Dear Constituent and Friend,

With just three weeks left in the 2019 legislative session, we are quickly marching towards the finish line yet there is still much to do. The budget remains unfinished which is our only constitutional duty. I anticipate we will start putting the finishing touches in place in the next week as we end session timely. To track specific legislation, you may be interested in, or to see the calendar of meetings visit: www.fllegate.gov

My bills in committee this week:
SB 406: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Programs, would enable Florida HBCUs to offer scholarships to students enrolled in their institutions through a matching scholarship program with the State. The bill lays the foundation for an appropriation of $2 million to be deposited into a newly created HBCU trust fund. 
SB 682: That desire to participate in the program would contribute $500,000 in matching dollars through their own fund raising efforts. The accumulated interest from all the funds would be distributed to the participating colleges and universities for scholarships.

With unanimous support, the legislation is on to the next committee.

Other bills of interest this week:
CB/32/842: Nonopioid Alternatives by Senator Keith Perry - Alachua County: requires the Department of Health to develop and publish on its website educational information to advise individuals of available non-opioid alternatives for the treatment of pain, and create an educational pamphlet discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the use of non-opioid alternatives. The bill also requires a healthcare practitioner to provide a pamphlet prior to treating with non-opioids or an opioid medication in an emergency situation. I supported the legislation which I believe helps to cut down on the number of opioid prescriptions that doctors write.

CB/32/844: At-Risk Adult Alert Plan by Senator Lori Berman - Palm Beach: creates a program that aids in the search for missing adults who have an irreversible cognitive disorder or syndrome or brain injury, including a developmental disability or a neurological disability, whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the person’s welfare and safety. Called an “Orange Alert,” the plan helps protect those who may not meet the criteria for activation under the Silver Alert Plan.

If you have questions or comments about these or other bills being considered this session, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

As always, it is an honor and a pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6

Week 6 in the Senate!

Representatives from Society of Neurointerventional Surgery (SNIS)  
Interview with Beth Switzer, Executive Director of The Florida Channel for their Florida Face to Face segment

Ben Friedman, Director of Jewish Community Relations Council

Signature Healthcare team advocating for healthcare care needs

Legislators & Staff tour Hurricane Michael damage