

regions in voting and becoming the first player in Indiana University history to receive the award, and

WHEREAS, Fernando Mendoza is the first Cuban American and the third Latino to win the Heisman Memorial Trophy, marking a milestone for Cuban-American and Latino athletes in college sports, and

WHEREAS, Fernando Mendoza's achievements have brought national recognition to Indiana University and his hometown of Miami and serve as an inspiration to young athletes, particularly in the Cuban-American and Latino communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:*

That the Florida Senate recognizes the outstanding performance of Indiana University quarterback Fernando Mendoza during the 2025 football season and congratulates him on his election as the 91st recipient of the Heisman Memorial Trophy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Fernando Mendoza as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

—was introduced, read, and adopted by publication.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE RELATING TO EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Honorable Ben Albritton  
President, The Florida Senate  
Suite 409, The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

March 10, 2026

Dear President Albritton:

The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

### *Office and Appointment* *For Term Ending*

State Board of Education		
Appointees:	Christie, Grazie	12/31/2029
	Fuste, Luis M.	12/31/2029

Public Employees Relations Commission		
Appointee:	Sasso, Michael Adam	01/01/2030

The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

### *Office and Appointment* *For Term Ending*

Board of Pilot Commissioners		
Appointee:	Gramling, James Patrick	10/31/2028

Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District		
Appointees:	Morgan, Tom	03/01/2027
	Roberts, George A.	03/01/2030

Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District		
Appointees:	Roman, Charlette I.	03/01/2029
	Spottswood, Robert A., Jr.	03/01/2030

Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District		
Appointee:	Aungst, Brian J., Jr.	03/01/2030

The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the

Rules of the Florida Senate:

### *Office and Appointment*

Board of Trustees of Broward College		
Appointees:	Yarbrough, Alexis M.	05/31/2029
	Zanotti-Cavazzoni Riera, Mario Luis	05/31/2026

Board of Trustees of Chipola College		
Appointees:	Lassmann, Thomas S.	05/31/2027
	Young, Sherry	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of The College of the Florida Keys		
Appointees:	Batty, Peter Edward	05/31/2029
	Broton, Robert Michael	05/31/2028
	Downer, Michael J.	05/31/2027
	Kertis, Edward John, Jr.	05/31/2028

Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College		
Appointee:	Bunch, Stephen M.	05/31/2027

Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade College		
Appointee:	Smith, David	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of Palm Beach State College		
Appointee:	Kerner, David M.	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of Pasco-Hernando State College		
Appointee:	Collura, Gino	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College		
Appointees:	Holzknicht, Richard A.	05/31/2027
	Leonard, Todd C.	05/31/2029
	Locklin, Oscar J.	05/31/2026
	McDonald, Audrey Michele	05/31/2027
	Tippett, Troy	05/31/2026

Board of Trustees of Polk State College		
Appointees:	Davis, Kyle Wayne	05/31/2029
	Ross, Cynthia Hartley	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College		
Appointees:	Butts, Jason	05/31/2027
	Cole, Katherine E.	05/31/2029
	Kidwell, Thomas	05/31/2027
	Marolf, Danielle	05/31/2026

Board of Trustees of Tallahassee State College		
Appointees:	Bayliss, Sara	05/31/2026
	Rees, Jonathan Jeffrey	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees of Valencia College		
Appointees:	Davis, John F.	05/31/2029
	Milligan, Sean P.	05/31/2026
	Pullum, Frederick G.	05/31/2027
	Sasso, Michael Adam	05/31/2029

Board of Trustees, Florida A & M University		
Appointees:	Figgers, Natlie G.	01/06/2031
	Harris, Roderick	01/06/2031
	Jones, Kenneth P.	01/06/2031
	Shah, Prerak	01/06/2031
	Vazquez, Raphael	01/06/2030
	White, Michael David, II	01/06/2031

Board of Trustees, Florida Atlantic University		
Appointees:	Bussani, Piero	01/06/2031
	Mersch, Thomas F., Jr.	01/06/2031
	Stoch, Linda	01/06/2031

Board of Trustees, University of Central Florida		
Appointees:	Condello, Jeffrey	01/06/2031
	Martins, Alexander	01/06/2031
	Miklos, John A.	01/06/2031

Board of Trustees, Florida State University		
Appointees:	Alvarez, Maximo	01/06/2031
	de las Cuevas-Diaz, Vivian	01/06/2031

<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>	<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
Gonzalez, Jorge	01/06/2031		
Roth, Justin	01/06/2031	State Board of Education	
Board of Trustees, Florida Gulf Coast University		Appointees: Collins, Layla	12/31/2028
Appointees: Drzymala, James	01/06/2031	Fritz-Ochs, Erika Dawn	12/31/2029
Fogg, Joseph G., III	01/06/2031	The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:	
Perry, Sarah Parshall	01/06/2030		
Rommel, Robert G.	01/06/2031		
VanOort, Douglas M.	01/06/2031		
Youngquist, Sandra Stilwell	01/06/2031		
Board of Trustees, Florida International University		<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
Appointees: Gonzalez, Alan	01/06/2031	Director and Chief Judge, Division of Administrative Hearings	
McDowell, W. Patrick	01/06/2031	Appointee: Schwartz, Darren A.	Pleasure of Governor
Voccola, Fred	01/06/2028		
Yakubov, Yaffa	01/06/2031		
Board of Trustees, New College of Florida		Florida Commission on Community Service	
Appointees: Bauerlein, Mark	01/06/2031	Appointees: Brodeur, Christina	09/14/2028
Jenks, Debra A.	01/06/2031	Cardoch, Lynette	09/14/2027
Meyer, Urban F.	01/06/2031	Edwards, Stefanie Ink	09/14/2028
Patterson, Donald	01/06/2031	Flury, Michael	09/14/2027
Board of Trustees, Florida Polytechnic University		Goff, Kristen Rhea	09/14/2028
Appointees: Bassett, Christine	06/30/2029	Hays, Jessica	09/14/2028
Beelaert, Jeffrey	06/30/2030	Jefferson, Savannah Kelly	09/14/2027
Harrell, Jack R., III	06/30/2030	Karlinsky, Autumn	09/14/2027
Kincart, Robert O.	07/15/2030	Kerce, Samuel	09/14/2026
Shapiro, Ilya	06/30/2030	Kerner, David M.	09/14/2028
Board of Trustees, University of Florida		Killinger, Lori	09/14/2028
Appointee: Heavener, James W.	01/06/2031	Puwalski, Jason	09/14/2028
Board of Trustees, University of North Florida		Tuggerson, Katrina	09/14/2026
Appointees: Gol, John	01/06/2031	Florida Commission on Human Relations	
Hudson, Andrew	01/06/2031	Appointee: Tapia, Jose	09/30/2027
Lazzara, Christopher	01/06/2030	Investment Advisory Council	
Mayo, Michael Alan	01/06/2031	Appointees: Hosseini, Morteza "Mori"	06/10/2029
Shelton, Allison	01/06/2030	Jones, Peter D.	03/05/2029
Skinner, Daniel E.	01/06/2031	Governor's Mansion Commission	
Board of Trustees, University of South Florida		Appointees: Chaney, Ashley	09/30/2026
Appointees: Carrere, Michael L.	01/06/2031	Jefferson, Savannah Kelly	09/14/2027
Donnelly, Rogan	01/06/2031	Public Employees Relations Commission	
Mizelle, Chad	01/06/2031	Appointee: Aaron, Jeffrey	01/01/2029
Monbarren, Lauran	01/06/2030	The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:	
Weatherford, William	01/06/2030		
Williams, Andrea Gonzmart	01/06/2031		
Board of Trustees, University of West Florida		<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
Appointees: Bailey, Paul	01/06/2031	Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling	
Fleming, Edward P.	01/06/2031	Appointees: Kraus, Tanya	10/31/2026
Mason, Kevin Gregory	01/06/2031	O'Brien, Alexandra L.	10/31/2028
Smith, Thomas Zachary	01/06/2030	Reed, Stacey L.	10/31/2028
The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Education Postsecondary and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:		Board of Dentistry	
		Appointees: Anderson, Marc	10/31/2029
		Cherry, Bradley	10/31/2027
		Forrest, Andrew	10/31/2028
		Hill, Karyn	10/31/2029
		Mallah, Jessica	10/31/2026
		Marshall, Chadwick Justin	10/31/2027
		White, Nicholas	10/31/2029
		Board of Medicine	
		Appointees: Balaji, Gobivenkata	10/31/2026
		Derick, Amy	10/31/2029
		Diamond, David A.	10/31/2029
		Gross, Lee	10/31/2028
		Hunter, Patrick	10/31/2028
		Justice, Nicole	10/31/2028

<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
Littell, John	10/31/2028
Sargeant, Deborah A.	10/31/2029
<b>Board of Nursing</b>	
Appointees: Becker, Deborah	10/31/2027
Mueller, Christine	10/31/2028
Roster, Fidelia Herrera	10/31/2028
Schafer, Patricia P.	10/31/2028
Wages, Jennifer	10/31/2029
Wolf, Lindsay	10/31/2028
<b>Board of Osteopathic Medicine</b>	
Appointees: Reid-Paul, Theresa S.	10/31/2028
Rooney, Derek Patrick, Jr.	10/31/2027
<b>Board of Pharmacy</b>	
Appointees: Hickman, Jonathan M.	10/31/2029
Mikhael, Mark W.	10/31/2028
West, Stephen "Ryan"	10/31/2029
The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:	
<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
<b>Board of Directors, Space Florida</b>	
Appointees: Bocchino, Matthew	09/30/2029
Keiser, Belinda	09/30/2027
Thomas, Tim	09/30/2027
The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:	
<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
<b>Florida Athletic Commission</b>	
Appointees: Suskey, Alan J.	09/30/2028
Vanlandingham, Cody	09/30/2029
<b>Board of Cosmetology</b>	
Appointees: Bonynge, Mayra	10/31/2027
Brauman, Michele	10/31/2029
<b>Board of Employee Leasing Companies</b>	
Appointees: Day, Donald L.	10/31/2027
Evans, Brian R.	10/31/2026
Gonzalez, Ismael, III	10/31/2026
Naylon, Christopher Patrick	10/31/2028
<b>Board of Professional Engineers</b>	
Appointees: Albergo, Dylan	10/31/2029
Forehand, Christopher B.	10/31/2028
Mulock, Jeb	10/31/2029
Shrader, Brock	10/31/2029
Temple, Richard J.A.	10/31/2026
<b>Florida Gaming Control Commission</b>	
Appointees: Brown, Julie I.	01/01/2028
Cuderman, Peter	01/01/2030
D'Aquila, John M.	01/01/2029
Repp, Tina	01/01/2029
Spicola, William N.	01/01/2030
<b>Florida Public Service Commission</b>	
Appointees: Ortega, Ana	01/01/2030
Payne, Robert Bruce	01/01/2030
<b>Florida Real Estate Commission</b>	
Appointees: Price, Kelly	10/31/2029
Renna, Patricia	10/31/2027

The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
<b>Florida Elections Commission</b>	
Appointee: Kilbane, Patrick J.	12/31/2027
<b>Commission on Ethics</b>	
Appointees: Hellman, Michael	06/30/2027
Oglesby, Joseph	06/30/2027
Philipson, Jon Michael	06/30/2027
Rodgers, Jeremy	06/30/2026
Stewart, Abbey	06/30/2027

The following executive appointments were referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

<i>Office and Appointment</i>	<i>For Term Ending</i>
<b>Jacksonville Aviation Authority</b>	
Appointees: Acosta-Rua, Fernando	09/30/2029
Barnett, Michelle	09/30/2027
<b>Greater Miami Expressway Agency</b>	
Appointees: Blanco, Richard, Jr.	07/03/2028
Perez, Fatima	07/03/2029
<b>Tampa Port Authority</b>	
Appointee: Carrere, Christopher M.	11/15/2027
<b>Florida Transportation Commission</b>	
Appointees: Good, John	09/30/2027
Howse, Ronald S.	09/30/2029
Nash, Thomas C., II	09/30/2029
Roberts, Russell	09/30/2027

As required by Rule 12.7, the committees conducted an inquiry into the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the above-named appointees for appointment to the office indicated. In aid of such inquiry, the committees held public hearings which members of the public were invited to attend and to offer evidence concerning the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the appointees. After due consideration of the findings of such inquiry and the evidence adduced at the public hearings, the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections and other referenced committees respectfully advise and recommend that in accordance with s. 114.05(1)(c), F.S.:

(1) the executive appointments of the above-named appointees, to the office and for the term indicated, be confirmed by the Senate;

(2) Senate action on said appointments be taken prior to the adjournment of the 2026 Regular Session; and

(3) there is no necessity known to the committees for the deliberations on said appointments to be held in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Gaetz, Chair

On motion by Senator Gaetz, the report was adopted in its entirety, with the exception of Jeffrey Aaron, and the Senate confirmed the appointments identified in the foregoing report of the committee to the offices and for the terms indicated in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

The vote was:

Yeas—31

Mr. President	Bernard	Burgess
Arrington	Boyd	Burton
Avila	Bracy Davis	DiCeglie
Berman	Bradley	Gaetz

Grall	Mayfield	Simon
Gruters	McClain	Smith
Harrell	Osgood	Truenow
Hooper	Passidomo	Wright
Jones	Polsky	Yarborough
Martin	Rouson	
Massullo	Sharief	

Nays—None

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Brodeur

Vote Preference:

Senator Arrington was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Berman was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Bernard was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Bracy Davis was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Polsky was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Rouson was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

Senator Sharief was recorded as voting “nay” on the following appointments: Ilya Shapiro to the Board of Trustees, Polytechnic University; Thomas Zachary Smith to the Board of Trustees, University of West Florida; and John Littell to the Board of Medicine.

**DISCLOSURE**

Pursuant to Senate Rule 1.39, I am disclosing that certain provisions in Executive Appointment of Christina Brodeur provide a special private gain or loss to me. The nature of the interest and the persons or entities involved are specified below.

My spouse, Christina Brodeur, is on the list of executive appointments considered for Senate confirmation on her reappointment to the Florida Commission on Community Service. I voted on this confirmation on March 10, 2026. Although I will not receive a special private gain or loss, such reappointment may be construed as a special private gain to my spouse.

As established by Senate Rule 1.20, I must vote on this matter.

*Jason Brodeur, Senator, 10th District*

On motion by Senator Berman, Jeffrey Aaron, appointee to the Public Employee Relations Commission, was removed from the report and voted on separately.

The vote was:

Yeas—26

Mr. President	Garcia	McClain
Avila	Grall	Passidomo
Boyd	Gruters	Rodriguez
Bradley	Harrell	Simon
Brodeur	Hooper	Truenow
Burgess	Leek	Trumbull
Burton	Martin	Wright
DiCeglie	Massullo	Yarborough
Gaetz	Mayfield	

Nays—10

Arrington	Jones	Sharief
Berman	Osgood	Smith
Bernard	Polsky	
Bracy Davis	Rouson	

The Honorable Ben Albritton President, The Florida Senate Suite 409, The Capitol 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear President Albritton:

The following executive appointment was referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

*For Term Ending*

*Office and Appointment*

Secretary of Health Care Administration  
Appointee: Harris, Shevaun

Pleasure of Governor

As required by Rule 12.7, the committees conducted an inquiry into the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the above-named appointee for appointment to the office indicated. In aid of such inquiry, the committees held public hearings which members of the public were invited to attend and to offer evidence concerning the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the appointee. After due consideration of the findings of such inquiry and the evidence adduced at the public hearings, the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections and other referenced committee respectfully advise and recommend that in accordance with s. 114.05(1)(c), F.S.:

- (1) the executive appointment of the above-named appointee, to the office and for the term indicated, be confirmed by the Senate;
- (2) Senate action on said appointment be taken prior to the adjournment of the 2026 Regular Session; and
- (3) there is no necessity known to the committees for the deliberations on said appointment to be held in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Don Gaetz, Chair*

On motion by Senator Gaetz, the report was adopted and the Senate confirmed the appointment identified in the foregoing report of the committee to the offices and for the terms indicated in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

The vote was:

Yeas—32

Mr. President	Bracy Davis	Burton
Avila	Bradley	Calatayud
Bernard	Brodeur	DiCeglie
Boyd	Burgess	Gaetz

Garcia	Martin	Rouson	Trumbull	Wright	Yarborough
Grall	Massullo	Sharief			
Gruters	Mayfield	Simon	Nays—4		
Harrell	McClain	Truenow			
Hooper	Osgood	Trumbull	Arrington	Berman	Polsky
Jones	Passidomo	Yarborough	Smith		
Leek	Rodriguez				

Nays—5

Arrington	Polsky	Wright
Berman	Smith	

The Honorable Ben Albritton  
President, The Florida Senate  
Suite 409, The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

March 10, 2026

Dear President Albritton:

The following executive appointment was referred to the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections for action pursuant to Rule 12.7 of the Rules of the Florida Senate:

*Office and Appointment*

Secretary of Children and Families  
Appointee: Hatch, Taylor N.

*For Term  
Ending*Pleasure of  
Governor

As required by Rule 12.7, the committees conducted an inquiry into the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the above-named appointee for appointment to the office indicated. In aid of such inquiry, the committees held public hearings which members of the public were invited to attend and to offer evidence concerning the qualifications, experience, and general suitability of the appointee. After due consideration of the findings of such inquiry and the evidence adduced at the public hearings, the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections and other referenced committee respectfully advise and recommend that in accordance with s. 114.05(1)(c), F.S.:

(1) the executive appointment of the above-named appointee, to the office and for the term indicated, be confirmed by the Senate;

(2) Senate action on said appointment be taken prior to the adjournment of the 2026 Regular Session; and

(3) there is no necessity known to the committees for the deliberations on said appointment to be held in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Don Gaetz, Chair*

On motion by Senator Gaetz, the report was adopted and the Senate confirmed the appointment identified in the foregoing report of the committee to the offices and for the terms indicated in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

The vote was:

Yeas—33

Mr. President	DiCeglie	Massullo
Avila	Gaetz	Mayfield
Bernard	Garcia	McClain
Boyd	Grall	Osgood
Bracy Davis	Gruters	Passidomo
Bradley	Harrell	Rodriguez
Brodeur	Hooper	Rouson
Burgess	Jones	Sharief
Burton	Leek	Simon
Calatayud	Martin	Truenow

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SENATOR PASSIDOMO

At the direction of the President, the Senate proceeded to the recognition of former President and current Senator Kathleen Passidomo, honoring her years of service to the Senate as she approaches the completion of her term for the 28th Senate District.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Senate, Chief of Staff Andrew Mackintosh presented Senator Passidomo with a special keepsake box. This box was hand-made by professional staff of the Senate Sergeant's Office and engraved by professional staff of Senate Multimedia. The keepsake box is filled with letters and other mementos from staff reflecting on their time with President Passidomo.

## REMARKS

On motion by Senator Jones, by two-thirds vote, the following remarks by Senator Passidomo were ordered spread upon the Journal.

**Senator Passidomo:** Thank you, Mr. President. Notice I have not cried, and I am not going to. So, I wasn't going to give farewell remarks because I did that two years ago, but a few of you—Shev, thank you very much—expressed dismay about the decision, so here I am. I didn't have a video. I was going to put up fifty photos of myself with Donald Trump, unfortunately I don't have any because I have never met him. I didn't think to invite friends and family, so you are it. Notwithstanding the biggest lie in Tallahassee other than it is a part-time job, that I shall be brief, I will. There are some who have questioned my decision to stay in the Senate after my presidency ended. I have heard actually that there have been some comments in the House about me desperately trying to hold on to power. Not. I love this process. And honestly, all of the time that I have served in the legislature, both in the House and the Senate, my thoughts have always been how to do good things for my community and my state. It is as simple as that.

It was a hard decision for me to continue my service after my term as President ended two years ago. I was in a different place. I remember clearly, John and I discussing it the last week of session in 2024, when he came up to Tallahassee for my portrait unveiling. He encouraged me to stay, to continue my service to my community, my state, and my beloved Senate. We talked about how he had several projects he was working on that needed a few more years to come to fruition and it would have been perfect timing. We could have retired to follow his dream of visiting all of the national parks and my dream of visiting all of the presidential libraries. But it is not to be. And I miss him every single day. He did leave me Tucker to care for and cherish. I think Tucker is watching this from the Florida Channel, I hope.

So when President Albritton asked me to stay on as his Rules Chair, I was humbled and grateful for the opportunity and I have not looked back. The last two years I have been an emotional roller coaster and if it were not for many of you in this chamber, the senate staff, and the permanent friends I have met in this process, I probably would have just given up. I still had much to do and it has been an absolute joy to work with all of you, notwithstanding the comments about all of the bills. By the way, I have passed and sent to this floor more bills than I killed, just so you know. Two years have gone by in the proverbial blink of an eye, and I am not sure what is going to be next for me. I haven't even begun to think of it. Now I just want to say thank you. Thank you first to my constituents. It has been an honor of a lifetime to have represented my community for the past sixteen years.

Thank you to my law partners and the staff at Kelly, Passidomo, and Kelly who put up with my absence with patience and understanding. Thank you to my daughters, Catie, Francesca, and Gabriella. I am so proud of the very accomplished women they have become. They are my