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Legislators Say No to Cashless Shops

Tallahassee, Fla. – State **Representative Matt Willhite (D-Wellington)** files legislation, **HB 233**, to ensure customers who choose to use physical currency can still procure goods and services from a business without being turned away. **Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens)** joins **Representative Willhite** on this effort with **SB 408**. In recent years, there has been a trend for many businesses to opt for digital currency. This trend intensified during COVID-19 because many businesses viewed digital currency as the more safe and sanitary alternative.

“A cashless economy is not an inclusive economy,” stated **Representative Willhite**. “Getting a credit or debit card often requires money to deposit or financial history. Excluding people from paying with cash essentially blocks low-income people, homeless people, and so many others from participating in the economy in the first place.

It is also just good for our economy. Florida is an international tourist attraction, attracting nearly 80 million visitors each year. Many tourists choose to use a physical currency when they are visiting Florida. Not to mention, I think it’s absurd that a business would turn someone away for using any U.S. currency.”

“We need to build an economy that is fair and inclusive, and preventing people from participating in their local economies does just the opposite. While well-intentioned in today's digital economy, a cashless business model puts up more restrictions for marginalized communities that are unbanked and underbanked. It's startling that there are no measures in place to protect Florida consumers who need access to necessary goods and services, and I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation,” said **Senator Jones**.

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