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**Helpful Government Numbers  
For Consumers**

**Representative  
Richard Stark**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

richard.stark@myfloridahouse.gov  
www.myfloridahouse.gov



**Report Price Gouging  
By Calling:**  
1-800-HELP-FLA

**Lemon Law Hotline At:**  
1-800-321-5366

**Complaints Or Information  
About Telemarketing:**  
1-800-435-7352

**Florida Do Not Call List:**  
1-800-435-7352

**National Do Not Call List:**  
1-888-382-1222

**First Call For:**  
HELP Dial "211"

**Division Of Consumer  
Service:**  
850-410-3661

**FEMA:**  
1-800-621-3362

**Medicare:**  
1-800-633-4227

**Public Service  
Commission:**  
1-800-342-3552

**Social Security:**  
1-800-772-1213

**Teen Hotline:**  
954-567-TEEN



**Representative  
Richard Stark**  
(Deputy Whip)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

richard.stark@myfloridahouse.gov  
www.myfloridahouse.gov

**CAPITOL OFFICE**

405 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
Phone: (850) 717-5104

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

Suite 202  
1730 Main Street  
Weston, FL 33326-3676  
(954) 217-0287

**DISTRICT CHIEF LEGISLATIVE AIDE**

Laurie Plotnick

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Sheila Clark

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

- Appropriations Committee
- Commerce Committee
- Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, Democratic Ranking Member
- Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee, Democratic Ranking Member

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for the privilege of being your State Representative. I hope you find this legislative update to be an informative tool and I welcome your feedback.

This year, the legislature made progress. We helped our state make major strides on a number of issues including: providing tax relief for consumers, expanding solar usage to help combat climate change, preventing juvenile crime and protecting the Everglades.

I was proud to sponsor legislation to bring back needed local funding to children with special needs, improve safety and emergency operations. I pushed for new laws to bolster mental health coverage and improve driver safety. I also sponsored and the Legislature passed a new law to honor Holocaust survivors.

In my view, the legislature didn't do enough to increase education spending. Our state continues to lag well behind the national average in per-pupil funding. I was also disappointed that our hospitals are facing over \$520 million dollars in cuts from Medicaid reimbursement rates -- this means the hospitals that are serving our most vulnerable communities will have fewer resources to save lives.

Please contact my office at 954-217-0287 if there is anything we can do for you or if you want to share your input on issues or potential new legislation.

Warmest regards,

*Richard Stark*

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Tax Relief, Healthcare,  
Environment Highlights



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Public Safety, Education,  
Veterans Issues Highlights



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Helpful Government  
Numbers For Consumers





2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Tax Relief**

We provided tax relief for Florida’s working families, including a permanent tax exemption for feminine hygiene products, a three-day back to school sales tax holiday, and a discount on property tax for multi-family low income housing projects.



**Enhancing Public Safety**

Law enforcement will have new tools at their disposal to address terrorism. We created new stand-alone state criminal penalties for terrorism. This will allow state and local law enforcement to be proactive in protecting our residents from domestic and foreign terrorism.



**Protecting the Environment**

The Everglades and springs restoration received sizable appropriations (\$167 and \$50 million respectively), and beach restoration projects received a \$35 million funding boost for a total appropriation of \$50 million. Additionally, we passed a bill to enhance interagency coordination with regard to planning for and responding to natural hazards, such as drought, floods, wildfires, and sea level rise.



**Making College More Affordable**

We provided a \$180 million dollar increase for the Bright Futures program. Students with Bright Futures scholarships will receive money to cover the cost of their textbooks and those earning the “Academic Scholars” award will get 100% of their tuition costs covered. Summer classes will now also be covered. This ensures that more hardworking students are given the opportunity to attend college in Florida.



**Improving Healthcare**

We enhanced the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). We also passed a medication synchronization law to help Floridians, particularly the elderly, people in rural areas, and patients with chronic conditions, adhere to their prescribed treatment regimens. Both of these issues – medication adherence and drug addiction – are major drivers of increasing health care costs.



**Helping Our Veterans**

A bill that waives college fees for veterans was passed by the legislature this session. The GI bill covers all tuition costs, but it does not include additional fees that students must pay. This bill ensures that student veterans are able to attend Florida colleges at no cost to them.

