



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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This past week marked the end of committee meetings in the Florida House. This is when bills stop moving and cease to be considered. Traditionally, week four is a fast-moving week as we work to have our bills pass out of committee and to listen to other members seek support for their own legislation. It is also a time when the process moves quickly as the legislative clock for bills to pass out of committee winds down.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

FEDERAL INDIVIDUAL HEALTH MANDATES

Coming at a time when Florida is still reeling from a troubled economy, I am concerned by the huge tax increases and debt Washington’s healthcare bill will force on Floridians at a time when they can least afford it. This individual health insurance mandate brings huge tax increases and financial penalties for Floridians. To avoid these crippling, job killing taxes and skyrocketing, unchecked spending, the House Health & Family Services Policy Council passed **HR 1561**, sponsored by Rep. Eric Eisenaugle, which encourages Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum to file suit in federal court against Washington’s healthcare bill forcing an individual health insurance mandate on Floridians.

Also on Monday, the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee passed the Florida Health Care Freedom Act. The Act, also known as **HJR 37**, sponsored by Reps. Scott Plakon, Ritch Workman and Lake Ray, would amend Florida's Constitution to prohibit any law or rule from forcing people to purchase health insurance, such as that passed by Congress.

As a cosponsor of both of these important pieces of legislation, I will continue my support and encourage the House to move these bill quickly through the legislative process.

BUDGET PROCESS MOVES FORWARD

This week we saw the House Appropriations Council meet to make its budget proposal. Throughout the session, we have been reviewing the budget line-by-line to find ways for the state to spend more efficiently and effectively. Just as Florida’s families have to live within their means and make difficult choices, so must government. To that end, we have taken a focused and commonsense approach to crafting the budget to ensure that state agencies are focused on the core missions of government. Facing a multi-billion dollar shortfall estimated at \$3.2 billion, these reviews should serve House members well as we continue to look for ways to meet our constitutional obligation to responsibly balance Florida’s budget.



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.



Darrius Wyche recently served as a page for the Florida House of Representatives sponsored by Rep. Debbie Mayfield. Darrius recently visited with me in the Tallahassee office.

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.



HIGH PERFORMANCE GOVERNMENT

This week I will be discussing a portion of Speaker Cretul's agenda that we addressed this past week in our committee.

State Budget Made Responsible: When reviewing the state budget, we must ensure that Florida's state agencies are focusing on their core functions. Therefore when determining the state budget for our agencies we must budget within existing revenues; distinguish between core functions of government and non-essential functions, and then reduce, phase out or eliminate non-essential functions of government; and establish the Florida Savings Fund to ensure adequate cash reserves to protect Florida's bond rating.

Transparency Florida was created to provide the public with unprecedented access to state government spending. To find out more about this new initiative click the Transparency Florida logo at the top or follow the following link: www.transparencyflorida.com.



VISITING THE DISTRICT 80 TALLAHASSEE OFFICE



On March 18th my legislative office welcomed over seventy 5th grade students from Liberty Magnet School. After a tour of the new capitol building the students and their teachers participated in a mock legislative session and were able to take advantage of an educational tour of the Florida Supreme Court. Pictured above are teachers, parents and students from Liberty Magnet School on the House floor.

CREATING JOBS AND FOLLOWING THE LAW

In today's challenging economic times, we must continue to create the conditions necessary for job creation and focus on job creation for Floridians who are seriously impacted by jobs going to individuals who are here illegally. Those who hire illegal workers may save a few dollars but they are costing Floridians jobs. To end this practice, the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee passed **HB 219**, sponsored by Rep. Sandy Adams and of which I am a cosponsor, also known as the E-Verify bill. This bill will prohibit state agencies from entering into contract for services with contractors not registered and participating in the federal work authorization program to help screen out illegal workers. The bill also requires the Department of the Lottery to verify that the winner of a prize from specified lottery games is a citizen of or legally present in the United States.