This bill poses many threats to immigrants in Florida. It requires hospitals to question the immigration status of an individual before giving them aid. This will deter illegal individuals from receiving life-saving care or simply providing the help they may need. Further, the bill repeals previously voted upon laws allowing students who grew up in Florida but aren't U.S. citizens to practice law. Most egregious in this bill is the provision where a \$12 million allocation is provided to transport migrants out of state. This makes us poor stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

This sets our state and country backwards and is the state's attempt to control immigration, which is a federal matter altogether. You can watch my closing debate [here](#) (approximately 3:34:15 mark).

SB 714: Vacation Rentals

Bills attempting to preempt local government ordinances on vacation/short-term rentals have been a long-standing Tallahassee debate. As acknowledged by the bill sponsor, there is a tough balance to strike between local governments' authority to create regulations that protect fellow neighbors from major issues such as noise and trash, concerns frequently cited by those living near a vacation rental, versus the rights of the homeowner renting out their space for financial gain. This bill grandfathered in roughly 75 cities who have already passed laws pre-2011, when the state initially pre-empted cities from making their own ordinances. While I am understanding of the various concerns, I am a strong believer in home rule and feel municipalities should have the ability to create ordinances they feel are right for their hometowns. A beach city is not the same as a rural city, and each should be allowed to do what's best for their constituents, in their view.

Florida Atlantic University Men's Basketball Team

After an amazing season for the FAU Men's Basketball team during March Madness and making it all the way to the Final Four, we were proud to welcome (from left to right) Vladislav Goldin, Michael Forrest and Nick Boyd, along with Coach Dusty May, to the Capitol. Go Owls!

Read the resolution we passed to honor them [here](#).



Back To School PBC! Event



The banner features a yellow background with a white border. On the left, a vertical white box contains the text 'REGISTRATION is now open for the 2023 BACK TO SCHOOL PBC!' with a green cartoon character wearing a graduation cap. To the right, a red apple icon with 'FREE' written on it is above the text 'SCHOOL SUPPLIES'. Further right, the text 'REGISTRATION ENDS MONDAY MAY 15, 2023' is displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, the website 'backtoschoolpbc.org' is shown in red, with a yellow arrow pointing to a green button that says 'ENTER CODE' and a white box containing the code 'PBCOCR'.

The registration deadline for this year's Back to School PBC! event is rapidly approaching. The registration deadline is Monday, May 15, 2023, by 5 p.m. During the event, registered students will receive free backpacks, schools supplies, books, socks, dental goodie bags, soaps, health checks, haircuts, and other community resources. Entertainment and free meals for participating students will be also provided.

Go to <http://backtoschoolpbc.org> and enter code **PBCOCR** to begin with registration. Please note that students must reside in designated CCRT neighborhoods or mobile home parks located within unincorporated County to participate in the event. Registration is available in English, Spanish and Creole. For more information, please contact the OCR at ocrnews@pbcgov.org.



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