



The Florida House of Representatives

Paul Renner
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 2, 2023

Media Contact:
Media@myfloridahouse.gov
(850) 717-5780

House Passes Measure to Prohibit Illegal Immigration and Protect American Jobs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 2, 2023) — Today, the Florida House of Representatives passed legislation to protect American jobs and disincentivize illegal immigration.

Senate Bill 1718, Senate companion to House Bill 1617, sponsored by Representatives Kiyan Michael (R-Jacksonville Beach) and Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater), requires private employers with 25 or more employees to use the free E-Verify System for new employees, strengthens penalties for human traffickers, and invalidates driver's licenses issued by another state to undocumented immigrants.

"President Biden and Congress have failed to protect our borders against the threat illegal immigration poses to Florida. As a result, Floridians shoulder the burden of higher costs to cover health care, education, and other services, along with the spike in fentanyl into our country and human trafficking that Biden's open border policy has created," said Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). "We passed the most expansive legislation in the nation to protect American jobs and Florida's economy and put an end to illegal immigration. I look forward to seeing Governor DeSantis' signature on this great bill."

"Washington's failure to stop illegal immigration affects us all. It affects our economy, public safety, and our families across the state," said Representative Kiyan Michael. "Doing nothing is not an option. Lives are on the line. We as Americans and as Floridians must take action to stop

illegal immigration. I am proud to stand with Speaker Renner and Governor DeSantis to enact common-sense policies that keep our communities safe.”

Representative Berny Jacques pointed out the burden and costs of illegal immigration on our healthcare system. The bill’s requirements will help identify the exact cost to Florida taxpayers by requiring hospitals to inquire about citizenship and immigration status of patients admitted to the hospital or seen in the emergency room. Representative Jacques said, “America’s healthcare system is under attack by illegal aliens that consume our Medicaid dollars knowing that they will not be turned away for care. Taxpayers have a right to know how much money is being spent on those who are not here lawfully.”

For more information on Senate Bill 1718/House Bill 1617, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov.

###