



The LaMarca Letter

The 2019 Legislative Session had concluded, and my first as your State Representative, I wanted to update you on several important legislative items.

Once again, the Florida House delivered for Florida's families by passing over \$121 million in broad-based tax cuts. Working closely with our Senate partners, we fulfilled our commitment to bring meaningful tax relief to Florida's families and small businesses.

The Legislature approved another **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** from **August 2-6, 2019** where clothing priced \$60 or less, school supplies \$15 or less, and computers and accessories priced \$1,000 or less per item and purchased for personal use will be exempt from state and local sales tax. The tax package also called for another 7-day **Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday** where sales taxes will be waived for many disaster preparedness supplies including flashlights, portable generators, and batteries from **May 31 – June 6, 2019**.

I am proud of the House's commitment, along with the Governor, to provide real environmental funding. Our balanced state budget funds a number of critical environmental priorities, including \$686.8 million dedicated to water quality and protection. \$50 million is dedicated for water storage and treatment projects North of Lake Okeechobee, along with funded research that will help prevent harmful algae and red tide by creating the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative. Also, we were successful in receiving \$40 million in reoccurring annual statewide beach nourishment funding.

This Legislature was able to accomplish what none other was able since 2004 – pass a comprehensive firefighter cancer benefits program. Nationwide, 70% of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2016, was cancer-related. This bill grants certain benefits to a firefighter upon receiving a diagnosis of cancer. This is a great victory for our brave men and women who protect and serve our communities every day and I was proud to be a cosponsor and vocal advocate of this great legislation.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the Firefighter Benefits Bill signing in Palm Beach with the Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. As the Statewide Fire Marshall, CFO Patronis was the biggest advocate for getting this important bill passed. Also in attendance, was former CFO Jeff Atwater who originally filled this bill in 2004 as a state Senator from Palm Beach.



As always, it is an honor to serve you as your State Representative in Tallahassee.

Best Wishes ,

A blue ink signature of Chip LaMarca.

Representative Chip LaMarca
Florida House District 93