



**LAUREN BOOK**  
*Democratic Leader*

**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE**

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**BOBBY POWELL**  
*Democratic Leader Pro Tempore*

June 17, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
Office of the Governor  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We, the undersigned Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, are writing today to call on you to reverse your questionable decision to dispatch members of Florida's law enforcement community out of our state and elsewhere for what appears to be purely political purposes. On behalf of the millions of diverse constituents the Senate Democratic Caucus represents, we urge you to consider the dangers such a move presents.

As you acknowledged earlier this month, we are experiencing a spike in incidents of gun violence throughout our state, most notably in South Florida. Florida kids are dying in the streets, and it is not at the hands of immigrants crossing the border.

Your choice to divert Florida officers away from their local communities where they are desperately needed will handicap efforts to combat this critical and urgent public safety issue. Sheriffs' deputies, highway patrol, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and FDLE are all critical components in stemming the rising numbers of gun-related crime in our state, without which Floridians have diminished protection.

Additionally, summer tourist season is upon us; with a reopened economy, surging numbers in communities coast-to-coast will demand a greater police presence to safeguard and protect Floridians and visitors alike.

The federal government has already deployed additional resources to the areas in question and there is no need for you to sacrifice the safety of our state for what appears to be political posturing. The State of Florida, however, cannot afford to lose much-needed law enforcement personnel to bolster what many see as little more than a political stunt.

**WILTON SIMPSON**  
President of the Senate

**AARON BEAN**  
President Pro Tempore

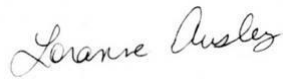
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We urge you to put partisan politics aside and instead address the needs of the Floridians you have been elected to serve.

Sincerely,



Sen. Lauren Book, Democratic Leader  
District 32  
Florida Senate Democratic Leader



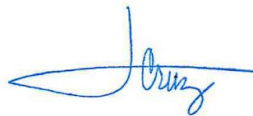
Sen. Lorraine Ausley  
District 3



Sen. Lori Berman  
District 31




Sen. Randolph Bracy  
District 11



Sen. Janet Cruz  
District 18



Sen. Gary M. Farmer, Jr.  
District 34



Sen. Audrey Gibson  
District 6



Sen. Shevrin Jones  
District 35



Sen. Jason Pizzo  
District 38



Sen. Tina Polsky  
District 29



Sen. Bobby Powell  
District 30




Sen. Darryl Rouson  
District 19



Sen. Linda Stewart  
District 13



Sen. Annette Taddeo  
District 40



Sen. Perry E. Thurston, Jr.  
District 33



Sen. Victor M. Torres, Jr.  
District 15