



FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS

WEEKS 5 & 6: BANDING AGAINST BIGOTRY



During the second week of Black History Month, racist & vile testimony in support of the Confederate monuments protection bill showed why we need to continue to uplift Black voices & perspectives.



The Legislature shouldn't be focusing on protecting Confederate monuments on public property - they should be focused on protecting Floridians' pocketbooks, livelihoods and freedoms.

This distracting piece of legislation has no place in the Florida Senate.

"As a Black person living in America where it's supposed to be the land of freedom and justice for all - just the outpour of conversation today in my opinion was non-American."

Senator Rosalind Osgood

"I've got members and colleagues whose families have also been here since 1821 - and not voluntarily...who have to drive around the block, pass through a rotary, and look at a plaque or a monument that serves no other person to remind them of the time that their family at best were 3/5 of a person."

Senator Jason Pizzo

"The absolute display of white supremacy...to hear it so clearly stated that that's what this bill is about just appalls me."

Senator Lori Berman

PRIDE FLAG

Senators got the chance to hear from Floridians testifying against SB 1120 - a bill that bans flags like Pride flags from being displayed in most public buildings. It also allows veterans to use "reasonable force" to prevent anyone from destroying the U.S. flag.



"LGBTQ people exist in this state... it is very clear that the intentions of this bill is to target one community - my community."

Joe Saunders



"We have bigger problems than whether or not a classroom can fly a Pride flag. Pride flags are to tell queer students that you are safe in this space."

Tsi Day Smyth



"There are at least 356 incidents of anti-LGBTQ hate... with Florida being the second most incidents per capita. We raise the Pride flag in remembrance of them and to show support and instill a sense of community."

Kevonte Ford

SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR MINORS

HB 1 has many Democrats concerned about about parental rights and censorship.



I KNOW THE HARMS THAT SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BROUGHT TO COMMUNITIES,

BUT IT IS NOT THE LEGISLATURE'S JOB TO PARENT THE PARENTS ON HOW THEY PARENT.

SENATE VS. HOUSE

Florida Livin' Edition

Could create hazardous work conditions with unlivable pay

SB 1492: EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

- PROHIBITS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM MANDATING HEAT EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYERS OR CONTRACTORS

SB 742: PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

- BANS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM REQUIRING LIVING WAGES ON PUBLIC PROJECTS IF USING LOCAL FUNDS, WITH EXCEPTIONS

HB 433: EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

- BANS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM SETTING THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE, BENEFITS, TERM AND CONDITIONS, PREEMPTING THESE PROVISIONS TO THE STATE
- ALSO PROHIBITS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM MANDATING HEAT EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYERS OR CONTRACTORS

SB 1596: CHILD LABOR

Uses children as cheap labor at the expense of their education

- **LOOSENS CHILD LABOR LAWS - EVEN ON A SCHOOL WEEK**, REMOVES BREAK REQUIREMENTS FOR 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS, LENGTHENS THE HOURS KIDS CAN BE SCHEDULED TO WORK - FROM AS EARLY AS 5:30 AM TO 12:00 AM, AND INCREASES THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE DAYS KIDS CAN WORK

HB 49: CHILD LABOR

- **LOOSENS CHILD LABOR LAWS - EVEN ON A SCHOOL WEEK**, REMOVES BREAK REQUIREMENTS FOR 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS, ALLOWS KIDS TO WORK AS EARLY AS 6 AM INSTEAD OF 6:30 AM, WORK MORE THAN 8 HOURS A DAY, AND WORK MORE THAN 30 HOURS A WEEK

SB 1260: UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Targets the unemployment system - making skills tests mandatory again

- CREATES MORE HURDLES FOR FLORIDIANS TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BY CREATING MORE WAYS TO BE DISQUALIFIED

HB 1289: UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- CREATES MORE HURDLES FOR FLORIDIANS TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BY CREATING MORE WAYS TO BE DISQUALIFIED

ABORTION

ON FEBRUARY 7TH, FLORIDA'S SUPREME COURT JUSTICES DISCUSSED AMENDMENT 4 - THE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO PROTECT ABORTION RIGHTS IN THE STATE.



Senator Berman and Leader Book sitting behind lawyers for both sides of the arguments during the hearing.

FETAL PERSONHOOD

SB 476 IS DANGEROUS FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS - IT COULD SPELL OUT FETAL PERSONHOOD, IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF ABORTION RIGHTS IN FLORIDA.

DURING THE BILL'S SECOND COMMITTEE, THE DEFINITION OF "UNBORN CHILD" WAS ADDED - DEFINED AS A HUMAN "AT ANY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, WHO IS CARRIED IN THE WOMB".

“

SB 476 IS A DANGEROUS BILL THAT OPENS THE DOOR FOR FETAL PERSONHOOD -- LEGALLY DESIGNATING A FETUS AS A PERSON WITH RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FROM THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION. FETAL PERSONHOOD DIMINISHES THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND MOTHERS, PUTTING ABORTION HEALTHCARE AND REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE LIKE IVF AT RISK.

FLORIDA'S VERY OWN CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT HAS INVOKED THE CONCEPT OF FETAL PERSONHOOD AS THEY DECIDE THE FATE OF FLORIDA'S ABORTION BAN AND THE AMENDMENT 4 ABORTION BALLOT LANGUAGE. THIS BILL MAY BECOME THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH HE MAKES THAT CONCEPT OUR REALITY, WITH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES. WE CANNOT ALLOW PERSONHOOD TO BECOME FLORIDA LAW.

Senate Democratic Leader Lauren Book”

DEMOCRATIC BILLS ON THE MOVE

BILLS SPONSORED BY DEMOCRATS ARE MOVING THROUGH
THE PROCESS - HERE'S THIS WEEK'S FEATURED BILL:

DOZIER SCHOOL FOR BOYS & OKEECHOBEE SCHOOL COMPENSATION PROGRAM



FROM THE 1950S TO THE 1960S, MORE THAN 300 BOYS WERE SENT TO A REFORM SCHOOL WEST OF TALLAHASSEE. THE OKEECHOBEE SCHOOL SOON OPENED DUE TO OVERCROWDING AT DOZIER. THESE YOUNG BOYS SUFFERED YEARS OF MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND SEXUAL ABUSE BY THE HANDS OF THE SCHOOLS OFFICIALS.

SENATOR ROUSON'S BILL (SB 24) WILL ALLOW THE LIVING VICTIMS OF THE DOZIER SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND THE OKEECHOBEE SCHOOL TO APPLY FOR COMPENSATION AS A WAY TO MAKE UP FOR THE ABUSE THEY WENT THROUGH.



"When I was a little boy I was beat by a man who was 250 pounds. The pain was so excruciating. I cannot explain that pain. I dont think no man living can explain the pain that comes from a situation like that."

Richard Huntly



"I can't describe to you what it was like. You hear a 5-year-old child, a 6-year-old child screaming for their mother, while they are beaten by a state employee who is 6 foot 5 and 260 pounds. I don't know how to explain that to you."

Bryant E Middleton



VOTING RIGHTS RALLY



THE HARRY T. AND HARRIETTE V. MOORE VOTING RIGHTS ACT (SB 1522) HONORS TWO OF FLORIDA'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, ENSURING THE REGISTRATION AND VOTING PROCESS FOR FLORIDIANS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE VOTE IS ACCESSIBLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD, ESPECIALLY FOR MINORITY FLORIDIANS.



“There is nothing wrong with making sure that there is integrity and fairness [in voting] but fairness goes out the window when you make it difficult for people to vote...”

Senator Geraldine Thompson



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WE ASKED SENATORS WHICH INFLUENTIAL BLACK FIGURE THEY WOULD CHOOSE TO MEMORIALIZE - HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR RESPONSES:



SENATOR ROUSON'S PICK



JONATHAN CLARKSON GIBBS

Gibbs was among the most powerful black elected officials in Florida during Reconstruction, serving as Secretary of State and State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



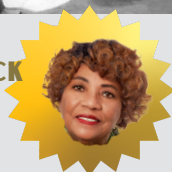
SENATOR BERMAN'S PICK

SIDNEY POITIER

Incomparable Bahamian and American actor from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema. In 1963, he became the first Black actor to win an Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal in *Lillies of the Field*.



SENATOR THOMPSON'S PICK



BARBARA JORDAN

Lawyer, educator and politician who made history several times - as the first African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction, the first southern African American woman elected to Congress and one of the first two African Americans elected to the U.S. House from the former Confederacy since 1901.



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