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**Legislative Session Week Two**  
**January 25, 2016**

**The Sachs  
Sentinel**



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## ***Round Two: Second Week***

We recently finished the second week of the Legislative Session and we have a lot of exciting news and developments to discuss.

See what we have been up to at the Capitol!

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# **Press Conference on *Guns***



*Senator Sachs speaking, flanked by  
Senator Smith and Congresswomen  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz*



*Senator Sachs joined with university  
students who oppose guns on campus*

***Did you know that Florida has  
*more concealed firearm permits* than  
any other state in the country?***

**Three bills this session will increase the number of guns:**

**SB 68** or the "campus carry bill" will allow Floridians with concealed weapons permits to carry guns on 40 state university and college campuses. It is opposed by all college presidents and major college student organizations. The text of SB 68 can be found here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0068/BillText/Filed/PDF>

**SB 300** allows Floridians with a concealed carry permit to openly carry a firearm. A link to SB 300 is found here:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0300/BillText/c1/PDF>

**SB 344** changes Florida's current Stand-Your-Ground self-defense law so the State

is responsible for proving immunity from prosecution. The law currently states that defendants are responsible for proving their immunity under the Stand-Your-Ground law, but this shifts the burden of proof to state prosecutors. A link to SB 344 can be found here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0344/BillText/c2/PDF>

**I joined Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, State Senator Chris Smith and State Representative Lori Berman to speak out against the proliferation of guns. With 1.4 million concealed weapon permit holders in Florida, the highest number of any state, the "campus carry" bill would have effectively turned what are now some of the safest places in Florida into gun-friendly zones. The bill was openly opposed by many university and college presidents and faculty members, as well as campus law enforcement. From 2011 through 2013, none of Florida's public four-year institutions saw a single murder on their campuses, and only five had occurred on campus since 2005. The fear that students need to be able to protect themselves from imminent danger on campus is misplaced, as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement estimates that Florida's students are 12 times more likely to be sexually assaulted off campus and, startlingly, 30 times more likely to be assaulted off campus. Senate Bill 68 was an attempt to better protect our students, but it only would have put them more at risk.**

**Fortunately, only a few hours after our press conference, the infamous "campus carry" bill was declared dead in Tallahassee. This was a tremendous victory for gun control advocacy in our state. As I have said many times, we must "put our money behind funding those who have mental health issues," such that "[i]f we are going to be number three for population [size] we need to be number one when it comes to recognizing that a handgun in the hands of someone who is mentally incompetent is a very dangerous situation." In short, as a result of the "campus carry" bill's failure, our public college and university campuses will remain safe.**

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## **Florida Atlantic University's ("FAU") First Legislative Fellow**



*L to R: John Kelly, President of FAU, Brennan Garcia, the first FAU Legislative Fellow, and Senator Sachs*

I took a moment with Florida Atlantic University ("FAU") President John Kelly to consider possibilities for empowering college and university students in the Palm Beach County area with new opportunities. President Kelly has been guiding FAU's student population of around 30,000 since January of 2014. He was kind enough to make time to show his support for my efforts in representing students within my district in both the Broward County and Palm Beach County areas. In particular, President Kelly expressed his appreciation for my involvement in creating a new legislative fellowship program for FAU students.

With the cultivation of a new student fellowship program through state legislators, FAU joins the company of neighboring universities in Florida. Based on post-graduation performance, number of retained graduate students and other categories, FAU jumped from 10th to 6th in state rankings for public universities in 2015. Brennan Garcia, a sophomore at FAU, is the first FAU legislative fellow in the Capitol building. This program provides FAU students with the opportunity to experience the state legislature first-hand by introducing them to the legislative session. With the addition of this fellowship program, hopes are high that Garcia will be the first of many students to participate in FAU's legislative fellowship program at the Capitol.



## Florida Atlantic University's Medical School

My proposed SB 878 (<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0878/BillText/Filed/PDF>) adds FAU's medical school to the statewide list of medical schools that are eligible for medical faculty certifications. I believe it is time that we recognize FAU for its significantly-improved status in part by making its medical faculty eligible for these certifications. With the help and input of President Kelly and other FAU representatives, I will strive to achieve that goal. Our local medical school should be ranked among the finest in the State of Florida.

## Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals ("FAMP")



*L to R: Valerie Saunders, FAMP Immediate Past President, Kimber White, FAMP Treasurer & Senator Sachs*

Members from the Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals ("FAMP") visited our State's Capitol, a state-wide group consisting of over 4000 members. During our time together, we discussed opportunities for protecting mortgage brokers legislatively and

for helping to support and enhance benefits that FAMP can provide to Florida's mortgage brokers as an association. We explored potential policy methods for advancing the mortgage profession through advocacy, education and ethical practices.

"Florida has one of the largest and most vibrant housing markets in the country, which reinforces the importance of hearing the thoughts and opinions of organizations such as FAMP. Maintaining open dialogue with Florida's population of mortgage professionals and groups like FAMP is vital to the health and well-being of Florida's overall real estate market."

## Florida Nurses Association ("FNA")



*Legislative Aide Albert Medina (bottom center) met  
with members of the Florida Nurses Association*

Florida has more than 140 nursing schools, with programs that range from general diplomas and associate degrees to doctoral degrees. In the face of a continually expanding Florida population, projected growth for registered nurses in our state is expected to expand.

"I will always be aware of the need to promote Florida's nurses and those policies that make it easier for them to practice their profession."



***"Stay tuned every week, we will be sending you updates as we work for good policy for all Floridians"***

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