



It has been a busy few weeks in the Florida Legislature since my last update. My team and I are working hard to pass bills that will positively impact the everyday people in every home, neighborhood, and community. You can track my bills on the Florida Senate webpage [here!](#)

As always, it is a great honor to serve and represent you and the members of District 8. Share this newsletter with your friends and family so that they too can stay informed with our community updates, district-wide achievements, and future legislation.



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COMMUNITY UPDATES

ALACHUA COUNTY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Alachua County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is a Federal Grant which is intended to assist households who are unable to pay, or are having difficulty paying rent and/or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program can assist eligible households with the payment of late rent and/or utilities and may also assist with the payment of rent in advance.

NOTE: Much of the correspondence for this assistance program is via AlachuaERAPhelp@alachuacounty.us Please check your spam email



folder if you have not received any emails.

Eligibility criteria for BOTH Tenant AND Landlord are outlined [here](#). Before proceeding, it is recommended that both parties discuss and agree that they are both willing and able to proceed and that both will complete the online application, provide all required items, and abide by all required terms.

CAR-B-QUE FOR A CAUSE



The Gary Sinise Foundation is hosting a car-b-que to help support service members, veterans, first responders, and their families all over the world. Their mission is to provide a more targeted approach to ensuring our nation's heroes and their loved ones are met with the right resources and services. The car-b-que will have amazing cars, great food, 50/50 drawing, and raffle prizes. You can read more details about this event [here](#).

WHAT: Car-B-Que for a Cause

WHEN: March 20th at 10 a.m.

WHERE: The Garden Worship Center
12740 SE County Road 484, Belleview

Virtual Mobile Office Hours

The Office of Senator Marco Rubio



Tuesday, March 23, 2021

**Alachua County Chamber of Commerce
1:00pm – 5:00pm**

Virtually meet your local staff and learn about the services Senator Rubio's Office can offer his constituents via Skype Video Chat including in areas such as:

Child Support; Domestic Violence; Identity Theft and other Victim/Crime Related Resources; Questions on Sealing or Expunging a Criminal Record and Community Concerns as well as:



IMMIGRATION



MILITARY/VA



MEDICARE



SOCIAL SECURITY



IRS/BANKING



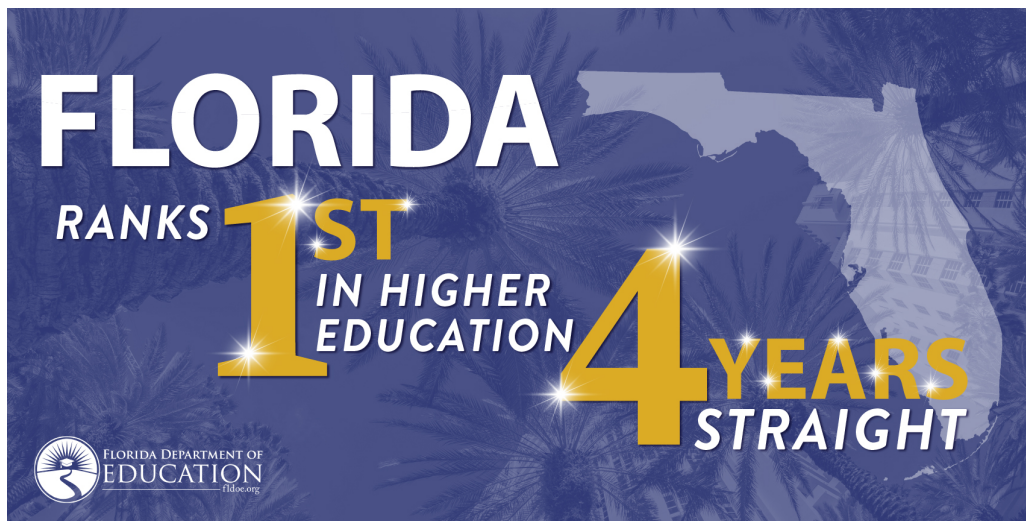
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

This is an official event conducted by the Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio.

Register for this online event [here!](#)

STATEWIDE UPDATES

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION UPDATE**



I am proud to see that Florida ranks #1 in higher education over the last four years! Florida's teachers, students, staff, and faculty put forth so much time and energy into the betterment of our education system and the development of our future leaders. I am excited to see the outcome of Florida's higher education system for years to come. Keep up the hard work!



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Federal Stimulus Budget Recommendations

The federal stimulus package provides \$1.9 trillion in new spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act includes “Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds,” which provides \$195.3 billion to the States and the District of Columbia.

The Governor’s recommendations include providing assistance to Floridians in need, and making major investments in critical areas such as infrastructure, education, and workforce development to continue Florida’s rapid economic recovery. Governor DeSantis’

budget recommendations to the Florida Legislature regarding the use of these federal funds are listed below:

Providing Assistance to Floridians

- \$208.4 Million (FY 20-21) – Direct Payments to Pandemic First Responders
- \$73.2 Million (FY 21-22) – Re-Employment Assistance Modernization
- \$56.6 Million (FY 21-22) – Re-Employment Assistance Operations
- \$72 Million (FY 21-22) – Behavioral Health System Modernization

Promoting Economic Development and Recovery

- \$258.2 Million (FY 20-21) – Relief for Florida’s Seaports
- \$150 Million (FY 21-22) – Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
- \$50 Million (FY 21-22) – VISIT FLORIDA
- \$50 Million (FY 21-22) – Economic Development Transportation Fund

Investing in Infrastructure, Resiliency and Readiness

- \$938.4 Million (FY 20-21) – Transportation Work Program
- \$1 Billion (FY 21-22) – Resilient Florida Grant Program
- \$1 Billion (FY 21-22) – Emergency Management Response Fund
- \$41.7 Million (FY 21-22) – Florida National Guard Expansion

Workforce Training and Research

- \$125 Million (FY 21-22) – Education and Employment Training Program
- \$60 Million (FY 21-22) – Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grants
- \$10 Million (FY 21-22) – Alzheimer’s Disease Research Program

The Governor’s recommendations total \$4.1 billion, of which \$1.4 billion is recommended for immediate use during the current fiscal

year. The Governor is not recommending the appropriation of the full anticipated state allocation, and instead is requesting the Legislature leave a portion of the funds aside to evaluate Florida's economic recovery throughout the year and make additional targeted appropriations at a later time.

See the Governor's letter outlining his recommendations: [HERE](#).

A spreadsheet of proposed appropriations and other details can be found [HERE](#).

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

ECONOMIC REPORT JANUARY 2021

4.8% FLORIDA'S
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**NINE CONSECUTIVE
MONTHS OF JOB GROWTH**

**FROM APRIL 2020 TO JANUARY
2021, FLORIDA HAS GAINED
714,900 PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

SENATOR KEITH PERRY

BILLS PASSED THIS WEEK



COMMITTEE STOPS

- SB 1850 Electronic Threats
 - Favorable by Senate Criminal Justice Committee
- SB 284 Building Designs
 - Favorable by Senate Community Affairs Committee
- SB 622 Liens and Bonds
 - Favorable by Senate Government Oversight Committee
- SB 286 Fire Sprinklers
 - Favorable by Senate Rules Committee
- SB 496 Growth Management
 - Favorable by Senate Judiciary Committee

SENATE FLOOR

- SB 380 Child Restraint Requirements
 - Passed the Senate Floor Vote
- SB 530 NonOpioid Alternatives
 - Passed the Senate Floor Vote

DISTRICT 8: ALACHUA COUNTY, PUTNAM COUNTY, NORTH MARION COUNTY

SB 530 NONOPIOID ALTERNATIVES

We have seen far too many of our loved ones fall victim to addictions, including opioids. This year, I have proposed legislation that will allow physicians to educate patients about alternative options for opioids via hardcopy or electronic materials. Senate Bill 530 (Nonopioid Alternatives) will require health care practitioners, who prescribe or order opioid drugs, to

inform the patient or the patient's representative of available nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of pain. In addition, the practitioner must discuss the advantages and disadvantages of nonopioid alternatives and provide an educational pamphlet in an electronic or printed form.

Growing up in the 1970's, I have witnessed numerous individuals fall victim to the opioid epidemic. Some of these people suffered from addiction, incarceration, or have passed away. I made the pledge long-ago to help those who have suffered from this awful disease. Since the late 1990's I have been involved with many drug and rehabilitation organizations in my community. I was the founding president of House of Hope in Gainesville, a transitional home for men and women recently released from prison. At House of Hope, I had the privilege of working closely with recently incarcerated people who wanted to put in the work to better themselves and contribute to society.

This led me to seek proactive and long-term solutions to fight the opioid crisis. I recently became a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures's 2021 Opioid Policy Fellows Program. This program allows state legislators from across the country to work together on health policies and programs. The fellowship will include 20 to 25 legislators who have been chosen to discuss strengthening prescription drug monitoring programs, developing prescribing guidelines, increasing naloxone access, and supporting access to treatment and recovery services.

It is important that we continue to bring awareness to the impacts of addiction and overdose issues in our communities. Oftentimes, these opioid addictions are formed by patients recovering from first-time injuries who may have not known they had other options. I am proposing an electronic OR printed copy of an educational pamphlet be provided to patients to keep up with evolving technology and telemedicine practices. This legislation will allow patients to be better informed on available medicines and alternatives to opioids. SB 530 will allow patients to be better educated about how dangerous these drugs can be and will help increase access to alternative pain solutions and prevention strategies for opioid addiction.

Click [here](#) to see SB 530 Full Bill Text.

NEWSWORTHY

SENATOR KEITH PERRY IN THE NEWS

- [Takeaways from Tallahassee: Senator Keith Perry](#)
- [Legislation would raise car seat age to six-years-old](#)
- [Republican Florida lawmaker calls for criminal justice reform with bills up for consideration this legislative session](#)

Do you have events, accomplishments, or local news that you wish to share with members in District 8?

Please email your submissions to Perry.Keith.Web@flsenate.gov

It's an honor to represent you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for your continued support, input, and patience as we work together to make lasting impacts in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, concerns, or thoughts at any time. We are here for you!

Sincerely,



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[Florida Senate](#)



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