



**THIS WEEK IN THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
FEBRUARY 12 – 16, 2018

**The Senate is Taking Action to Protect Children in Florida Schools**

On February 14, a day meant to celebrate love, 17 promising futures came to an end at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. As elected leaders, we have no greater responsibility than protecting our children, and the Senate budget passed last week reflects our long-standing commitment to ensure our students and teachers are safe and secure. The Senate created a new category within the K-12 education budget to specifically address mental health funding for our schools and allocated \$40 million to address this issue. Our goal is to now more than double that amount. The Senate proposal would also increase funding to ensure school districts have the resources needed to harden the entry points for our schools, and provide for armed resource officers for safety and prevention. In the coming weeks, we will work to identify where any gaps may still exist regarding school safety and work towards filling those immediately.

**Committee Passes Legislation Protecting Florida's Vulnerable Residents in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities During Power Outages**



The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services unanimously passed Senate Bill 1874, Emergency Power for Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facilities, sponsored by Senator Kathleen Passidomo and cosponsored by Senator Kelli Stargel.

The bill regulates nursing homes and assisted living facilities, requiring that these facilities have an operational emergency power source and fuel to sustain an air temperature set in rule for at least 96 hours.

## Legislation Fighting Back Against Florida's Opioid Addiction Crisis Advances

Senate Bill 8, sponsored by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, and cosponsored by Senators Keith Perry, Kelli Stargel, Aaron Bean, and Kathleen Passidomo, unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Rules.

The bill makes a number of changes to Florida law with the goal of preventing people from becoming addicted to opioids, and helping to provide relief to those individuals and families who are already dealing with addiction.

