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**Representative López and Leader Book File the Damages Recoverable in the Wrongful Death Actions Bill**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - On Friday, March. 3, 2023, **Representative Johanna López (D-Orlando)** and **Leader Lauren Book (D-Davie)** filed [House Bill 1435/Senate Bill 690](#). This bill would finally fix Florida Statute 768.21 subsection 8 known as the “Free-Kill” law. This Statute denies unmarried adults without minor children equal well-deserved protection under the law and deprives the survivors of these individuals of their right to access the courts for redress as enumerated by the Florida Constitution in the case of medical negligence causing deaths; all this makes **Florida the only state with this law.**

A person shouldn’t fear dying and leaving their family in severe debt because of another person’s mistake, this is not what a society that takes care of its citizens should stand for. This outdated law impacts all Floridians, including our friends, families and even ourselves!

**Representative Johanna López (D-Orlando)** and **Leader Lauren Book (D-Davie)** issued the following statements:

“No one should have to endure the additional hardships that come with Florida being the only ‘free kill’ state,” said **Representative Johanna López (D-Orlando)**. “This legislation will ensure that families receive at least some support and closure in the tragic event of medical malpractice.”

“No matter who you are or who you leave behind, Florida law should apply to and protect all Floridians equally in cases of wrongful death – that’s our goal,” said **Leader Lauren Book (D-Davie)**. “We are working to ensure equal protection under Florida law, and to bring our state into posture with the rest of the nation by eliminating arbitrary carve-outs which leave families of adult children and parents

suffering in cases of medical malpractice.”

Last year HB 1435 was divided into two bills that were sponsored by **Representatives Yvonne Hinson (D-Gainesville)** and **Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers)**. This year they are proud to co-sponsor this legislation alongside **Representatives Mike Beltran (R-Valrico), Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs), Anna V. Eskamani (D-Orlando), Alina Garcia (R-Miami), Rita Harris (D-Orlando), Sam H. Killebrew (R-Polk), and Katherine Waldron (D-Wellington)** who will work alongside **Representative Johanna López (D-Orlando)** to create a better future for all Floridians and make history by making Florida the 50<sup>th</sup> State that guarantees medical protection to all its citizens.

“I was proud to sponsor HB 1435: Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions last year, and I am proud to support it again,” said **Representative Yvonne Hinson (D- Gainesville)**. “Sabrina Davis came to me last Session, and her story hit close to home. Adult children who often share stories like Sabrina’s should not be prohibited from recovering damages in medical negligence suits. This bill cannot bring loved ones back, but it can let us show compassion to our aggrieved Florida families.”

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