



# STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

Proudly Serving District 14 ~ Portions of Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties

2015 Legislative Session Newsletter

June 2015

## 2015 Legislative Session



Our 2015 Session came to an abrupt end as the Florida House left early. I was proud to lead Senate Democrats with Senator Joyner to successfully sue the House. The Florida Supreme Court ultimately ruled that the House violated the constitution and that an adjournment must be by joint resolution. This critical ruling protects the equality of each chamber.

## New Legislation



Even with the shutdown, we passed several important bills such as legislation reducing the over-testing of our kids, permitting online voter registration, creating tax free savings accounts for children with disabilities (ABLE trusts), and prohibiting employment discrimination against pregnant women. I passed 2 landmark pieces of legislation. The first bill expands the statute of limitations on sexual assault from 4 to 8 years to protect victims of sexual violence. The second bill increases the notice that tenants in

foreclosure receive from 24 hours to 30 days notice after sale to protect Florida's renting families.

## Special Session 2015



We headed back into a 2015 Special Session this week to craft a budget and develop solutions to help uninsured Floridians in the Medicaid gap. The Senate just passed our Florida Health Insurance Exchange (FHIX) program this week which would provide 800,000 Floridians with private health coverage provided they are working (or seeking work) and pay a modest premium. The House has thus far failed to approve our plan or provide a viable alternative. Stay tuned!

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