



WEEK TWO

MARCH 9-13, 2015

The second week of the 2015 Legislative Session began with news disclosures that Governor Rick Scott's administration had inexplicably banned agencies - such as the Department of Environmental Protection - from using the phrases "climate change" and "global warming," despite Florida's vulnerability to rising sea levels attributed to these factors.

The Senate Democrats, however, brought the banished terms front and center in a press conference outlining our legislation tackling these threats to our state, as well as revitalizing our economy with new energy-related jobs. Our bill package includes SB 992 by Sen. Dwight Bullard, which would make solar panels more affordable for low and middle income Floridians, and SB 864 by Sen. Darren Soto, which would enable more Floridians to purchase electric and hydrogen vehicles by exempting them from sales and use taxes.

More information on these and other legislative activities of the Senate Democratic Caucus can be found by going to our website at: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Offices/Minority>



Senate Democrats Press Conference on Environmental Legislation

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MAJOR ISSUES

Republican lawmakers in the Senate Health Policy Committee joined Democrats this week in passing a Medicaid expansion plan. Senate Proposed Bill 7044, which would allow Florida to tap our federal dollars to help almost 1 million uninsured residents access affordable health care, is awaiting further hearings in the Senate. The Republican-controlled House, however, continues to remain obstinately opposed to any such plan.

The "Evacuation Gun Bill" passed in both Senate and House committees this week. SB 290 and HB 493 would allow firearm owners to carry their firearm, in a concealed manner, without concealed-weapons licenses during the first 48 hours after the Governor or a local authority issues a mandatory order of evacuation (state of emergency) if the person is in the act of evacuating. For more information about SB 290 click the link below: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2015/0290>

Committee Assignments

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Vice Chair
Appropriations, Health Policy, Higher Education, Judiciary, Rules
Joint Legislative Budget Commission

WELFARE DRUG TESTING

After spending hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on legal fees, Governor Scott is finally giving up the fight to force welfare applicants to undergo mandatory drug tests. The controversy began shortly after the governor in 2011 signed a law requiring Floridians needing temporary emergency assistance to undergo drug testing. The American Civil Liberties Union successfully challenged the law on behalf of a single father and Navy veteran Luis Lebron, who refused to submit to the test on constitutional grounds. The governor's announcement this month that he is finally ending his court appeals was to me, a reaffirmation that his bias against Floridians unfortunate enough to fall on hard times was at best, a complete waste of taxpayers' dollars, and at worst, a reinforcement of his monarchy-style of governing.

VISITORS TO THE CAPITOL

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, I was inducted into the 2014 Children of Inmates League of Superheroes.



(L-R) Senator Joyner; Aloni Campbell;
Shellie Solomon, Children of Inmates
President

Your Senator,
Arthenia L. Joyner
Serving District 19

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