



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate Democratic Leader Lori Berman Condemns Removal of Pulse Memorial Crosswalk

Tallahassee, FL — Last night, the Florida Department of Transportation removed the rainbow crosswalk from the Pulse Memorial in Orlando. In response, **Senate Democratic Leader Lori Berman** has issued the following statement:

“The rainbow crosswalk at Pulse was a tribute, not a political statement — and a tribute authorized by a Republican administration, at that. It was specifically designed to enhance pedestrian safety for people paying their respects. Removing that crosswalk was a mean-spirited attempt to demoralize the LGBTQ+ community and an insult to the 49 people who lost their lives there nearly a decade ago. I join Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith in condemnation of this unnecessary betrayal of their memory.

“Wasting taxpayer dollars on politically charged stunts is what I’ve unfortunately come to expect from the administration that brought us the Hope Florida scandal. If they think this is what Floridians expect from their government, they’re even more out of touch than I thought.”

Regarding the larger efforts to remove rainbow imagery across the state, **Leader Berman** added:

“The actions taken by the DeSantis administration fly in the face of home rule. In my own district, the City of Delray Beach is fighting back against government overreach, and I fully support their efforts to make their own choices about what happens in their city limits. Surely there’s something better our state agencies could be doing with their time.”

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