



## News You Can Use from State Senator Audrey Gibson

2018 Legislative  
Session in Review  
Week 6  
February 12-16, 2018



101 E. Union Street, Suite 104 Jacksonville, FL 32202.

(904) 359-2553

### Dear Constituent and Friend,

Last week in Parkland, FL in Broward County, 17 people were viciously gunned down including 14 children, a teacher and 2 beloved coaches as they went about their day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Jacksonville, a student on the way home from school was shot and seriously injured and just yesterday an innocent 7 year old was shot to death while playing outside as children do. It is past time for our Federal and State Legislators to stand up against gun violence and enact laws that keep people safe. I continue to be on the front line on this issue, including legislation I passed in 2013 that was signed by the Governor and became law ([SB 1000, F.S. 790.065](#)) which prohibits an individual from purchasing firearms who has undergone an involuntary examination under the Baker Act and who has been voluntarily admitted to a mental institution for treatment. To ensure that these individuals are not able to purchase a firearm, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) created the Mental Competency (MECOM) database. Within a month of adjudication or commitment FDLE uploads this information into its background check database which is part of the screening process dealers must check before selling a firearm. The data is also disclosed to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs for purposes of determining eligibility for issuance of a concealed weapons or firearms license and for determining revoking or suspending a previously issued license. Such a person may later petition a court to have the restriction removed. The court may remove the restrictions if, after reviewing the person's mental health record and other evidence, the court determines that the petitioner will not be likely to act in a manner that is dangerous to public safety and that granting the relief would not be contrary to the public interest.

Also below, please find a letter to the Senate President and Speaker of the House to hear [SB 530/HB 231](#) which allows a family member, household member or law enforcement personnel to obtain a court order to temporarily remove a firearm where there is demonstrated evidence that a person poses a significant danger to themselves or others because of a mental health crisis or violent behavior. Further, please find an editorial expressing my dismay at the fact that Republicans in the legislature seem content with the status quo of mass shootings. We should fear more gun deaths than we do solutions to gun violence. I encourage you to raise your voice for solutions.

### Letter to Senate President Negron and Speaker Corcoran:



**SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON**  
5th District

**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, Chair  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Commerce and Tourism  
Judiciary  
Regulated Industries

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Joe Negron  
Senate President  
409 The Capitol  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Richard Corcoran  
Speaker of the House  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear President Negron and Speaker Corcoran,

In light of Wednesday's massacre at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, we must act now and pass meaningful legislation that can address the issue of mass shootings and stop future tragedies. To this end, we are pleading that under your leadership, the Florida House and Senate hold hearings on SB 530/HB 231.

As we have come to know, the 19 year old who ended so many lives, was expelled from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. He was described as a "troubled kid" who enjoyed showing off his firearms and whose mother would resort to calling the police to help with disciplinary issues. Students feared him and mostly stayed away from him. In September, the FBI was warned about a You Tube comment by a person with the same name as the shooter, stating "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

There are numerous accounts and reports that point to the shooter's troubled life. Many saw something but there was no legal mechanism to respond. It is time we give family and friends a process to ensure if they do indeed say something, something can and will be done.

Our bills, SB 530/HB 231, an act relating to Risk Protection Orders, would allow a family member, household member or law enforcement personnel to obtain a court order to temporarily remove a

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405 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (904) 487-6006  
Senate's Website: [www.flhsenate.gov](http://www.flhsenate.gov)

**JOE NEGRON**  
President of the Senate

**ANITERE FLORES**  
President Pro Tempore

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firearm where there is demonstrated evidence that a person poses a significant danger to themselves or others because of a mental health crisis or violent behavior.

California, Oregon, Washington, Connecticut and Indiana all have some form of a risk protection order in place. As the third most populous state in the country it is certainly time we discuss and debate these legislative proposals to curb gun violence. It is also timely to hear from our constituents about their ideas on this matter in a public forum while we are all gathered in Tallahassee.

As one of the survivors of Wednesday's shooting said, "We're children. You guys are the adults." It is time to act and make changes that will save lives. Let us come together as one unified legislative body and not wait another day.

We ask for your favorable consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Senator Audrey Gibson  
District 6

Representative Lori Berman  
District 90

### Solutions Offered to Stem Gun Violence Fall on Deaf Ears:

#### Solutions Offered to Stem Gun Violence Fall on Deaf Ears

I, like many others, offered my thoughts and prayers to yet another community ravaged by gun violence. Both President Trump and Governor Scott offered theirs, noting in their remarks that they are fathers and grandfathers. I, too, am both a mom and a "Mimi."

None of these terms of endearment really matter, though, if as leaders and legislators, we take no action to protect our grandchildren and the children of other moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, mimis, abuelas, abuelos, and all Floridians.

Others in the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus are of similar mindset. We know that "thoughts and prayers" are not enough, and are empty gestures without actions to actually stem the tide of gun violence. Sadly, all of our efforts have fallen on deaf ears this and previous legislative sessions.

Consider two bills filed by Sen. Linda Stewart, SB 196 banning the sale and transfer of assault weapons - filed now for two years in a row - and SB 456, which would ban the sale of bump stocks that convert semi-automatic weapons to automatic, making them capable of killing even more people.

In the Senate, I filed SB 530, along with Representative Lori Berman in the House (HB 231). "Risk Protection Orders" would allow a family member, household member, or law enforcement personnel to obtain a court order to temporarily remove a firearm where there is demonstrated evidence that a person poses a significant danger to themselves or to others because of a mental health crisis or due to violent behavior.

Every one of these bills has two things in common they protect children and families, and they've not been heard in a single committee.

We have 3 weeks still remaining in the 2018 legislative session, ample time to hear not only from the public on keeping our kids safe from gun violence, but to have these bills heard. We should not fear the debate.

--Senator Audrey Gibson  
District 6, Jacksonville

#### Helpful links:

To track specific legislation, you can visit:

[Florida Senate](http://www.flhsenate.gov)

Previous Session in Review updates:

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 4](#)

[Week 5](#)

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed on various issues. If you have questions or comments do not hesitate to contact my office.

**As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!**

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson  
State Senator  
District 6