



July Newsletter

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COVID-19

On Tuesday, July 27 I sent a letter directly to Governor Ron DeSantis asking him to **declare a state of emergency in Florida** which would provide our hospitals with the much needed resources they require to beat this surge. They're being inundated with unvaccinated patients contracting COVID-19 and the more highly contagious Delta variant. Florida, which represents about 6.5% of the U.S. population, accounts for 1 of every 5 new cases in the U.S.



THE FLORIDA SENATE
Tallahassee, Florida 32309-1100

SENATOR ANNETTE TADDEO
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SENATOR ANNETTE TADDEO
40th District

July 27th, 2021

Dear Governor DeSantis,

As U.S. hospitals fill up and Florida's two-day average of COVID-19 cases reaches over 10,000, it is imperative that a state of emergency be declared. Right now, our state is seeing similar infection and hospitalization rates that occurred in June 2020 when we witnessed peak infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths. In order to save lives, our hospitals need the help of the state and federal government to provide the critical resources they need.

Under Florida's state of emergency order, you were able to suspend statutes and rules of order that would have hindered our response to the pandemic. Some of these provisions included allowing critical facilities and healthcare professionals working outside the state to be able to practice in Florida without a state license, allowing critical staff shortages. We also saw an expansion of telehealth services, allowing individuals to be seen by a healthcare provider virtually, keeping them out of the emergency room. Seeing as these provisions expired and we are facing similar staffing shortages, it is crucial that a state of emergency be declared to reinstate these exceptions before it is too late.

It is my fear however, that we are not seeing the full extent of COVID-19 cases due to incomplete data. On June 16th, the state ceased daily reporting of cases, opting for weekly reports instead. With new COVID-19 infections accounting for 20% of all new cases in the United States, I urge your administration to begin reporting daily cases so that Floridians are fully informed about the reach of the virus, and can better make informed decisions to protect themselves and their families.

Finally, as you told reporters on July 21st, the vaccine is "saving lives" yet what we are witnessing during the latest surge in cases is a pandemic of the unvaccinated. I urge your administration to ramp up education efforts to address vaccination hesitancy and dispel any myths or misinformation that have made individuals reluctant in taking the vaccine. It is important that we protect every life possible and that requires a thoughtful approach in reminding Floridians that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, free, and the best defense against the disease.

Sincerely,

Annette Taddeo
State Senator
Florida Senate

WILSON THOMPSON
President of the Senate

ANDREW DEAN
President Pro Tempore

Miami-Dade opens five new COVID vaccine, testing sites as cases continue to surge

With virus positivity and hospitalizations increasing along with the growing threat of new variants, especially the Delta, Miami-Dade and Nomi Health are working to expand vaccination and testing, [the county said](#). **[Please get vaccinated if you haven't already done so.](#)**

SOS Cuba

My Op-Ed in *El Nuevo Herald*, "**The freedom of Cuba is not and should not be a partisan cause**". It's sad that some

do not understand that Cuba and its freedom should not be a partisan issue, which only the Castro regime would benefit from. For me it's not.

OPINIÓN

La libertad de Cuba no es ni debe ser una causa partidista | Opinión

POR ANNETTE TADDEO
27 DE JULIO DE 2021 05:38 PM

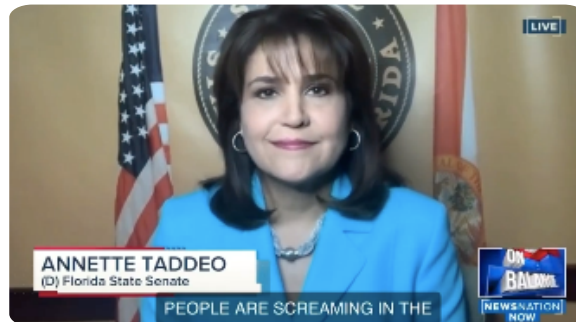


Senator Taddeo hosted and organized a listening round table with Cuban community leaders including Rosa Maria Paya, Ramon Saul Sanchez, the Cuban American National Foundation and more to discuss the dire situation that is #SOSCuba. Senator Taddeo was joined by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz as well as the Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Val Demings. This pivotal and historical moment is not only for Cuba but for all those who lack fundamental human rights!



The new generation of young people on the island of Cuba have lost their fear of the regime. In this historic and unprecedented moment, we have to support them and get rid

of that oppressive government. Senator Taddeo joined Gloria Ordaz of Telemundo 51 and Cuban American radio personality Enrique Santos to uplift Cuban voices in the struggle to liberate Cuba.



Senator Annette Taddeo on the premiere of News Nations' newest late night prime time show "On Balance" with Leland Vittert discussing the latest revelations of the protests in Cuba. "We need to pressure other countries into understanding that Cuba isn't to be romanticized.", said Senator Taddeo. "The repressive Cuban regime shut off the internet because they don't want you to see the 400 people they've kidnapped or the child army they're creating."

Events

7th Annual Memorial Walk for Justice

Senator Taddeo was honored to join our community for the 7th Annual Memorial Walk for Justice hosted by Romania Dukes, founder of **Mothers Fighting for Justice**, in honor of her son De'Michael Dukes life. We would like to thank all the mothers fighting for justice who joined us as well as friends, family, parents and community leaders that came together in our effort to end gun violence.



Celebrating the birthday of "el Libertador" Simon Bolivar! In the times



we're living it's important for us to remember we as people must stick together and unite for the greater good. Whether you're Colombian, Venezuelan, Cuban, Nicaraguan etc, that is what Simon Bolivar believed in.

The Purple Church Miami

This year and a half has been very tough on our community but thanks to vaccines we are one step closer to our new normal. Senator Taddeo was blessed to join our community and friends for an "Old Skool Night Under The Stars" hosted by the Purple Church Miami.



Senator Taddeo was honored to be presented an award for "**Best Democratic Track Record**" by "**Revista Carteles**" and was recognized for her bipartisan efforts of working across the aisle for the good of all persons.

Business of the Month

Congratulations to our Senate District 40 AUGUST Business of the Month [Marino Eye Care](#). Join us for this recognition by scheduling an appointment! Follow them on [social media](#). **Nominate** your favorite SD 40 Small Business!



Marino Eye Care

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8353 SW 124 St Suite 106,
Miami, FL, 33156

 @RobertGrandODFIAO

Website: <http://www.marinoeyecare.com/>



HOURS:

MON- FRI:
8:30AM-5PM

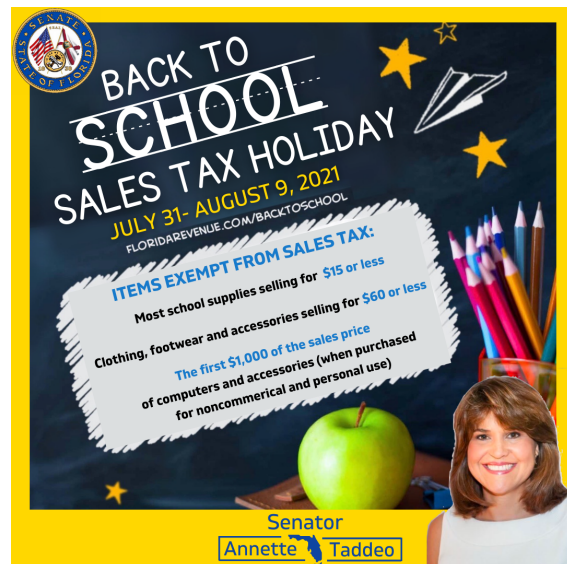
SAT-SUN CLOSED



(305) 233-2040

Announcements

The **Back to School Sales Tax Holiday** will run from Saturday, July 31 through Monday, August 9. Qualifying items will be exempt from tax during this period, including certain school supplies, clothing, footwear, computers & more!



Save The Date! This Labor Day 2021, Senator Taddeo is following the tradition of the late Congressman Dante Fascell and bringing back a classic community event!



Join us **September 6 in Crandon Park** to celebrate our labor workers with food, music, games & more! [Sign up to volunteer.](#)

Unemployment Update

Both the Work Search and Waiting Week requirements have been reinstated to applying for unemployment benefits. If you require assistance with your unemployment claim please do not hesitate to reach out to our office via email at Taddeo.Annette.Web@FLsenate.gov.

COVID-19 Resources



Every week **food distributions** are organized in Miami-Dade hosted by [Feeding South Florida](#) and [Farm Share](#). Please [click here](#) for weekly events as well as an up to date calendar. **During this Coronavirus crisis many organizations are coming together to support our community.**

CORONAVIRUS TESTING

Miami-Dade provides a list of testing sites [online here](#), including **mobile testing, walk-up and drive-thru**. Getting tested is key to receiving early treatment

COVID-19 PLASMA DONATION

If you have recovered from coronavirus, antibodies in your plasma can provide lifesaving support to those still fighting the illness. [Learn more about how to](#)

and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

[become a blood donor.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine

ALL individuals 12+ are eligible, [click here for details.](#) Please visit miamidade.gov/vaccine for all vaccine updates.

Financial Assistance



Child Tax Credit

On July 15th, nearly all working families began to receive \$250 to \$300 per child automatically deposited in their bank accounts or sent to their mailboxes. [Learn more.](#)

Small Business Assistance

The American Rescue Plan helps small businesses by increasing funding to pandemic relief programs like the Paycheck Protection Program. Learn more and apply: <https://sba.gov/relief>



The Emergency Rental Program (ERAP) is now accepting applications. The ERAP provides rental payment assistance for up to 12 months in back rent, if you meet certain income qualifications and are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Apply here.](#)

Rental and Other Assistance for the Homeless or Evicted

The federal ban on evictions is set to expire at the end of the month. If you or a loved one are homeless or were recently evicted, support is available in [Miami-Dade County.](#) This assistance includes payment of first month's rent, security deposit, mortgage and utility bills, as well as shelter and food. [Click here.](#)

Miami-Dade County's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is providing COVID-19 crisis assistance to qualified residents who are experiencing a hardship in paying their home energy bill due to the pandemic. Eligible households can receive up to \$2,000 within a 12-month period. [Click here.](#)

Contact Us

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