



# From the desk of Senator Barbara Sharief



## A Senator on a Mission

2025 Legislative Update  
March 24 - March 28

District 35

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Dear Constituents,

This week was AKA Days at the Capitol, and I had the honor of participating in this empowering and unforgettable event. As a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, I was thrilled to join my Sorors from across the state in Tallahassee, where we united to advocate for positive change and elevate our community's voice.



During the event, I had the privilege of speaking at a press conference alongside my fellow Sorors, Senator Osgood, Senator Davis, and Representative Bracy Davis. We paid tribute to Senator Geraline Thompson, who sadly passed away last month. A trailblazer for Alpha Kappa Alpha, her legacy will continue to inspire us all



As part of the press conference, I had the opportunity to speak about my bill, SB 370: Health Screenings for K-12 Students. This important legislation will establish a pathway for non-invasive health screenings in our schools, ensuring that students receive the necessary assessments to safeguard their well-being. Already recognized under Florida law, screenings for growth and development, nutrition, hearing and vision, scoliosis, dental health, and, importantly, mental health, will all be included. This bill is designed to protect our children by providing early detection of potential physical or emotional health concerns, allowing us to connect students with the support they need before issues escalate.



In other legislative news, SB 304: Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations, also known as Patterson's Law, successfully passed its second committee—Judiciary—yesterday with unanimous support. The related bill in the House, HB 511, sponsored by Representative Bartleman, also received unanimous approval from the Human Services Subcommittee. Patterson's Law seeks to improve the accuracy and fairness of child protective investigations by requiring medical professionals to provide a thorough analysis when reporting suspected child abuse. This includes ruling out other medical conditions that may mimic abuse, such as rickets, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and osteogenesis imperfecta. The bill also empowers parents with the right to request independent medical evaluations and ensures they are informed of this right during investigations. Patterson's Law will help prevent misdiagnoses and ensure the safety of both children and families involved in the child welfare system.



Today, Equality Florida visited the Capitol to express concerns regarding SB 100: Display of Flags by Governmental Entities, a bill I was scheduled to review in one of my committees. This bill seeks to regulate the display of flags by government entities within the state, prohibiting the display of flags that represent political viewpoints, including those related to political ideology, race, sexual orientation, and gender. In its current form, the bill would effectively ban the display of Pride flags and similar symbols on government property. As a member of the Community Affairs Committee, I voted no on this bill, standing firm in my belief that we should continue to celebrate diversity and inclusion in our public spaces.

Today marked another productive sitting of the Senate, and with the session now four weeks in, we are quickly approaching the final stretch. We heard some impactful bills today, including legislation addressing the Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults and a crucial bill to ensure coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. I'm excited for what lies ahead and looking forward to the continued progress in the coming week!



As always, I am committed to working hard on behalf of the residents of District 35 this legislative session. With every step, I remain a Senator on a Mission—focused on advancing the interests of our community and ensuring our voices are heard.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Barbara Sharief*  
Senator Dr. Barbara Sharief



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