



From the desk of Senator Barbara Sharief



A Senator on a Mission

2025 Legislative Update
April 21 - April 25

District 35

Cooper City Davie Hollywood Miramar Pembroke Pines Southwest Ranches Sunrise Weston



Dear Constituents,

Week 8 is a wrap! It's been a powerful week in Tallahassee, and I'm proud to keep working for YOU! Your voice drives everything I do in the Senate.

As we look ahead to the final stretch of session, one of our top responsibilities is passing a balanced budget for the State of Florida. This budget will fund critical statewide priorities such as infrastructure improvements, healthcare access, particularly for seniors, public education, and other essential services.

Let's finish strong in these final weeks of session together!



Champion Award for Public Service

I'm honored and humbled to receive the Champion Award for Public Service from the Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce. As a public servant, I've always believed that leadership must be rooted in compassion, courage, and a clear commitment to justice.

To every LGBTQ+ individual, especially our youth: you matter, you belong, and you are never alone. I accept this award on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced and whose light has been dimmed. Your resilience fuels our fight for fairness and human rights. My deepest thanks to Jason Nunez, Stephen Cascaes, and the entire Chamber leadership for your vision and dedication. Let's continue this journey together, lifting one another and building a future where equality is not just promised, but lived.

Legislative Update



SB 306 Advances to the Senate Floor

This week, we advanced SB 306 out of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, its final committee stop, marking an important milestone in our effort to modernize Medicaid access in Florida.

What the bill does:

- Requires managed care plans to ensure provider availability during evenings, weekends, and state holidays, defined as weekdays from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and all-day Saturday and Sunday.
- Mandates that at least 50% of primary care providers in each Medicaid plan's network offer appointments outside of traditional business hours.
- Targets longstanding access issues that impact rural, low-income, and medically vulnerable communities across the state.

By pushing for these reforms, we're making sure the system works better for the people who rely on it most, without increasing costs or overhauling existing frameworks. It's a step forward in our fight to build a more responsive, equitable, and efficient healthcare safety net for all Floridians.

Co-Introduced Bills

Co-introduced bills that have successfully passed the Florida Senate floor this session:

- SB 168 Mental Health
- SB 274 Transportation Facility Designations for Harris Rosen Way and Geraldine Thompson Way
- SB 398 Awareness Program for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-related Disorders
- SB 466 Florida Museum of Black History
- SB 1286 Harming or Neglecting Children

These measures collectively address vital issues such as mental health, public health awareness, child protection, historical preservation, and community recognition.



I am honored to serve as your Senator, committed to uplifting the voices of District 35 and all who call Florida home. With clarity and conviction, I will keep pushing for the priorities that matter most to our communities this session. Our work continues—with heart, with purpose, and always as a Senator on a mission.

Dr. Barbara Sharief

Senator Dr. Barbara Sharief



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