



## Good Morning!

It was a great week in District 17. I had the opportunity to meet with constituents and speak at the Republican Women of Indian River Meeting.

Tomorrow I will be traveling to the State Capitol for the first week of Interim Committee hearings for the 2020 Legislative Session. I'm looking forward to serving another year on the following Senate Committees:

- Chair - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government
- Vice Chair - Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
- Appropriations
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Health Policy



Please visit the [Florida Senate website](#) to view the published Calendar. The calendar includes this week's schedule and 2020 session dates. You may also tune in to watch committee meetings live on [The Florida Channel](#).

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

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## High Speed Passenger Rail

This past week, I joined Senator Gayle Harrell at the Florida Alliance for Safe Trains Press Conference in Port St. Lucie. In the near future the expansion of Virgin Trains, formerly known as Brightline, high speed passenger rail is expected to begin construction in Brevard and Indian River Counties. With more than 25 deaths involving Virgin Trains over the past 20 months, I feel that it is urgent that we pass legislation to protect our communities.

During the 2018 Legislative Session, I requested the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to contract a study to examine existing and planned passenger rail operations, including a high speed passenger rail in this state, and submit a report to legislature.

The Florida Passenger Rail System Study, conducted by CPCS Transcom Inc revealed the following key issues with passenger rail systems in the State of Florida:

- There is a high rate of severe injuries, fatalities and high levels of trespassing incidents on most railroad's right-of-way due to rail services operating in dense urban areas.
- There are gaps in federal and state regulations governing higher-speed rail.
- The need to clarify Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) mandate on oversight of passenger rail with respect to maintenance, safety, revitalization, and expansion.
- The lack of resources for local governments for planning rail projects.

The Study went on to recommend the following policy improvements be made:

- Create a review process to certify new passenger rail lines.
- Set minimum grade crossing design standards.
- Set requirements for fencing along railroad corridors.
- Create guidelines for sealed corridor treatment along railroad corridors.
- Develop a methodology for analytically evaluating grade crossing closures.

I will be introducing legislation in the upcoming session that will address these gaps in regulation to improve safety for the citizens and visitors of Florida.

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## Drug Importation Program

Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) officially submitted its concept paper to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Florida's Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program.

In June, Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 19 into law establishing the Program within AHCA, the chief health policy and planning entity for the State of Florida. The purpose of the Program is to facilitate the commercial importation of prescription drugs into Florida from approved Canadian suppliers. The list of prescription drugs that are imported under the Program must have the greatest potential for savings to the State. House Bill 19 allows the importation of drugs that meet the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards related to safety, effectiveness, branding, and quality.

*"Floridians have been paying intolerably high prices for prescription drugs in Florida for too long," said Governor DeSantis. "Two months after signing Florida's Prescription Drug Importation Program into law, I am pleased to announce that our state is one step closer to realizing true cost savings on safe, high quality prescription drugs from Canada. I thank Secretary Mayhew for prioritizing this concept paper and moving us closer to implementing Florida's Program. I commend President Trump for his commitment to this effort and his clear direction to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expedite a pathway for the safe importation of prescription drugs."*

The [concept paper](#) is a model to inform HHS as they develop rules in line with President Trump's recent directives on the importation of prescription drugs.

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## District 17 Highlights

### Space Coast Economic Development Commission

This past week I was honored to receive the 2019 Manufacturing Champion Award from the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) Regional Manufacturing Association (MASC). I am proud to support valuable workforce education programs and hands-on learning opportunities.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature expanded educational opportunities for Floridians by passing HB 7071 to promote apprenticeships and increase career opportunities. The Brevard Delegation was also successful in securing funding for local workforce development programs to help meet the critical demand for high-skilled, high-wage labor. This includes \$500,000 for Astronaut High School's New Welding Technology Program; \$100,000 for Cocoa High School's New Construction Program; and \$350,000 for the EDC's Talent Asset Pipeline.

The EDC is a countywide, not-for-profit partnership between the Brevard County Commission and the Space Coast business community. The EDC works to attract new business and expand existing industry throughout the Space Coast, while also supporting efforts of local military installations.

With more than 500 manufacturers calling Brevard County their home, the EDC Regional Manufacturing Association serves as the succinct voice for Brevard County's robust and diverse manufacturing base through action oriented efforts.

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### FDOT Public Meeting: US 1 Corridor Planning Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the US 1 Corridor Planning Study from Pineda Causeway to Park Avenue in Brevard County.

FDOT Public Meeting: US 1 Corridor Planning Study  
Thursday, September 19, 2019  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
City of Rockledge Council Chambers  
1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge

The corridor planning study process is evaluating both the short and long term transportation needs of the US 1 corridor including intersection improvements, roadway widening, safety, and the addition of bicyclist and pedestrian features.

The meeting will be an informal open house format, during which attendees may view project information, speak with FDOT team members to learn more about the project and provide input. Information about this project is also available online at [www.cflroads.com](http://www.cflroads.com). Simply type 433604-1 in the search box, click "go" and then select the project.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jesse Blouin at (407) 971-8850 or email [jblouin@inwoodinc.com](mailto:jblouin@inwoodinc.com).

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## Big Brothers Big Sisters

I had the opportunity to meet with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBS) this past week, and was honored to be presented with their 2019 Legislative Champion Award.

I am proud that during the 2019 Legislative Session, Representative Erin Grall and I were able to secure \$250,000 for the BBBS School to Work Program. This program helps at risk students in Indian River County graduate and transition into the work place through partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

Big Brothers Big Sisters pairs a child with a role model, to help build positive one-on-one relationships that can have a lasting and direct impact on the lives of our youth. To learn more about BBBS programs or how you can become a mentor, please visit [BBBSBigs.org](http://BBBSBigs.org).

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