

# CFO JIMMY PATRONIS'S 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Getting Florida Working, Protecting Consumers & Fighting for Firefighters

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## GET FLORIDA WORKING

**Business Liability** – CFO Jimmy Patronis supported legislation in the 2021 session to protect small businesses in Florida from frivolous litigation related to unfounded claims that someone contracted the coronavirus while in their business. This protection would shield business owners from Covid-19 lawsuits unless it can be proven that an owner didn't take reasonable efforts to protect their employees/customers or were grossly negligent in creating exposure to COVID-19.

**Health Care Liability Protections** – CFO Jimmy Patronis also supported legislation in the 2021 session to protect health care facilities including long-term care and assisted living facilities from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19. For a year now, these health care heroes have been on the frontlines, battling the impacts of COVID-19 and fighting to protect Floridians all while working long hours and maintaining stringent health safety processes to protect our friends, loved ones, and our most vulnerable population – our seniors. They have fought through PPE shortages, and put their own lives on the line to protect our communities from this serious virus.

Thank you to Senator Jeffrey Brandes and Representative Lawrence McClure for your support.



**SB 72 Signed into Law**

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## PROTECTING CONSUMERS

**Disclosure of Foreign Ownership for State Vendors** – CFO Jimmy Patronis supported legislation in the 2021 legislative that safeguards public dollars. This proposal works to increase transparency and accountability of public grants and contracts, disclosure of foreign support for public entities, and protecting institutions of higher education. Among other provisions, all state agencies and political subdivisions are required to disclose all foreign donations and grants of \$50,000 or more to the Department of Financial Services (DFS). DFS will provide transparency to this process by publishing disclosures on a public website and will also investigate allegations of violations of this law.

- **Senate Bill 2010 (Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.)**
- **House Bill 7017 (Representative Erin Grall)**

**Protecting Insurance Policyholders** – CFO Jimmy Patronis supported legislation in the 2021 legislative session to protect policyholders by making it a felony offense to assist in selling insurance without a license, expediting claims, empowering consumers with stronger public adjuster contract protections, and changing the Florida Insurance Code to ban insurance companies from having "Medicaid" or "Medicare" in their names.

- **Senate Bill 1598 (Senator Joe Gruters) and Agency Package**
- **House Bill 717 (Representative Chuck Clemons) and Agency Package**

**Pushing Back Against Unsolicited Telemarketing** - CFO Jimmy Patronis supported legislation in the 2021 legislative session to curb the epidemic of unsolicited telemarketing phone calls that plague the phone lines of Floridians on a daily basis. While some telemarketing tactics are legitimate, the practice is often associated with fraudulent activity, scams, and identity theft.

- **Senate Bill 1120 (Senator Audrey Gibson)**
- **House Bill 1307 (Representative Mike Beltran)**



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## FIGHTING FOR FIREFIGHTERS

**Supporting Service to Communities** – Allows certified volunteer firefighters to continue serving their communities while pursuing certification to become a career firefighter. Currently, if a volunteer firefighter enrolls in training to become a full-time firefighter, they are barred from conducting any firefighting activity until their training is completed.

**Fund Firefighter Cancer Coverage** – Allows the State of Florida’s Risk Management Pool to provide cancer coverage to State of Florida firefighters. Currently, certain firefighters must have their out-of-pocket expenses covered for cancer treatment by their employers, but the state’s risk management pool isn’t allowed to cover the expenses. This will open up a huge sum of cash for covering cancer diagnoses, so state firefighters won’t get the run around because of associated costs.

- **Senate Bill 1408 (Senator Danny Burgess)**
- **House Bill 1209 (Representative Elizabeth Fetterhoff)**

**Pandemic Protections** – CFO Jimmy Patronis fought for resources to protect firefighters from infectious diseases. This will increase state funding for the Cancer Decontamination Grant Program, so even more local governments can partner with the State of Florida to buy lifesaving equipment that cleans equipment of cancer-causing substances and infectious diseases like COVID-19.

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## SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Standing with Law Enforcement and Supporting Safe Communities** – During the 2021 Legislative Session, the CFO supported Governor DeSantis’ “Combating Violence, Disorder Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act” and opposed cuts to the state budget that impact partnerships with local law enforcement. The CFO has also worked to oppose the anti-law enforcement culture that is being pushed throughout the nation and by certain elements of the Florida Legislature.

Thank you to Senator Danny Burgess and Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin for your support.



**House Bill 1 Signed into Law**

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## PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Supporting Sexual Harassment Victims** - CFO Jimmy Patronis supported legislation in the 2021 session that better protects victims of sexual harassment. The Legislation prohibits individuals working for entities covered by State Risk Management Trust Fund from engaging in retaliatory conduct against sexual harassment victims.

- **Senate Bill 1408 (Senator Danny Burgess)**
- **House Bill 1209 (Representative Elizabeth Fetterhoff)**

