

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS' RUNDOWN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Floridians,

As a graduate of Florida State University and a life-long sports fan, I was proud to [send a letter](#) this week to Florida university presidents statewide encouraging full participation in college fall sports this year. This comes as the Pac-12 and BIG Ten conferences have postponed their football seasons and more athletic conferences may soon decide to follow suit. These athletes have worked their entire lives to compete and we owe it to them to work together and fight for their chance to play. This is another reason why I'm pursuing vital liability protections next legislative session to protect businesses and non-profits from unscrupulous legal firms who see the coronavirus as a business opportunity.



This week, I also signed signed [Directive 2020-14](#), which bans the use of TikTok on the Department of Financial Services (DFS) devices and within DFS facilities. This directive comes after reports that TikTok, which is headquartered in Beijing, China, has direct ties to the Communist Party of China and captures

vast swaths of information from its users including Internet and other network activity information such as location data, browsing and search history. TikTok's own privacy policy states that the video-sharing application records keystroke patterns entered on devices that have downloaded the app.

My top priority as your CFO is to protect our state from fraud and scams, including all major cybersecurity threats. As we've seen with the recent unprecedented Twitter hacks, we must take bold action now to protect our data and our devices from these very real security risks.

I was also recently honored to participate in SAE Tomorrow Today, a podcast from SAE International, that highlighted my efforts to attract businesses large and small to the Sunshine State. I was glad to share my thoughts on the great benefits Florida has to offer to innovators and the tech industry including low state taxes, robust infrastructure, a highly educated workforce, and of course, a great quality of life! Give it a listen [here](#).

Finally, as we approach the peak of hurricane season in mid-August, I continue to stress the importance of storm preparedness. Tropical Storm Josephine is lingering in the Atlantic right now and, while the current forecast does not seem likely to threaten Florida, it's another reminder that we must stay vigilant and be ready for the next storm that takes aim at our state. Visit my website PrepareFL.com for important storm resources.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

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Jimmy Patronis ✓
@JimmyPatronis



I sent a letter today to all Florida university presidents asking that we work together to find a way to play college sports this year. Our student athletes deserve the chance to compete & now more than ever fans nationwide can't wait to cheer them on!



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

August 10, 2020

Dear University Presidents:

I have been following recent media coverage regarding the possibility that college sports may be postponed through 2020, and I want to offer my support in working to move heaven and earth to ensure that's not the case. As a proud graduate of Florida State University, I know just how important college athletics are to the institutions, the fans, the community businesses, but most importantly – the athletes themselves. I'm afraid that many of these players that rely on sports scholarships for their education will be thrown into academic purgatory with universities cancelling their seasons.

No doubt, the human toll that COVID-19 has had on our people and country is horrible. Every life that the virus has taken from us is a tragedy – simple as that. It's a horrible disease, it's highly contagious, and it's something we have to take seriously. But I think we have to be dispassionate about the science: young athletes can handle this virus better than anyone else. These young men and women love to compete; they love being active, and behind each athlete are family members, coaches, teachers and loved ones who want them to succeed. Many of these students are relying on their scholarships.

After every tragedy our nation has faced, we've figured out a way to move forward, and we need to figure out a way to get kids back on the field, the court, the swimming pool, and so forth. Additionally, let's not forget about the mental toll that will fall on our athletes who derive incredible joy and meaning from playing sports with their teammates. As I have witnessed with my own children, sports provide an outlet that helps provide structure and teaches important lessons on teamwork and leadership that's hard to replicate in the classroom.

If you're concerned about the legal liability of letting student athletes compete, let's talk. Next legislative session, I plan to pursue legislation to protect our businesses and non-profits from legal firms who see the coronavirus as a business opportunity. I've had over 20 meetings with Chambers across the state, I'm a former business owner, I was on the Governor's Re-Open Florida Task Force, and I get how important it is to build protections so we can get back to normal. I want to hear from you – specifically – what it will take to get back to the important work of educating our nation's future.

In this day and age, we ask so much of our students. Let's lead by example and show them that the adults can work together to meet our own tough goals.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer

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