



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Week Seven saw several councils conclude their business for this Legislative Session. The full Florida House met to debate a Health Care package which includes transformational changes to Florida's Medicaid program, a measure to protect children with diabetes from harassment at school and a rejection of legislation to reward excellent teachers while removing ineffective ones.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

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MEDICAID REFORM

Last Thursday saw the full House take the Floor to consider amendments to **HB 7223 and HB 7225** sponsored by Rep. Denise Grimsley, also known as Medicaid Reform. This legislation received bi-partisan support which is critical considering our current Medicaid program consumes over 28% of our state budget and enrollment in the program is expected to increase by over 1 million participants due to Federal Health Care Reform legislation.



Our primary goal is to improve the quality of care for Floridians, while controlling the spiraling costs that are threatening the stability of the entire Medicaid program. To achieve this, this legislation takes a comprehensive approach that will afford our Medicaid population stability and improved care and quality of life while bringing greater efficiency and accountability to this taxpayer-funded program.

The House plan will protect both patients and providers as well as establish a more equitable system for Florida's participants. This reform legislation outlines a five-year implementation plan for transitioning the state's Medicaid population to managed care. I believe this plan will bring more accountability to the system, eliminate fraud and improve patient care. The proposal focuses our state on a coordinated and comprehensive Medicaid system enabling us to measure health outcomes and provide stability.

The House Medicaid Reform legislation passed the House by a vote of 80 to 34 on Monday, April 19th. I look forward to working with my House colleagues to put into practice this reform and helping to improve the quality of healthcare for the citizens of Florida.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

Should you have any state constituent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Sandi Harpring in my Vero Beach office at (772) 778-5077.

Constituent Milestones

Congratulations to Dr. Hugh McCrystal and his wife Ann Marie who were presented with the Dan K. Richardson Humanitarian Award for 2010 on April 15, 2010.

Technology Corner:

Twitter

I will be posting updates on my Twitter account and you can stay up to date by following me at www.twitter.com/debbie_mayfield

Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



PROMOTING FAIR TREATMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES-HB 747

Also this past Thursday, the House passed a measure that underscores a top legislative priority - protecting the most vulnerable among us. **HB 747** sponsored by Rep. Nick Thompson will allow students with diabetes to attend their neighborhood school, carry diabetic equipment and supplies, manage their care in the classroom and participate in school-sponsored events free from discrimination.

Currently in Florida, a lack of uniformity exists with regard to how the medical needs of students with diabetes are met during school hours and at school-related activities. Some school policies pose an unreasonable burden on many families in Florida, hamper a child’s access to school-related opportunities afforded to other children, and more importantly, penalize children because they have diabetes. This measure will help ensure that children with diabetes will be allowed to participate in normal school activities while controlling their diabetes.

VISITING THE DISTRICT 80 TALLAHASSEE OFFICE



Indian River County Clerk of Court Jeff Barton and Deputy Clerk Jeff Smith (left) and St. Lucie School Board Member Judy Miller and David Hall (right) made the trip to Tallahassee. Thank you to those for visiting with me in my Tallahassee office.

HEALTH CARE FREEDOM ACT

In these times when big government continues to invade the private lives of our citizens, it is critical that we explore the constitutionality of the federal government’s actions. With this goal in mind, **House Joint Resolution (HJR) 37** of which I am a co-sponsor, known as the Health Care Freedom Act, continues to move through the legislative process.



This bill amends Florida’s Constitution to prohibit any law or rule from forcing people to purchase health insurance. It is important to remember that access to health care coverage is not the same as access to health care. HJR 37 would preserve the freedom of citizens to choose the kind of care they want or need without the fear of being fined, penalized or taxed for not having sufficient coverage as determined by a bureaucrat.