

# THE BOOK REPORT



## END GUN VIOLENCE

The issues of gun violence and school safety have been at the forefront of my legislative agenda since the massacre at **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** nearly two years ago. This week, I was proud to welcome volunteers from Moms Demand Action to discuss their legislative goals and share how I am fighting for increased safety measures by sponsoring legislation including Alyssa's Law for emergency buttons in schools and Jaime's Law to close background check loopholes – named in honor of Parkland victims Alyssa Alhadeff and Jaime Guttenberg.

This week was also Children's Week at the capitol! **As a child advocate and former classroom teacher, children's rights have also been a hallmark of my legislative agenda.** I proudly chair the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, and we are working to improve quality of life for Florida's most vulnerable.

The final major hallmark of this week in Tallahassee was the advancement of a controversial bill (**SB 404**) which requires parental consent for abortion against the advice of every leading medical organization. This bill is yet another attack on women's' right to choose what is best for themselves and bodily autonomy. In opposition to this bill, I filed several amendments to lessen the amount of barriers young women have to go through in order to get access to care.

## IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TALLAHASSEE

BILL ROUNDUP

IN THE NEWS

WHAT'S NEXT?

# BILL ROUNDUP

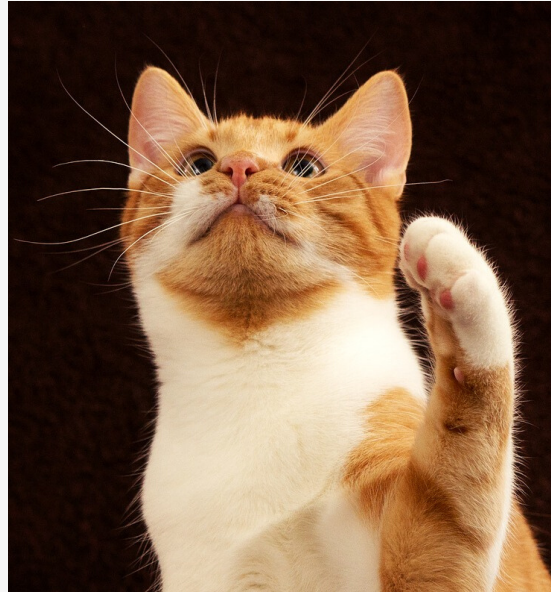
## SB76 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

### CROSS-COUNTRY MOBILITY

Monday January 27th, SB76 passed **favorably** in the Committee on Infrastructure and Security to better the public transportation system for individuals with disabilities, low-income Floridians, the elderly, and the transportation disadvantaged. This bill would require community transportation coordinators to plan for and use **regional fare payment systems**, if available and cost effective. These systems must enhance cross-country mobility to access **employment, health care, education, shopping**, and other sustaining services.



This bill makes several changes to the **Baker Act & Marchman Act** which have not been revised since their enactments. Changes include adding additional individuals under these acts, a shift in court procedures, and filing deadlines based on best practices in psychology and developments in case law..



## SB48 DECLAWING OF CATS HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Tuesday January 28th, SB48 passed **favorably** in the Committee on Agriculture. This bill would **prohibit** a person from **declawing a cat** with disciplinary action being taken by the Board of Veterinary Medicine for those veterinarians that perform the procedure.

## SB 870 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE & RECOVERY

Tuesday Jan 28th, SB870 passed **favorably** in the Committee on Children, Families, Elder Affairs.



# IN THE NEWS

## WUFT PBS

### "Proposed Bill Scratches at Key Cat Issue, Would Ban Declawing"

By Everitt Rosen

## Banning Declawing of Cats

"Cat people are a fierce army," said Senator Book. Currently, the only other state that has made declawing cats illegal is New York, which took legislative action last summer. In Florida's attempt to pass this legislation, opposition has come from pet owners who claim declawing is necessary in order to prevent their cats from shredding curtains or furniture. However, there are methods other than declawing that can help reduce torn up furniture such as the use of scratching posts, sprays, and treats to modify destructive behavior.

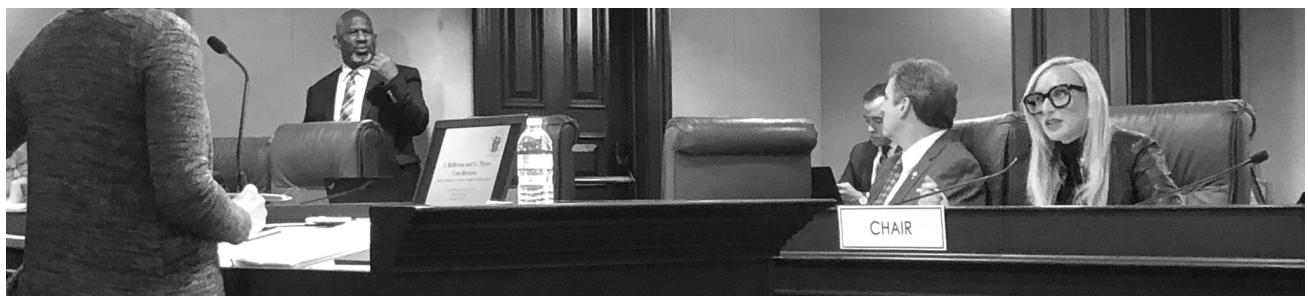
## 10 NEWS

### "Taxing diapers: FL Senator says that stinks for less-fortunate families"

By Dale Greenstein

## Tax Exemption for Diapers

"1 in 3 families report experiencing diaper need," SB54, making diapers tax-exempt, would help lessen the financial burden experienced by low income families. Senator Book explained that, "49% of Florida's children under age three live in low-income families and for these families, the cost of diapers can present impossible choices; should we pay the electric bill or buy diapers?"





# WHAT'S NEXT?

ON THE BILL ROADMAP

## **SB76 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED**

APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION,  
TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

## **SB668 GOVT SPONSORED RECREATION PROGRAMS**

FEBRUARY 3RD AT 1:30 PM  
GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## **SB7000 / REPORTING ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND NEGLECT**

FEBRUARY 3RD AT 1:30 PM  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

