

OPEN - Leader Young

Thanks everyone for being here.

Acknowledges there are many questions about what will come next.

This is an opportunity to lay out where we are and what to expect this Session.

We will not be speaking about specific bills or talking about taking final action on any legislation. This is an informative meeting.

OPEN → INTRODUCTION - Speaker Crisafulli

We are here today to get a bit of background and then an update on where we are.

Let me start by saying: I worked with President Gardiner all summer to develop a work plan and talk about how we would handle Session issues.

Expanding Medicaid was never a part of the agenda. In fact, he stated that he knew where the House was, and did not plan to push the issue in the Senate.

Obviously, things have changed and rather than getting caught up in the why or the how, we are where we are today.

I wanted to gather us together for a brief policy and fiscal update on LIP and Medicaid Expansion – and then close with some remarks on how I see us closing out the Session and the budget.

You're going to hear a bit of history on LIP from Chair Hudson, and then receive a Medicaid 101 briefing from Chair Brodeur. This information should be helpful to you as you speak to constituents.

LIP - Chair Hudson 5 min.

- What is LIP?
- Are there other ways to fund hospitals without expanding Medicaid and "backfilling LIP?"
- Growth of Medicaid in our Budget in the past 10 years

MAJORITY OFFICE PACKET - Chair Brodeur 5-10 min.

member questions.

CLOSE - Speaker Crisafulli

We did not create this problem – the Federal Government did.

The State of Florida was given the CHOICE to expand Medicaid, and the House has answered with a resounding no.

Intra of Chairs →

This is a principled decision, not a political decision.

Quite frankly, I believe there are a large number of Senators who would vote no as well.

Governor Bush reached out through staff to let us know that he did not support the Senate or their Medicaid Expansion plan. He let the Senate know that they misinterpreted his words. It's about finding a solution on LIP, not digging us deeper in the failed Medicaid ditch.

The Federal Government should not hold Florida's safety net hostage. For those who say we are blowing this out of proportion – they just issued the same threats to Texas this week. We believe they are doing so for political reasons, but they will eventually relent.

TO BE CLEAR, the independent Navigant study stated that “even with Medicaid expansion, we believe continuation of the LIP program, or some form of replacement for the LIP program will still be needed.”

We believe we will receive LIP funding – it is simply a matter of time.

Once we do, we will have accurate information that will lead to quality options.

It's possible, though unlikely, that we will hear from CMS in time to craft a budget in overtime.

It's more likely that we will hear from CMS after May. That would mean coming back for a Special Session.

IF we do not hear back in sufficient time for our July 1 budget deadline, we have options that Chair Corcoran is working on to ensure that we fulfill our constitutional duty.

Members – we have lived through Special Sessions before. There is a great deal of negative press. There is pressure from powerful special interests.

However, we are on the right side of the issue and the right side of history.

We cannot live in the moment, we must live for the future – the future for our children and grandchildren – the future of our state. It is why we were elected.

As your Speaker I would ask you to do three things.

1. Be calm and optimistic. We will have a solution.
2. Don't get married to any of your bills or appropriation items – we are in the strongest negotiating position when we have no fear.

- 3. Trust your team. I made a commitment to you that I would never ask you to vote on something that I would not support myself. We will get us out of here with a solution – it will be based on strong conservative principles – but it may not be in the manner or the timing that the special interests want, and that’s OK. I have tremendous confidence in the expertise of our HealthCare policy and fiscal team. We will have appropriate solutions at the appropriate time.

If you have questions or needs for messaging, this is the office that will help you out.

“Thomas Jefferson said, in matters of style, swim with the current, in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

Thank you for standing firm.