



Florida Senate Democratic Caucus

Third Week of 2023 Session: 3/20/2023-3/24/2023

WEEK 3: THE FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS

SB 300: 6-week Abortion Ban

*This is effectively an all-out abortion ban - with exceptions that are a slap to the face to victims of rape and incest. It gives crisis pregnancy centers more taxpayer money - \$25 million! - instead of reviewing these **fake clinics** and their shady actions in an unregulated environment.*

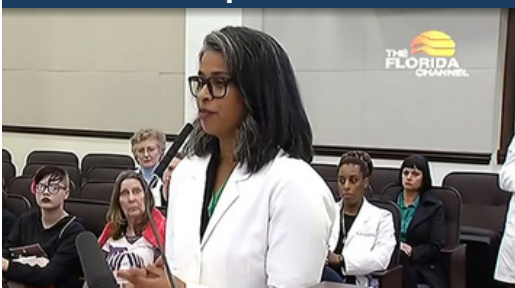


Watch Senate Democrats Conversation with Health Care Providers on Abortion [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

Senate Democrats stayed after the meeting to make sure the voices of women and health care providers were heard. During committee, they were only offered 1 minute testimonies - often cut off during heartbreaking stories.

"I think there's this false dichotomy between pro-life and pro-choice. Every obstetrician deeply values life, or we wouldn't do this work. There's no question there."



"It is really that new physicians in practice are much less likely to come to a state with extreme restrictions on abortion. Those med students that we have are going to train in other states with other residencies."

"I beg you. Please. I am a Black physician and I hate to see Black moms die. Unfortunately this bill will definitely increase Black maternal mortality."



SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

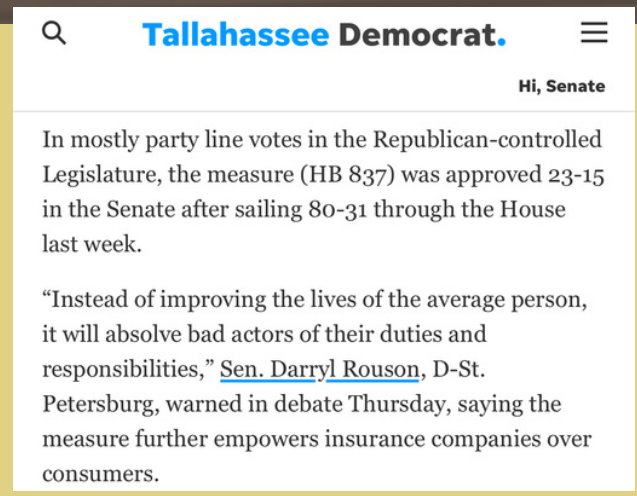
HB 837/SB 236 Tort Reform

This new law - effective immediately - will be a significant disruption to the legal system, overhauling and upending Floridians' access to the court system when businesses, including insurance companies, are negligent.



"THIS BILL IS A GIFT FROM THE GOVERNOR TO BIG BUSINESSES AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR CITIZENS AND SMALL BUSINESSES."

SENATOR LORI BERMAN



Watch Senate Democrats debate the bill on The Florida Channel [here](#) starting at timecode 01:08:00

TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

HB 1/SB 202

PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER EXPANSION

Expands private school vouchers for all, including millionaire's and billionaire's kids in Florida - with no income cap - who may already have their student enrolled in a private school.

"SB 202 IS AN UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION, A COMPLETE OVERHAUL, A TOTAL EXPERIMENT, AND A RUSHED BILL."

SENATOR TRACIE DAVIS

ON THE SENATE FLOOR

HB 1445/SB 256 - EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Raises the bar for most public employee unions, including prohibiting paycheck deductions for dues.

"YOU ARE SINGLING OUT UNIONS" - SENATOR JASON PIZZO

BUDGET PROPOSALS

The House & Senate have released their fiscal year 2023-2024 budget proposals - over the next few weeks there will be negotiations and eventually, a final product agreed to by leaders.

SENATE:

**113.7
BILLION**



HOUSE:

**113
BILLION**

DEMOCRATIC BILLS ON THE MOVE

SB 130: GREYSON'S LAW

SENATOR BERMAN

Requires courts to consider certain factors in deciding if shared parental responsibility is detrimental to the child.

Passed the full Senate - heads to the House.



Senator Lori Berman

@loriberman

We did it, Gigs. Your mother, Ali, never stopped fighting for you.

Tonight, the @FLSenate unanimously co-introduced and passed #GreysonsLaw, bringing us one step closer to protecting all kids in the state of Florida from abuse and neglect.

Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to stand in support of the fight for freedom of the people of Iran.

WHEREAS, the people of Iran have the right to live in a safe, democratic country that is free of religious persecution and extremism, and

WHEREAS, the heroism displayed by the people of Iran is inspirational, and those protesting on the streets deserve our full attention and support as they call for women, life, and freedom, and

WHEREAS, the people of Iran are calling for a new government that is democratically elected, free, and where the people have the right to self-determination, and

SM 848: IRAN STATEMENT

SENATOR BOBBY POWELL

Urges Congress to stand in support of the fight for freedom of the people of Iran.

Heads to the Senate floor.

SB 1028: PROFESSIONAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS

SENATOR LINDA STEWART



Prohibits the Department of Business and Professional Regulation from considering a criminal conviction for crimes more than three years for barber or cosmetologist licenses.

Two more committee stops.

Here's a glance at other bills filed by Senate Democrats heard in committee during Week 3:

SB 4 - Relief of Maria Garcia by Pinellas School Board - Senator Rouson

Claims bill providing relief for Maria Garcia for \$2.8 million. Garcia was struck by a Pinellas school bus in 2018 while walking a crosswalk.

SB 164 - Controlled Substance Testing - Senator Polsky

Legalizes narcotic drug testing products.

SB 184 - Homestead Exemption for First Responders - Senator Polsky

Exempts ad valorem taxes on homestead property of surviving spouse of a first responder who dies in the line of duty

SB 196- Guidance Services on Academic & Career Planning - Senator Jones

Requires middle schoolers personalized career plans to be developed with a certified school counselor, requires parental notification on high school acceleration options

SB 226 - Support for Dependent Adult Children - Senator Berman

Specifies procedures for effectuating common law duty of parents to support a dependent adult child.

SB 290 - Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities - Senator Jones

Among other things, authorizes a parent to retain their student in pre-k if that child has a disability if they meet certain requirements

SB 678- Disposal of Property - Senator Powell

Florida Department of Transportation may convey property to a governmental entity without consideration if the property is to be used for affordable housing

SB 1002 - Motor Vehicle Glass - Senator Stewart

Among other things, prohibits "assignment of benefits" agreements and exchanges for anything of value for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair

SB 1282 - Public Restroom Requirements - Senator Stewart

Requiring the Florida Building Commission adopt certain requirements for public restroom facilities.

SB 1286 - Designated Public Safe Exchange Locations - Leader Book

Requires county commissioners to designate sheriff's office or police department as a custody public safe exchange location

SOCIAL (MEDIA) HIGHLIGHTS



Red Dog Blue Dog Bartending Fundraiser

*Raising money for local
animal rescue organizations -
Blue Dog team won!*



Annual King of the Hill Red vs Blue Competition

Red team won the game - Blue team won in spirit!



*Senator Tracie Davis
spoke virtually with
UF College Democrats
during their March
General Body Meeting*



DEAR FLORIDA.

AS DEMOCRATS AND FLORIDIANS, WE'RE SICK OF THE CULTURE WARS BEING PLAYED OUT DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT YOUR EXPENSE.

WHILE WE CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS & FREEDOMS - WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK:

WHAT ARE THE **REAL** ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU DAILY? ANYTHING WE CAN HELP WITH?

SHARE WITH US AT HELP@DEARFLORIDADEMS.COM.

TALK TO YOU SOON.

FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS

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