



STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

Proudly Serving District 14 ~ Portions of Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties

2015 Legislative Session Newsletter

April 2015

Florida Health Insurance Exchange



I am pleased to announce that the Florida Senate passed the Florida Health Insurance Exchange in its 2015 Budget under the leadership of our Senate President Andy Gardiner. This will provide private healthcare coverage to nearly 1 million Floridians with minimal premiums, draw down over \$5 Billion in our federal tax dollars per year, and close the 2015 deficit.

Budget Items

I have had a busy session so far pushing for numerous budget items including \$25 Million for Sensor Research Park in Osceola to create more high paying jobs, \$11 Million for a new Valencia Poinciana Campus to provide more higher education opportunities, \$1 Million for Lake Toho Restoration Project to increase water quality and supply and \$250,000 for Cattle Research to help our ranches thrive!

Kissimmee River Restoration



It is key to respect the will of the voters on Amendment 1 and use these funds to acquire sensitive conservation lands. I worked along with Senator Thad Altman and the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus to increase Florida Forever funding from \$2 Million to \$35 Million through Amendments to the 2015 Senate Budget. We also have \$20 Million for our Kissimmee River Restoration. While we need a greater investment still, this is a good start as we go into budget negotiations with

the Florida House.

Darren and His Wife Amanda at Opening Session



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