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Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 3:09 PM
To: Hollis, Mark
Subject: **REPUBLICANS ARE MISMANAGING FLORIDA & IT IS TIME TO DO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS A NEW WAY**
Attachments: Republicans Are Mismanaging Florida & It Is Time To Do Government Business A New Way.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2010

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Florida House Democrats Agree With Speaker Cretul Republicans Are Mismanaging Florida and It Is Time To Do Government Business A New Way

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- After 12 years of Republican control of state government, House Speaker Larry Cretul today admitted Republican mismanagement and confessed that it is time to “do government business a new way.”

In response, House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands urged Republican leaders to embrace good-government initiatives backed by Florida House Democrats.

“Today, I heard Florida House Democrats call for bipartisanship and good government, and I heard Republican leadership admit that 12 years of total Republican control of state government has failed Floridians,” said Sands, D-Weston. “It is time to bring real change to the way business is done in Tallahassee.”

During House floor remarks, Speaker Larry Cretul stated:

- *“I am asking you to do government business a new way...”*
- *“To make government work, we are going to have to change the way we approach it and the way we think...”*

“I am thrilled that Florida Republican leaders are recognizing what Floridians have seen for a long time. Republicans have done such a lousy job of running state government that even they admit that it’s time ‘to do government business a new way’ for the good of our state.

“It is interesting to hear Speaker Cretul confess that Republican leadership since 1998 has led to unnecessary spending and a failure to follow basic government accountability measures that Florida put in place in the Government Performance and Accountability Act of 1994.

“Today, Speaker Cretul also called for greater budget transparency. I urge Republican leaders to consider the merits of House Joint Resolution 241 by Rep. Keith Fitzgerald, D-Sarasota.”

House Joint Resolution 241. Expanding The Public's Access. Rep. Keith Fitzgerald. The constitutional amendment requires budget documents be user friendly and easy to understand. The amendment would prevent last-minute backroom budget and legislative deals that avoid public input and scrutiny. The key components include these requirements:

- Budget documents must be user friendly, easy to read and understandable;
- A three-fourths vote is necessary to allow an amendment on the House floor during the last week of session to reduce the back room last minute deals showing up for a vote without public scrutiny;
- Members of conference committees are prohibited from discussing legislative matters among themselves, except at noticed public meetings;
- A two-thirds vote of both chambers is required to enact public records or public meeting exemptions;
- Citizens are allowed the right to challenge in court the rules governing public access to documents and meetings.

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