
CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from
**Representative Trudi
Williams**



Florida, District 75
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BUDGET CONFERENCE

Now that we are in the final weeks of the legislative session, budget conferences have been formed. As mentioned before, these conferences are created to reach a compromise position between the House and Senate budgets. I have been asked to serve as a budget conferee on the Environment and Natural Resources Conference. This provides a great opportunity to allow me to have a say in what goes into the budget with respect to water and environmental projects.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

This week, the House will consider HB 7081-Affordable Health Coverage. This bill will expand access to affordable health care in four distinct areas: **the creation of the Florida Health Choices Program, the creation of the Cover Florida Program, greater flexibility within Kidcare, and increased eligibility under the Health Flex Plan Program.**

Florida Health Choices Program: this program will coordinate efforts to create and provide lower cost healthcare options to employers and individuals by allowing providers to offer mandate-free coverage.

Cover Florida Program: this program which is a proposal of Governor Crist, would provide the uninsured population with options to guard against potential health risks. The program would allow insurers to seek approval to offer plans with lesser benefits for lower premiums.

Kidcare: HB 7081 will give parents of children in Kidcare the option to choose whether they would rather have their children covered under the Kidcare provider network or under the employer-sponsored group plan of which the parents are a part.

Health Flex Plan: HB 7081 would also expand health flex plan eligibility and extends the plan indefinitely to provide basic health insurance to low-income persons who are not currently able to afford health insurance.

TRUDI'S THOUGHTS

The Legislature has tackled some big issues this week: healthcare coverage, property tax relief, and most importantly the budget. I am truly grateful that I was selected to serve as a budget conferee this year. It is an important task that I take seriously. Please continue e-mailing or writing to me with your feedback, comments, and suggestions. As always, your thoughts are a vital part of the decision-making process.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness."-
Napoleon Hill

Please send correspondence to Trudi.Williams@myfloridahouse.gov. All comments are reviewed by Representative Williams. To receive a response, please include your name, address and telephone number. To unsubscribe from this e-mail, send a blank e-mail to Trudi.Williams@myfloridahouse.gov with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.