



Florida Senate Democratic Caucus

First Week of 2023 Session: 3/6/2023-3/10/2023

WEEK 1: THE 2023 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

STATE OF THE STATE RESPONSE



[Watch Leader Book's 8:00 rebuttal on YouTube](#)

The Governor addressed lawmakers with his State of the State speech - and Democrats shared their own rebuttals to the misleading narrative he weaved.

One of the themes in Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book's address: let's fight the oppressive legislation together while focusing on REAL safety, affordability, health and justice issues facing Floridians across the state.

(BAD) BILLS, (BAD) BILLS, (BAD) BILLS

Moments before the Governor took the stage to deliver his State of the State speech, Republican lawmakers filed a 6-week abortion ban.

Leader Book released a statement in strong opposition to the bill, saying "If it's a war they want, it's a war they will get".

Leader Book and fellow Senate Democrats also discussed the dangerous abortion ban during the joint House & Senate Democrats Media Avail - you can watch it on [The Florida Channel](#).



SB 150: PERMITLESS CARRY

The Permitless Carry bill passed its final Senate committee – Fiscal Policy. It was approved on a 13-6 vote, with 5 Democrats in attendance voting down on the bill.

There were more than 50 who testified or submitted a testimony card during committee – including members from Moms Demand Action. They met with Senators throughout the day to advocate for gun safety legislation.



Image above: Democratic Leader Pro Tempore Jason Pizzo & Moms Demand activists from his district



SB 102: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

One of the first bills to pass off the Senate floor is a priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo. It passed with bipartisan support. SB 102: Affordable Housing has been described by Democratic Senators as a good first step in dealing with Florida's affordable housing crisis.



DEMOCRATS WORKING FOR YOU

Here's a glance at some of the bills filed by Senate Democrats that were heard in committee during Week 1:

SB 114 Tax Exemption for Diapers & Incontinence Products – Leader Lauren Book – **Creates permanent tax exemptions for diapers & incontinence products**

SB 130 Domestic Violence – Senator Lori Berman – **Expands the list of factors a court must consider when determining if shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to a child**

SB 144 Lactation Spaces – Senator Lori Berman – **Requires each county courthouse to have at least 1 dedicated lactation space**

SB 164 Controlled Substance Testing – Senator Tina Polsky – **Decriminalizes fentanyl test strips**

SB 204 Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care – Senator Darryl Rouson – **Creates a task force to identify why children go missing while in out-of-home care and to ensure prompt & effective action is taken**

SB 226 Support for Dependent Adult Children – Senator Lori Berman – **Specifies procedures to effectuating the common law duty of parents to support a dependent adult child**

SB 286 Legal Instruments – Senator Bobby Powell, Jr. – **Amends laws relating to foreclosures and assignment of rents**

SB 292 Healthy Food Financing Initiative Program – Senator Shevrin Jones – **Makes changes to a state program that provides financial assistance for creating grocery stores in underserved & low-income communities**

SB 506 Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan – Senator Linda Stewart – **Requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan**

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