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CONTACT: Paul Flemming
850-717-5303

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER-DESIGNATE PAFFORD SELECTS LEADER *PRO TEMPORE* MIA JONES

TALLAHASSEE – Florida House Democratic Leader-designate Mark Pafford announces Rep. Mia Jones as his selection for Democratic leader *pro tempore* in the 2015-16 legislative sessions.

Pafford emphasized Jones' ability, effort and knowledge as a lawmaker – particularly on health care – as key to his choice. Pafford (D-West Palm Beach) and Jones (D-Jacksonville) were first elected in the same legislative class in 2008.

“Mia has proven herself with consistent ability. She's loyal to the people she represents. She's taken the time and put in the hard work to know the issues very well,” Pafford said. “Her commitment to improve the health of every Floridian, especially its youngest people, is a credit to Mia and a huge benefit to Democrats in the House of Representatives. All of us are lucky she'll be back as leader *pro tem*.”

Jones, a Jacksonville native, has represented House District 14 since 2008. She is a special assistant to the mayor of Jacksonville as the city's first health commissioner. She served as Democratic leader *pro tempore* from 2013-14. Prior to her legislative service, Rep. Jones was a member of the Jacksonville City Council from 2003-08.

“I look forward to working with Mark to solidify the caucus as one body, to recognize the importance of standing as one, and fighting as one, for the things we believe in,” Jones said of returning as Democratic leader *pro tempore* for a caucus with 38 members. “Now it really becomes a greater responsibility to stand united as Democrats to fight for what's most important to us.”

The House Democratic Caucus will convene at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, to elect its leader. The elected leader submits his or her nominee for Democratic leader *pro tempore* for approval of the caucus. The House of Representatives organization session is Nov. 18.

“Her on-the-job-experience, her insight, the experiences that make her the effective lawmaker and leader she is, the great person I've come to know her to be – those are the reasons I chose Rep. Jones to be leader *pro tem*,” Pafford said. “I think this makes us stronger, with her in this position.”

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