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Statement from Majority Leader Ray Rodrigues on the Seventh Week of Session

Tallahassee, FL—Majority Leader Ray Rodrigues released the following statement.

“This week, the Florida House passed important ethics reforms that relate to conflicts of interest. Government employees and officers serve the public and should not be able to use their positions for private gain. This bill acts to prevent them from doing so.

The House also moved to issue a formal apology to the victims of Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys and the “Groveland Four”. The first bill acknowledged the abuses and violations of human decency the children confined to the Dozier School were subjected to. We apologized to the boys and their families, and expressed our commitment to ensuring children placed in the state’s care will be protected from such atrocities. The second bill acknowledged the injustices against Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd, and Ernest Thomas, otherwise known as the “Groveland Four”. We urge the Governor and Cabinet to perform expedited clemency review of their cases and to grant them full pardons.

We also passed a bill this week that strengthens civics education in our K-12 public schools and post-secondary institutions. The bill will designate September as “American Founders’ Month”, and will require Just Read, Florida! Office to develop a curriculum that will help elementary students increase their background knowledge and literacy skills. It will also require students entering the Florida College System or State University System to either take a civics course or pass a civic competency test. We further fulfilled our commitment to expanding education options by passing a bill to expand and improve a scholarship programs for students with certain disabilities, as well as those with limited financial resources. These programs will allow parents more flexibility to customize their child’s education.

Finally, the House passed a comprehensive solution in light of recent court rulings which found Florida’s workers’ compensation law unconstitutional. The bill is expected to result in significant savings in the workers’ compensation system for all those involved.

I’m very proud of the accomplishments our caucus has made thus far. That said, with two week of session to go, we will be working hard right to the end to make sure we fulfill the commitments we made to our constituents.”

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