

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FLHouseDems](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Woodson Files Bill to Expand Homestead Exemptions For First Responders  
**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2023 3:25:47 PM

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 6, 2023

**CONTACT**

Sophia Kabbej  
Office of Representative Woodson  
954-965-3700  
[sophia.kabbej@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:sophia.kabbej@myfloridahouse.gov)

**Representative Woodson Files Bill to Expand Homestead Exemptions For First Responders**

**TALLAHASSEE, FLA.-** On Wednesday, January 4, 2023, **Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood)** filed [HB101 – Homestead Exemption for First Responders](#). Current legislation allows state and local officers killed in the line of duty to receive a property tax exemption. Unfortunately, incidents have happened where federal officers have died in the line of duty in our community and our ability to provide relief to their surviving spouses was limited. Current legislation does not cover the homesteaded property of the surviving spouse of a first responder who dies in the line of duty while employed by the federal government. This bill expands the definition of “first responder” to include certain federal law enforcement officers.

**Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar**, also a former State Representative, said: “Representative Woodson’s bill rightfully expands the definition of first responder to include federal law enforcement officers for the purpose of receiving ad valorem exemptions. This change in state law will allow federal officers who are Florida residents and become totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty as well as the surviving spouses of federal enforcement officers killed in the line of duty to qualify for much needed tax relief. Thank you, Representative Woodson, for filing this important legislation.”

**Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood)** issued the following statement:

“It is only fitting for first responders who become permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty and their spouses to receive this exemption. In the spirit of fairness, the federal officers killed in the line of duty and their spouses should be entitled to the same benefits as their state and local counterparts. We must ensure the process of legislative tax exemptions are equitable for the men and women who put their lives on the line

for  
our communities. I am grateful and thankful for the expertise of Broward County  
Property Appraiser Marty Kiar, who is a critically important partner in moving this  
piece of legislation forward.”

###