

THE BOOK REPORT



MAKING HEALTHY CHANGE

This week I met with individuals from the **Memorial Healthcare System** which is one of the largest public healthcare systems in the United States and provides medical services to those I represent in District 32.

To empower this group to continue providing life-saving services to those in need, I have sponsored two **appropriations projects** that would help fund new innovative healthcare programs. It is a privilege to represent the taxpayers of both hospital districts of South Broward operating as **Memorial Health Care** systems and the North Broward hospital district operating as **Broward Health**.

The first of these programs is **Memorial's TAP Program** which stands for **telehealth access for patients**. This program is designed to expand telemedicine services that would address complex health and social needs of **Broward County's homeless population**.

The goal is to provide more effective, quality care for individuals in community settings to alleviate **inappropriate resource utilization, reduce costly emergency services, and avoid ER overcrowding and long hospital stays**.

The second of these programs is **Memorial's MAT-CE Program** which stands for **Medication Assisted Treatment - Community Expansion**. This program would address the opioid epidemic in South Florida by decreasing the number of opioid-related overdoses, fatalities, and neonates born free of illicit substances. Funds would be used for the lease and renovation of a 3,000 square foot **Same-Day Comprehensive Addiction Treatment Facility**.

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HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

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BILL ROUNDUP

SB7000 REPORTING ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND NEGLECT

CENTRAL ABUSE HOTLINE

Monday February 3rd, **SB7000** passed **favorably** in the Committee on Education to better the policies and procedures on reporting abuse, abandonment, and neglect. This bill would bring **responsibility** upon **child protective investigators** relating to animal abuse and neglect. A new section of the FL Statutes would recognize the **strong link between child abuse and animal abuse**.

For an **educator** that fails to report known or suspected child abuse, they could expect a suspension of their certificate.



SB668 GOVT-SPONSORED RECREATION PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Monday February 3rd, **SB668** passed **favorably** in the Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability. This bill allows school districts to create and operate **recreation programs** for children age 5 or older and requires that there be staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, health & safety standards, and background screenings.

SB58 PRESCRIPTION DRUG DONATION PROGRAM

LOCAL REPOSITORIES

Thursday, February 6th, SB58 passed **favorably** in the Committee on Appropriations. SB 58, allows certain **unused, costly drugs** to be

donated for use by **low-income Floridians** who would otherwise not be able to afford this life-saving medications.





IN THE NEWS

Tallahassee Democrat

"Lauren's Kids makes another lap in FL for 42 million survivors of child sex abuse"

By Tori Lynn Schneider

Lauren's Kids 42 Hour Event

The FL Capital Advocacy Walk-A-Thon

The annual walk helps raise awareness for the **42 million survivors of child sexual abuse** by bringing stories of survival to the doorstep of Florida's legislators and policy makers. Senate President-Designate **Wilton Simpson** helped kick off the event by declaring that "Florida is committed to being a state that **protects children and families**, and that **punishes predators** within the fullest extent of the law".

WFSU News

"Proposal Requiring Child & Animal Abuse Investigators to Work Together Heads to Senate Floor"

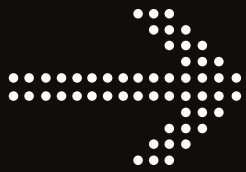
By Robbie Gaffney

Preventing Child Abuse

Cross reporting between agencies will help

SB7000 requires that any animal control officer who suspects **child abuse** report it to the Department of Children and Families. The State Director of the Humane Society spoke at the committee meeting, noting that "the sexual abuse of animals is the number one predictor for the sexual abuse of children".





WHAT'S NEXT?

ON THE BILL ROADMAP

SB 1628 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

FEB 10TH AT 1:30 PM
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH POLICY

SB1644 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

FEB 10TH AT 1:30 PM
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

SB54 DIAPER TAX

FEB 11 10:00 AM
COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE & TOURISM

