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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from  
*Representative Trudi  
Williams*



Florida, District 75  
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## **2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS!**

It's that time of year again! The 2008 Legislative Session was ushered in on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. This might one of the most exciting years of my legislative career. Florida is at a crossroads and in need of responsible leadership. I am fortunate to be able to participate in the decisions that are being made; these choices have long term ramifications and will have an impact on many future generations. Although I am halfway through my term, when I step into that House Chamber the energy in the air makes me feel as though I am a freshman all over again. It humbles me every time and reminds me that I am sent up here to do your work. To represent you! Thank you for that awesome responsibility.

## **TRUDI'S BILLS**

Below are some bills that I have filed for the 2008 Legislative Session.

**HB 577-Illegal or Undocumented Aliens**-this bill will save taxpayers millions by offering non-violent illegal immigrants that are in our jails a one way plane ticket back to their home country rather than serving out their sentences. Should the offender return to the United States, the original charges would still apply and be upgraded to the next level of the penal code. This bill has a potential savings of \$100 million for the citizens of Florida.

**HB 931-Residential Tenancies**-this bill prohibits a landlord from terminating, failing to renew, or refusing to enter into residential rental agreement because the tenant, applicant, or family or household member is a victim of domestic violence. This bill would also allow victims of domestic violence to terminate residential rental agreements under certain circumstances.

**HB 1303-Continuing Care Contracts**-this bill helps to protect our senior citizens that live in a continuing care community. It does so by allowing them voting power on the Community Board so that they can have a say so in where there dollars are spent.

**HB 1305 Professional Engineer Liability**-this bill prohibits a person from bringing a malpractice suit against a licensed structural engineer who provides services without compensation to a local, state, or federal search and rescue team during the period of a declared emergency if that engineer acted in a careful and professional manner.

## **TRUDI'S THOUGHTS**

My colleagues and I have a lot of hard work ahead of us especially regarding Florida's budget. Just like any family, state government must live within its means. Our budget relies in the same common sense approach that Florida families are using in their homes-we will prioritize, identify necessities, and protect essential programs and services. I am confident that our hard work this session will bring Florida back to the path of prosperity.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King Jr.

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