Senator Farmer moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. The Legislature declares that the misrepresentation of science and the partisan politics that prompted the consideration of proposed laws that ban, restrict, or penalize mandatory vaccines by private businesses are condemned.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to COVID-19 mandates; providing legislative findings; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the State of Florida have a long history of mandates and regulations tied to the health and safety of citizens during outbreaks and pandemics, including mandatory quarantine and vaccination, and

WHEREAS, during the Revolutionary War, 90 percent of deaths among American troops were caused by disease, with the smallpox virus being the most vicious of all, to the point that General George Washington mandated inoculation of all American troops, beginning with the Battles of Morristown and Princeton, and that action is credited with victory at the Battle of Saratoga, which tipped the scales of the war, and

WHEREAS, in 1889, Leon County ordered quarantines to protect local residents from the outbreak of yellow fever, and

WHEREAS, in 1895, the State of Florida empowered the president of the Florida State Board of Health with the duty to investigate, and the authority to quarantine during, emerging viruses, including yellow fever and cholera, and other infectious diseases, and this authority was expanded further in 1901 and 1906, and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the State of Florida enacted a law ordering the State Board of Education to require immunization of
all children against a litany of dangerous diseases, including polio, smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus, as a condition of attendance in the public schools, and

WHEREAS, the principle of separation of powers through the establishment of three separate but equal branches of government is one of the fundamental underpinnings of our nation and our state, and

WHEREAS, s. 1, Article IX of the State Constitution guarantees that adequate provision must be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools, and

WHEREAS, s. 4, Article IX of the State Constitution establishes local control over education by granting local county school boards the authority to operate, control, and supervise all free public schools within their school districts, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long and distinguished history of protecting and promoting public records and Sunshine Laws, including the first public records law in 1909, which provided the right of inspection of formal records and opened meetings to all Floridians, followed by expansion of that law in 1967, and recognition of the importance of public records laws by their enshrinement in the State Constitution in 1992, and

WHEREAS, world history reminds us of long conflicts between religion and science, beginning with the Inquisition and continuing to the Renaissance, during which artists, professors, and others were persecuted as heretics for depicting or believing in science or other newly emerging truths that conflicted with religious beliefs, and during which those
believing in science were forced underground to avoid persecution, jail, or death, and
WHEREAS, irrational hysteria against science reached perhaps an all-time high during the time of the first smallpox vaccines in England, where unreasonable mistrust of the newly developed vaccine included false stories of births of half-cow babies, and
WHEREAS, today, we have seen an increase in entirely unfounded rumors and the citing of false science regarding the dangers of vaccines, claims that exceed the dangers of COVID-19 itself, and
WHEREAS, all objectively established and recognized science is unanimous as to the inherent and extreme dangers of COVID-19 and as to the fact that vaccines represent our country’s best option to avoid extreme sickness and death, and
WHEREAS, since 2020, the Senate has followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration protocols and recommendations for protection against and testing for infection of COVID-19, including the institution of mask mandates and mandatory testing for all Senators and staff, and
WHEREAS, former President Donald Trump and, now, Governor Ron DeSantis have embarked on a path of misrepresentation of established science and the perpetuation of fraud on the American people, all in the name of red-meat, partisan politics at the expense of the very health and lives of all Americans and, in the case of Governor DeSantis, all Floridians, and
WHEREAS, the hypocrisy and inconsistency of our current Legislature is best seen when comparing proposed anti-vaccine
mandates that have been filed and promoted under the guise of
the right to privacy and independence when the same Legislature
and Governor seek to eliminate a woman’s right to determine her
own medical health, and

WHEREAS, data, statistics, and current evidence show that
such places as schools, where mask mandates have been invoked,
have had markedly lower infection rates than places without mask
requirements, and

WHEREAS, recent data and polling reveal that a strong
majority of Floridians favor mask mandates in crowded public
spaces, including schools, and that a majority of Floridians
have been vaccinated, NOW, THEREFORE,