



The Sharief Brief

Issue I

Senator Dr. Barbara Sharief
District 35



January 12th, 2026

I was joined by Rep. Bartleman (District 103), families, and advocates to center the voices behind SB 42—legislation that strengthens medical expertise and fair process in child protective investigations when certain medical conditions may be misinterpreted as abuse.



At the press conference, Tasha Patterson, Leigh Crutch, and Terri Weilde shared powerful firsthand experiences. During the committee hearing, Diana Sullivan and Sara Mischler also offered compelling testimony. Laura-Lee Minutello of Disability Rights Florida, Bradley Fee of Grace for the Children, Sherry Chapman, and Cynthia Smith spoke in support of SB 42. Collectively, their testimony highlighted why SB 42 matters: decisions should be guided by qualified medical expertise, and families must have a fair opportunity to pursue additional evaluation when appropriate.

January, 21th, 2026

In the Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, I presented SB 32 and SB 210, and I'm pleased to share that both bills passed favorably.

SB 32 clarifies key definitions and creates a clear cause of action for individuals seeking an injunction for protection in cases of serious violence by a known person, while strengthening how these injunctions are processed, served, and enforced

SB 210 is the related public records measure, protecting identifying information in these petitions until a respondent is served and exempting certain dismissed petitions from disclosure to help safeguard safety and reputations.



January 21st, 2026

FSU Day at the Capitol was a great opportunity to welcome students, alumni, and advocates highlighting Florida State University's impact across our state.

Higher education is a key driver of workforce development and opportunity, and I appreciated connecting with so many Floridians helping shape the future.

I also had the chance to meet FSU's mascot, Renegade, during the day's events.



January, 15th, 2026

Alpha Kappa Alpha Founders' Day is a meaningful chance to celebrate Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and the enduring legacy of sisterhood, scholarship, and service.

Alongside fellow sorors, the day honored our history and reaffirmed a shared commitment to uplifting communities through purposeful leadership and impact



January 21th, 2026

Met with the Broward, Palm Beaches & St. Lucie REALTORS® to talk about housing affordability, availability, and the challenges facing working families in our area.

Their perspective is important as we continue advancing policies that expand opportunity and strengthen our communities.



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