



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BILL GALVANO**  
*President*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Bill Galvano  
**SUBJECT:** Enhancing Public Safety  
**DATE:** August 5, 2019

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I know you share my view that senseless acts of violence like we saw across the country over the weekend must stop, and that begins with condemning the hate that perpetuates these evil attacks.

As lawmakers, we all recognize no function of government is more important than the safety of the people we serve. Over the last two years, the Senate has worked together, in bipartisan fashion, to lead state efforts to improve public safety including: significant changes to keep firearms out of the hands of those suffering from mental illness; expanding background checks when a firearm is purchased; raising the age for purchasing a firearm; and, banning devices that turn a legal firearm into an illegal weapon.

Specifically in the area of school safety, we have worked to enhance communication and reporting of threats to student safety, expand resources available for mental health services, improve school hardening requirements, and provide school districts with options to maximize school safety.

Unfortunately, the evil acts of violence over the weekend are an all-to-present reminder that we have more work to do.

With committee meetings resuming just one month from now, our focus should be on steps the Senate can take to review and better understand the various factors involved in mass shootings, in addition to, and also including, school shootings. This includes white nationalism, which appears to be a factor not only with regard to these recent mass shootings, but also with other acts of violence we have seen across the country in recent years.

I will be asking President Lee, as Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure and Security, to lead this effort during the upcoming committee weeks. Such a review will help us determine what further actions can be taken at the state level that will build on the legislation we passed in 2018

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and 2019. We will also monitor any potential actions taken by the federal government in the coming months, which could impact our decisions and options at the state level.

The Florida Senate will work even harder to ensure the safety of those we serve. Thoughts and prayers must continue to yield action.