

[View this email in your browser](#)



We have officially made it past the halfway point of the 2021 Legislative Session! Tune in to watch committee meetings, bill presentations, and debate/votes on bills at thefloridachannel.org. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office to share your thoughts regarding this year's bills and budget.

As always, it is a great honor to serve and represent you and the members of District 8. Share this newsletter with your friends and family so that they too can stay informed with our community updates, district-wide achievements, and future legislation.

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Florida Senate](#)

 [Email](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES

EASTER EGG HUNT IN PUTNAM COUNTY



FOUR THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE FILING YOUR TAXES:

1. The new deadline to file is Monday, May 17th.

The IRS has extended the original April 15th deadline for individual federal income tax returns to be filed a month later, by May 17th. Any tax payments owed are still due on May 17th and failure to pay on time will result in penalties and fees. However, those who need more time can still file for an October 2021 extension.

2. IRS is granting up to \$10,200 of unemployment benefits to not be taxed.

This year only, the IRS is granting the first \$10,200 will not be taxed, if the individual made less than \$150,000 during the year.

3. The Federal COVID-19 aid will not be taxed.

Thousands of local households have received federal coronavirus relief funds to help pay for mortgages, rent, utilities, and internet.

Individual recipients of federal CARES Act funds will not receive 1099 forms and will not be required to report the money as income.

4. Eligible individuals can claim missed stimulus checks.

Individuals who may have missed the first two rounds of stimulus payments dispersed early in 2020 may claim the payments on their taxes. The first stimulus amounted to \$1,200 per person, with an extra \$500 per dependent. Payments of \$600 per person are available from the second stimulus payment. Individuals who make up to \$75,000 and couples who make \$150,000 are eligible for those payments.

STATEWIDE UPDATES



Click the image above to watch Governor DeSantis discuss the latest on COVID-19 Vaccine expansion. You can pre-register for your vaccine here: <https://myvaccine.fl.gov/#/>

FROM THE OFFICE OF
GOVERNOR
RON DESANTIS

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL OF \$1,000 BONUSES FOR FLORIDA'S TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

Governor Ron DeSantis announced a proposal to provide \$1,000 bonuses to public school principals and full-time classroom teachers for grades Pre-K through 12th grade in Florida. The funding for the bonuses would be \$216 million from the third round of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER).

The proposal would provide a bonus to more than 3,600 public school principals and nearly 180,000 full-time classroom teachers. Governor DeSantis is asking the Florida Senate and House of Representatives to include this \$216 million appropriation in their respective budgets.

“The past year included so much uncertainty for our state’s students, parents and educators,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “In Florida, we knew how important it was for our students to return to school, and our principals and teachers answered the call. I urge the Florida Legislature to join me in awarding our great educators through this bonus program as a show of gratitude for their actions and hard work.”

“I am proud to stand with Governor DeSantis as he once again demonstrates his leadership and commitment to our educators for the incredible job, they have done during this extremely challenging school year,” said **Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran**. “The Governor’s proposal is just one way we can show our appreciation to our hard-working teachers and principals who guided Florida through these immense challenges, and I look forward to the Legislature making it a reality.”

You can read more about this press release [here](#).

Find more information on this initiative [here](#).



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

GOVERNOR DESANTIS SIGNS SB 72 INTO LAW



The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in the state of Florida. As businesses and entities struggled to re-open or keep their doors open, a growing concern has been expressed that unfounded or opportunistic lawsuits for COVID-19-related claims could threaten their financial survival. When a business makes a good faith effort to adhere to safety guidelines to reopen during a period of extreme uncertainty, our laws should protect them and our legal system should not be a place where they face frivolous and costly litigation.

I am proud to have co-sponsored Senate Bill 72, related to Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19, with **Senator Baxley**, **Senator Hutson**, and bill sponsor **Senator Brandes**. Thank you for introducing this necessary piece of legislation that will help protect businesses from fraudulent or opportunistic lawsuits related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new law signed by **Governor Ron DeSantis** will provide protection for all persons, including businesses, charities, educational institutions, religious institutions against a COVID-19-related claim. Business owners and employees making

their best effort to adhere to changing guidelines and regulations must be allowed to earn a living and support their families.

You can view Chapter No. 2021-1 [here](#).

SR 618 FIRST RESPONDERS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

BY: SENATOR KEITH PERRY

First responders selflessly put the lives of others before their own every single day. The life-saving work of first responders requires an immeasurable amount of dedication, responsibility, and courage to keep our communities safe. This year, I am proposing Senate Resolution 618, related to First Responders Mental Health Awareness Day. This would designate May 10th, as "First Responders Mental Health Awareness Day" annually across the State of Florida.

First responders are the real-life heroes in our communities as they respond to crises, are the first ones to appear on the scene, and are the first ones to act in order to protect other's lives. I believe it is important to recognize their sacrifices and bring awareness to the higher risk first responders are at for suffering from mental health issues because of the challenging nature of their duties.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic represent one of the biggest policing challenges in modern times. First responders are facing heavier workloads, it is essential to address the effects this year has had on our first responders. A study from the Ruderman Family Foundation found police officers and firefighters actually died more from suicide than in the line of duty in 2017; 103 suicides versus 93 killed in the line of duty for firefighters, and 140 suicides versus 129 killed in the line of duty for police officers.

It is imperative we continue to support our first responders when they look to services and resources that assist with their mental health, their livelihoods, and to the lives of their families.

I would like to take a moment and thank every first responder across the State of Florida. Your hard work and dedication to the safety of our community has not gone unnoticed. First responders do more than put others' lives before their own; they provide life-saving services and safeguard our communities every day.

Click [here](#) to see SR 618 Full Bill Text

NEWSWORTHY

SENATOR KEITH PERRY IN THE NEWS

- [Senator Keith Perry's crosswalk safety bill gets unanimous support in committee.](#)
 - [State Senator releases COVID-19 pandemic recovery plan for Florida clerks of court](#)
 - [A bill making its way through the Florida Legislature would expand penalties for written threats to include social media posts](#)
-

Do you have events, accomplishments, or local news that you wish to share with members in District 8?

Please email your submissions to Perry.Keith.Web@flsenate.gov

It's an honor to represent you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for your continued support, input, and patience as we work together to make lasting impacts in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, concerns, or thoughts at any time. We are here for you!

Sincerely,

Keith Perry

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Florida Senate](#)

 [Email](#)

Tallahassee Office:

404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5008

District Office:

2610 NW 43rd St. Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352)-264-4040

Marion Office:

115 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-1249

Copyright © 2021 Keith Perry, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

