

LORANNE AUSLEY

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

The Ausley Update
— Legislative Update —



Senate Offices

-Tallahassee-

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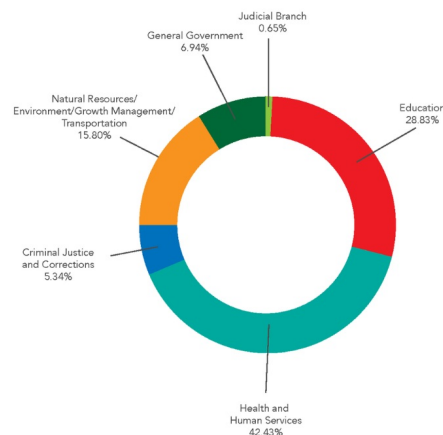
-Quincy-

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Dear Constituent and Friend,

This week marked the halfway point of the 2021 Legislative Session. The next four weeks will be spent finalizing the 2021-22 General Appropriations Act (the budget) and passing policy legislation. The pace will pick up as committee meetings will begin to wrap up and both the Senate and House will spend much more time on the Floor discussing and debating bills. As of today, only one bill has passed both Chambers and been signed by the Governor.

SFY 2021 Senate Proposed Budget



A good bit of this week was spent addressing the budget, which included a lot of reviewing of spreadsheets and numbers for various projects and counties. Both the Chambers passed their respective budgets out of their Appropriations committees. This sets the stage for the bills to be heard, and voted on, by the full Senate and House next week. Next Tuesday we will learn from the state economists how our state's revenue collections are going – which will give us a clearer picture to guide the budget process.

One of the issues I know many of you have concerns about is the proposed prison consolidation plan. I have grave concerns as well. Prisons are major employers and economic drivers for fiscally constrained communities where jobs are scarce, and any closure would be catastrophic. While no specific prisons are mentioned in the proposal, rest assured that I am working alongside my colleagues to protect our rural counties.



One of the highlights this week was the passage of my early learning bill, SB 1496, in committee. The Brighter Futures Scholarships program will help create more early learning opportunities for families across the state. Why is this important?

1. Parents without childcare options cannot go to work.
2. The quality of childcare matters - particularly for our most vulnerable kids.
3. Quality childcare is expensive - costing more than in state tuition for college.
4. Most young parents are not in a position to cover these costs.
5. 53% of Florida kids are showing up to kindergarten already behind.

We should be doing all we can to give kids the best chance at success. SB 1496 sets up a framework to expand quality child care options for the families who need it the most.

Please keep in touch and let us know what is important to you at Ausley.Loranne.web@flsenate.gov or 850-487-5003.

FOLLOW ME TO STAY UP TO DATE



2021 SESSION DATES

March 2, 2021: Regular Session convenes
April 30, 2021: 60th day – last day of Regular Session

AUSLEY's HIGHLIGHTS



We celebrated Florida A&M University and Florida State University, this week as part of their respective “Day at the Capitol”. Although we weren’t able to meet in person, it was great to take a few minutes via Zoom to celebrate these 2 vital institutions that bring quality education and other important resources to our community.



Remember, if you have a company, event or person that should be highlighted as part of our newsletter or that I should attend please share them by emailing me at ausley.loranne.web@flsenate.gov.

It is an honor and pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lorraine Ausley'.

Loranne Ausley
Senator District 3

Sign up to stay connected!