Dear Constituent and Friend,

The process of matching up the House and Senate spending plans began in full swing this week. Both spending plans must match up and balance before the budget is sent to the Governor, who can either sign, line item veto, or veto entirely. We also continue to discuss and vote on legislation important to our state. To track legislation, please check www.fllegislature.gov.

My bills this week:

I am honored that Governor DeSantis has signed SB 64: Transportation Facility Designation Officer Lancer Christian Whittaker Highway. A marker can now be assigned designating I-225 between dra and Palatka Road as the "Oklahoma Christian Whittaker Highway.

My Floor Above Disaster Review Team legislation unanimously passed the Senate floor and is now heading to the House.

Other bills of interest this week:

SB 864: Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services by Senator Jeff Brandes: Establishes a transportation service company authorized to operate a transportation network with any type of vehicle (including a motorized wheelchair under contract with a Medicaid managed care plan, or with the agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) directly) to provide Medical nonemergency transportation services. All drivers must undergo a background screening as determined by AHCA. This bill creates a more available trip for medical visits.

On the Senate Floor:

SB 354: Immunization Registry by Senator Bill Montford: Directs doctors, nurses and other practitioners to report immunization data to the Department of Health (DOH) immunization registry when vaccinating children up to 18 years of age or college or university students at a college or university health center who are 19 to 25 years of age. A parent or guardian of a child up to 17 years of age or a college or university student 18 to 25 years of age can opt out of being included in the immunization registry. For more detailed information on this important legislation click here.

SB 476: Firefighting Support by Senator Anitere Flores: Authorizes firefighters who are diagnosed with certain cancers eligible to receive certain disability or death benefits. Under this bill, cancer treatment for firefighters will be covered by an employer-sponsored health plan, and can receive a one-time cash payment of $20,000 upon the firefighter's initial diagnosis. To be eligible for benefits, the individual must:

- Be a full-time active firefighter
- Be employed at a school, university, county, or city authority, special district, or fire control district
- Have been employed at least five continuous years
- Not have used tobacco products for at least the preceding five years

- Not have been employed in any other position which is proven to create a higher risk for cancer or the preceding five years before diagnosis.

For additional information, click here.

If you have questions or comments, about these or other bills being considered this week, please do 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
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Week in the Senate!

NAACP Day at the Capitol with James Morton, Jacksonville Branch NAACP Assistant Treasurer and Heidi Anderson, Executive Communications Manager.

Said to Reps. Scott Hahn and Matt Willhite at the Alzheimer's Association Brain Bus Tour.