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Legislative Session Week Four
Wednesday February 10, 2016

The Sachs Sentinel

Week Four: Committee Bills

Things are heating up as we rapidly approach the one-month mark for the 2016 Legislative Session. See what we have been up to at the Capitol!

HELPING OUR STUDENTS: SB 1678 PASSES COMMITTEE

Senator Sachs presenting her bill, Senate Bill 1678, to the Education Pre-K-12 Committee

While our state is experiencing a steady growth in our high school graduation rates, I will continue to look for other means by which even more of our students can obtain a high school diploma. To this end, I have introduced Senate Bill 1678, which successfully passed committee and cleared its first legislative hurdle last week. This bill will allow high school students seeking to pursue a trade through an apprenticeship to secure high school credits required for gratuation. Florida needs trained and skilled workers in all areas of our economy.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Senator Altman (2nd from the left) and Senator Sachs (2nd from the right) with members of our armed forces on Military Day in Tallahassee

As the proud daughter of a World War II veteran, I have always sought to support and implement legislation that is beneficial to our veteran community. My latest effort, Senate Bill 1688, will encourage voluntary contributions to the Florida Veterans Foundation. Any Floridian can make a contribution when filling out applications for vehicle registrations, drivers license registrations and marine vessel registration.

RECENT VISITORS TO OUR CAPITOL OFFICE

The Alzheimer's Association

Senator Sachs (2nd from the right) with Alzheimer's advocate Dottie Carson (2nd from the left), her son and fellow advocate Paul Carson (far left) and other representatives from the Alzheimer's Association

I met with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association. During our meeting, we discussed potential methods for providing legislative support in the fight against a growing disease that affects hundreds of thousands of Floridians and their families across our state. I was inspired by their unwavering dedication to eradicating this terrible disease once and for all. I am proud to lend my hand and voice to their continuing efforts in support of innovative medical research that will counteract this debilitating disease. In 2014, the number of people aged 65 and older in Florida with Alzheimer's totaled 480,000. By 2020 this figure is expected to rise to 580,000, and by 2025 this figure is projected to further increase to 720,000. Only together, through mutual respect and collaboration, can we succeed making Alzheimer's disease in Florida a thing of the past.

Mayor Mary Lou Berger, Palm Beach County

L to R: Mary Lou Berger, Mayor of Palm Beach County, and Senator Sachs

I was honored to receive a visit from Palm Beach County Mayor Mary Lou Berger, a highly respected public official who shares my conviction in seeking out solutions to problems affecting Palm Beach County and its inhabitants. One of the more significant topics we discussed was my proposed Senate Bill 904 concerning bike paths. If passed, this measure would call for the installation of solar-powered in-road lights in urban bicycle paths throughout Florida, which will make Palm Beach County a much safer environment for bicyclists during evening hours and help improve South Florida's poor track record in bicycle safety.

Solar Energy

L to R: Senator Sachs, Kevin Auerbacher of SolarCity & Jeffrey Sharkey of Capitol Alliance Group

Florida is the solar capital of the world, and we should be the global leader in solar power. I met with Kevin Auerbacher and Jeffrey Sharkey, representatives from Florida's solar-energy industry. Among the companies they represented included SolarCity, a solar-power business owned by the same individual (Elon Musk) who runs the innovative space launch company SpaceX. Given the significant impact that climate change is projected to have on Florida during the next several decades, our state should especially invest in solar energy. By working with companies like SolarCity, Florida can become an industry leader in solar energy use and technology.

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

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