



Florida Senate Democratic Caucus

Fifth Week of 2023 Session: 4/3/23-4/7/23



Attacks on Health Care

DEBATE AGAINST SB 300: THE 6-WEEK ABORTION BAN

Passed the Senate on a 26-13 vote, heads to the House

"YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT PRIVACY, OR MEDICINE - OR SCIENCE - OR TRUTH - OR EVEN FREEDOM. BECAUSE YOU ARE CHOOSING TO GIVE SACS OF CELLS — A YOLK — MORE RIGHTS THAN LIVING, BREATHING WOMEN AND GIRLS."

LEADER LAUREN BOOK



"I'VE HAD THIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE MYSELF. IT WAS A DECISION I MADE WITH MY SPOUSE AND MY DOCTOR...NO WOMAN SHOULD HAVE TO FEEL ASHAMED BECAUSE SHE DECIDED TO HAVE AN ABORTION."

SENATOR TRACIE DAVIS



"THE SADDEST TRUTH IS THAT SO MANY WOMEN WITH WANTED PREGNANCIES ARE THE ONES WHO ARE IN DANGER THEMSELVES...THESE DOCTORS TESTIFIED AND TOLD US HOW DANGEROUS THIS IS - AND YET WE'RE TYING THEIR HANDS."
SENATOR TINA POLSKY

The Washington Post

POLITICS

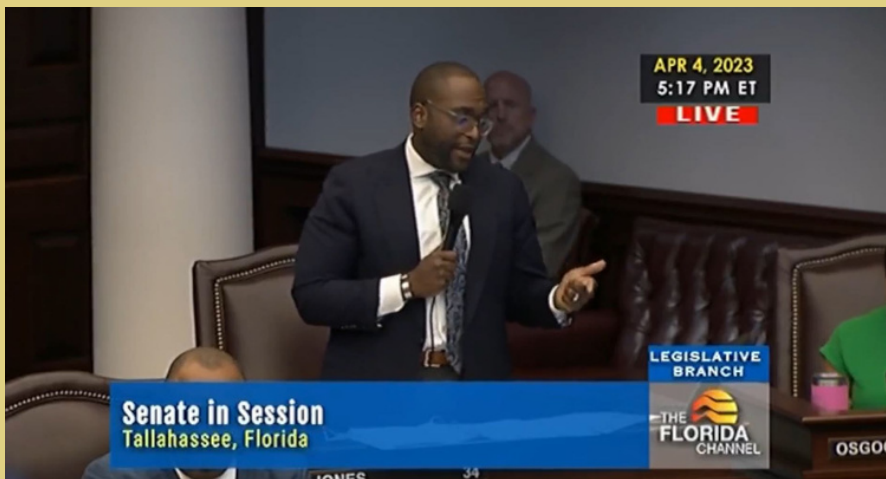
Two friends were denied care after Florida banned abortion. One almost died.

New abortion restrictions have disrupted the standard of care for a pregnancy complication both women experienced late last year



"I have two constituents in my district who are living with the very real consequences of the bill that we passed not a year ago," said Florida state Sen. Lauren Book (D).

SB 254: Gender Affirming Care Ban



- OVERRIDES PARENTAL CHOICE ON TRANS CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN, INCLUDING ALLOWING THE STATE TO TAKE TRANS YOUTH FROM SUPPORTIVE PARENTS
- BANS STATE FUNDS - INCLUDING AT UNIVERSITIES - FROM BEING USED ON TRANS CARE, INCLUDING PUBERTY BLOCKERS, HORMONE THERAPY AND SURGERY

"A QUOTE BY JUDITH LIGHT: YOU KNOW GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER...THEY ARE PEOPLE. AND ALL THEY WANT TO BE IS HUMAN BEINGS."

SENATOR SHEVRIN JONES



Senator Lori Berman
 @loriberman

Free states don't ban healthcare.

And they certainly don't imprison professionals for providing evidence-based, gender affirming healthcare.

5:01 PM · Apr 4, 2023 · 3,179 Views

IN THE HEADLINES: DANGEROUS NEW LAWS & MORE BAD BILLS TO COME

NEWS

Ron DeSantis quietly legalizes carrying concealed weapons without permits

The lack of fanfare around the measure was notable for a governor who regularly holds splashy news conferences and bill-signing ceremonies.

POLITICS

Orlando Sentinel

Religious leaders fear Florida bill could make it a crime to take immigrants to church

By Skyler Swisher and Desiree Stennett
Orlando Sentinel • Apr 07, 2023 at 11:49 am



Senate preps anti-drag show bill for passage despite apparent conflict with existing law

PALM BEACH POST OPINION COLUMN:

Labeling problems 'woke' a whole lot easier than fixing them

SENATOR BOBBY POWELL, JR.

Where President Kennedy appealed to the highest ideals of our great nation, Gov. DeSantis reaches into our darkest chapters and stokes our worst impulses.

“It is in your power to perceive deception, to shut off gimmickry, to reward honesty, to demand legislation where needed,” Kennedy once warned, reminding us that all power derives from the people, if we chose to use it. “Without your approval...no politician can exist.”

Point of View: Labeling problems 'woke' a whole lot easier than fixing them

Bobby Powell

Published 2:48 p.m. ET April 5, 2023 | Updated 3:40 p.m. ET April 5, 2023



This is an opinion piece provided to The Palm Beach Post by a reader. The Post Editorial Board considers which pieces to run, but the opinions in these pieces are solely those of the writer and not those of The Post.

By State Sen. Bobby Powell

On a recent Friday, Gov. Ron DeSantis, quietly and privately signed into law [dramatic and far-reaching changes to Florida's torts law](#) – changes that will drastically limit the ability of Floridians to hold insurance companies and big businesses accountable for injury or harm.

[HB 837](#), which is now in effect, impacts all lines of insurance, and shields corporations from financial responsibility when they ignore their duty to safeguard clients, even allowing juries to blame criminals when deciding negligence.



State Sen. Bobby Powell, D-West Palm Beach. Phil Sears, AP

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. REMEMBRANCE



Senator Darryl Rouson speaking on behalf of the Legislative Black Caucus, ahead of a moment of silence to honor Dr. King

"On the balcony of the Lorraine Motel 55 years ago today – The Dreamer was shot down by hatred and ill contempt for progress and freedom. Thank God they didn't kill The Dream."



The night before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared one of his most powerful speeches in Memphis, Tennessee, where city sanitation workers were striking:

"I don't know what will happen now – we've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life – longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

DEMOCRATIC BILLS ON THE MOVE

Democrats Fighting to Improve Florida's Mental Health System

Three bills by Democratic Senator Darryl Rouson moving through the process seek to improve Florida's behavioral and mental health services and resources:

SB 508 – Problem-Solving Courts

Revises statutes for the state's pre-trial intervention court programs.
Passed the full Senate.

SB 1012 – Certified Peer Specialist Pilot Program

Creates the Certified Peer Specialist Pilot Program to offer inmates a path to becoming certified peer specialists.
Passed its first committee.

SB 1016 – Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Revises several requirements and duties of managing agencies to better deliver behavioral health services
Passed its first committee.



Senator Rouson speaks on the Senate floor.

Here's a glance at other bills filed by Senate Democrats heard in committee during Week 5:

SB 174 – Protection of Specified Personnel – Senator Polsky

Protects justices, judicial assistants, family members, and law enforcement from threats

SB 196– Guidance Services on Academic & Career Planning – Senator Jones

Requires middle schoolers personalized career plans to be developed with a certified school counselor, requires parental notification on high school acceleration options

SB 338 & 340 – Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking – Senator Osgood

Creates, provides funding for, and authorizes the use of the Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking

SB 424 – Time Limitations for Prosecution of Certain Sexual Offenses – Senator Davis

Extends the time allowed for prosecution of first degree or second degree sexual battery

SB 490 & 492 – Family & Household Members of Homicide Victims & Deceased Minors and its Public Records Exemption – Senator Jones

Requires law enforcement to provide contact information to the next of kin for a minor involved in a death investigation

SB 678 – Disposal of Property – Senator Powell

Florida Department of Transportation may convey property to a governmental entity without consideration if the property is to be used for affordable housing

SB 828 – Grand Juries – Senator Polsky

Amends statutes related to disclosure of evidence by a court to include in cases where the disclosure would further a public interest

SB 832 – Holocaust Remembrance Day – Senator Berman

Requires Governor to proclaim January 27 each year as "Holocaust Remembrance Day".

SB 858 – Benefits, Training, and Employment for Veterans and their Spouses – Senator Torres

Establishes the Military Corpsmen and Medics of Florida Program to assist veterans and their spouses

SB 1046 & 1048 – Victims of Reform School Abuse

Provides a process for former students of reform schools who were abused to be certified as victims, provides a public records exemption

SB 1282 – Public Restroom Requirements – Senator Stewart

Requiring the Florida Building Commission adopt certain requirements for public restroom facilities.

SB 1302 – Translation Services – Senator Torres

Authorizes a clerk of the circuit court to provide translation services

SB 1336 – Disposal of Food Waste Materials Study – Senator Polsky

Directs the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study on the disposal of food waste materials

SB 1352 – Medicaid Enrollees with Sickle Cell Disease – Senator Rouson

Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to review if Medicaid enrollees with Sickle Cell Disease are properly covered to meet their needs

SB 1408 – Sickle Cell Program – Senator Davis

Requires the Department of Health to establish a grant program to prevent, care for, and treat sickle cell disease

SB 1440 – Court Proceedings – Senator Book

Authorizes A/V technology for dependency & delinquency proceedings

SB 1538 – Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force – Senator Stewart

Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to monitor and reassess their projects

SB 1564 – Year-round School Pilot Program – Senator Stewart

Directs the Department of Education to conduct a pilot program relating to the cost and benefits of Year-round School

SB 1578 – Florida Children's Initiatives – Senator Thompson

Clarifies and streamlines provisions related to the Department of Children and Families Florida Children's Initiatives

SB 1606 – Florida Museum of Black History – Senator Powell

Creates a Florida Museum of Black History Task Force and requiring the Division of Historical Resources to oversee the construction of a Florida Museum of Black History

SB 1646 – Commercial Service Airport Transparency and Accountability – Senator Davis

Revises legislation enacted in 2020 relating to commercial service airport transparency and accountability

SB 1712 – Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates – Senator Jones

Requires municipalities to charge customers who receive utilities in another municipality the same rates and fees as customers who are inside its municipality

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DEAR FLORIDA.

AS DEMOCRATS AND FLORIDIANS. WE'RE SICK OF THE CULTURE WARS BEING PLAYED OUT DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT YOUR EXPENSE.

WHILE WE CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS & FREEDOMS - WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK:

WHAT ARE THE REAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU DAILY? ANYTHING WE CAN HELP WITH?

SHARE WITH US AT HELP@DEARFLORIDADEMS.COM.

TALK TO YOU SOON.

FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS



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