



# Florida House of Representatives

*Representative Janet H. Adkins*

District 11

District Office:  
905 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
(904) 491-3664  
(904) 491-3666 Fax

Second District Office:  
11 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
City Hall, Room # 110  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
(904) 246-0532

Email: [janet.adkins@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:janet.adkins@myfloridahouse.gov)

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Mike Clelland  
Florida House Representative  
1301 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Representative Clelland,

This letter is to call upon you to make a public apology for your inappropriate remarks on the floor yesterday during the debate regarding amendment 485525 to SB 1410. I would have expected that the admonishment by Representative Hooper regarding your remarks should have been enough to elicit an appropriate apology at the time of the offense. Your disparagement of women and use of gender in debate was offensive. I believe that the women of Florida deserve the respect and dignity that should be afforded to all people regardless of race, creed or gender.

There is broad public policy interest in the fitness of the professional fire fighter ranks and the impact this has on performance, how duties are assigned and the impact on local counties and municipalities relative to healthcare and disability costs.

I am concerned that the younger professional fire fighters are being asked to perform the most risky assignments quite simply because not everyone on the team is physically able to perform equally. This situation needlessly places people at risk and imposes higher costs on municipalities and counties. I have detailed some links below for your use as we continue this policy discussion on how Florida can ensure all Professional Fire Fighters are treated equally.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/20/health/research/20obese.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/20/health/research/20obese.html?_r=0)  
[www.fsi.illinois.edu/documents/research/FFLSRC\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/documents/research/FFLSRC_FinalReport.pdf)  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201203.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201203.html)

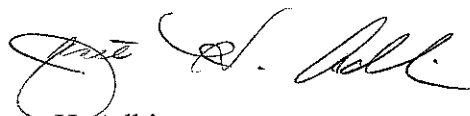
RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
13 MAY - 1 AM 7:44

Every day we have the honor to serve in the Florida House of Representatives, we must measure up to the integrity and character of the citizens who have sent us here. Our debate and use of words should reflect the character and integrity of the great people whom we strive to serve.

I look forward to working with you and other members to improve the health, safety and well-being of Florida's Professional Fire Fighters and ask that we keep our focus on the public policy questions rather than debate that undermines women.

I await your public apology to the women of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet H. Adkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janet H. Adkins

CC Speaker Will Weatherford