



Florida House of Representatives

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2009

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HOUSE DEMOCRATS: THESE CUTS LACK COURAGE

TALLAHASSEE – Florida House Democrats on Wednesday rallied against Republican legislators' short-sighted budget cuts to education, health care and tourism-promotion programs.

Republican leaders failed to show political courage while House Democrats stood up to protect Florida's middle-class taxpayers, small businesses and vulnerable Floridians.

Rather than closing corporate loopholes, reexamining certain sales tax exemptions, and allowing debate on other revenue options, Republican leaders ignored the people and their representatives and aimed their budget knives at the poor and middle class.

"We have to have the political courage to provide the needs and meet the priorities of Florida," said Democratic Leader Franklin Sands, D-Weston. "We have to put our partisan hats aside for all the people of Florida. We can and must do better. These budget cuts fail the people of our state."

The Republican-backed budget cuts will:

- Slash \$732 million from education, including the college and university systems;
- Hurt tourism promotion by cutting the Visit Florida program;
- Jeopardize children's health by raiding \$700 million from the Lawton Chiles Endowment.

“Who loses when this budget is passed?” asked Representative Dwayne Taylor (D- Daytona Beach). “It will be our children, our seniors. These are the people who lose in this budget.”

“When a family is faced with a budget crisis, they look to see if additional income can be had,” said Representative Scott Randolph (D- Orlando). “They look for the quarters under the couch. The first thing they DON’T do is open the front door and throw grandma to the curb!”

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