



From the desk of Senator Barbara Sharief



A Senator on a Mission

2025 Legislative Update
March 31 - April 4

District 35

Cooper City Davie Hollywood Miramar Pembroke Pines Southwest Ranches Sunrise Weston

Dear Constituents,

This week, I brought SB 304 before the Rules Committee for consideration. With this final committee hearing complete, the bill now advances to the Senate floor. I'm proud to share that it passed with unanimous support! SB 304 is critical legislation designed to restore public confidence in family and criminal court proceedings involving the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This bill seeks to mend the gaps in Florida's child abuse investigation procedures that can fail to consider infants and young children with pre-existing genetic conditions. SB 304 ensures that child protection investigators take time to rule out certain diseases such as Rickets, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, and Vitamin D deficiency in reported cases of child abuse. This legislation isn't about weakening child protection, it's about strengthening it with accuracy, compassion, and medical integrity.

Additionally, I presented another bill, SB 306, in the Health Policy Committee. It also passed unanimously and is now moving forward to its next committee stop in the Florida Senate. SB 306 addresses a long-standing problem in the state's managed care system, which limits access to providers due to overly restrictive networks. Currently, enrollees may face long waits or travel unreasonable distances just to access basic healthcare. This disproportionately affects rural residents, low-income families, and those with chronic or complex medical needs. Denying timely access leads to worsened health conditions, more costly interventions down the line, and avoidable strain on emergency services. SB 306 expands access to care while maintaining cost control, preserving the integrity of the managed care structure. At the same time, it strengthens patient rights and access without disrupting existing systems. It advances health equity by improving care availability in all communities.



Legislative Update

Introduced:

- **S 304 – Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations**
Prohibits child protective investigators from relying solely on specific medical diagnoses when determining abuse or neglect.
- **S 306 – Managed Care Plan Network Access**
Aims to improve access to healthcare providers in managed care plans by revising network adequacy requirements.
- **S 308 – Injunctions for Protection in Cases of Repeat or Serious Violence**
Strengthens legal protections for victims by updating the process and criteria for injunctions in cases of repeat or serious violence.
- **S 370 – Health Screenings for K-12 Students**
Expands or updates requirements for health screenings in Florida's public schools to support student well-being.
- **S 1222 – Rate Standards for Property Insurers**
Revises standards for setting property insurance rates, likely addressing affordability and risk factors.
- **S 1312 – Crimes Evidencing Prejudice**
Updates Florida's hate crime statutes to expand protections and enhance penalties for bias-motivated crimes.
- **S 1314 – Public Records/Criminal Acts that Evidence Prejudice**
Exempts from public disclosure certain information related to hate crimes, possibly to protect victim privacy.
- **S 1482 – Education on Abusive Head Trauma**
Requires educational programs on the prevention of abusive head trauma, such as shaken baby syndrome, especially for new parents and caregivers.
- **S 1636 – Nurse Registries**
Modifies regulations governing nurse registries, potentially addressing staffing, licensing, or operational standards.

Co-introduced:

- **S 152 – Protection from Surgical Smoke**
Requires hospitals and surgical centers to implement smoke evacuation systems during procedures that generate surgical smoke.
- **S 208 – Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote**
Proposes Florida join a multistate compact to elect the U.S. President by national popular vote.
- **S 274 – Transportation Facility Designations**
Designates portions of roads as “Harris Rosen Way” and “Geraldine Thompson Way.”
- **S 398 – Awareness Program for Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia-related Disorders**
Establishes a program to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s and related disorders.
- **S 412 – Repair of Motorized Wheelchairs**
Aims to ensure timely repair of motorized wheelchairs for individuals who rely on them.
- **S 566 – Patient-directed Medical Orders**
Provides a legal framework for patients to direct medical orders in advance.
- **S 620 – Specialty License Plates/Miami Dade College and St. Petersburg College**
Authorizes creation of specialty license plates to benefit Miami Dade College and St. Petersburg College.
- **S 924 – Coverage for Fertility Preservation Services**
Requires insurance plans to cover fertility preservation services for patients undergoing medical treatments that may cause infertility.
- **S 1212 – Firefighter Health and Safety**
Enhances health and safety protections for firefighters, possibly including cancer prevention measures.
- **S 1286 – Harming or Neglecting Children**
Increases penalties and protections related to child abuse, neglect, and endangerment.
- **S 1582 – Elections**
Proposes revisions to Florida’s election laws, potentially regarding voting procedures or administration.
- **S 1736 – Insulin Administration by Direct-support Professionals and Relatives**
Permits trained non-medical personnel and family members to administer insulin in certain settings.
- **S 1740 – Insurance**
Proposes changes to insurance regulations, likely affecting coverage or company practices.
- **S 1856 – Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Senator Geraldine F. “Geri” Thompson**
Honors the contributions and memory of the late Senator Geraldine F. “Geri” Thompson.
- **S 7008 – OGSR/Financial Technology Sandbox**
Revises the public records exemption for the Financial Technology Sandbox to ensure regulatory confidentiality.



The Black Student Union at FSU visited the Florida Capitol this week. We had a great conversation about what it's like to serve as a State Senator and my journey to the Florida Senate. It was incredible to see and hear from so many inspiring young leaders!

During this week's session, I had the opportunity to consider several impactful bills, but I want to specifically highlight Senator Simon's SB 166, Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools. This bill focuses on increasing administrative efficiency in public schools. It revises or eliminates various statutory requirements for school districts, including changes to internal auditing mandates, reporting protocols, assessment schedules, and educational facilities planning. I voted yes on this bill as I believe that there is too much emphasis placed on standardized testing rather than the actual abilities of a child. As a mother of three, I believe this bill will enhance our education system by easing the pressure on students and offering better support to those who face challenges with standardized testing—while also reinforcing the vital role of our teachers.



I remain deeply committed to serving the residents of District 35 throughout this legislative session. Every action I take is driven by a clear purpose—to champion our community's interests and make sure our voices are heard. I'm proud to continue this work as a Senator on a Mission.

Dr. Barbara Sharief

Senator Dr. Barbara Sharief



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