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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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Barrington A. Russell

Florida Representative, HD-095 (D)

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2017-2018 FL Legislative Scorecard: 17%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Strengthening Stand Your Ground: Requires the state to provide "clear and convincing evidence" that a self-defense claim is invalid. ✗

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · SB128 · Passed 73–38 · 04/05/2017

2. Immigration Enforcement: Ends "sanctuary city" policies and requires state and local governments to work with federal authorities on immigration enforcement. ✗

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · HB697 · Passed 75–40 · 04/28/2017

3. Banning Red Light Cameras: Prohibits Florida counties and municipalities from creating red light camera programs. ✗

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · HB6001 · Passed 81–17 · 01/12/2018

4. Dismemberment Abortion: HB1429 bans dismemberment abortion, a ghoulish procedure involving cutting a fetus into pieces to remove it from the mother. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1429 · Passed 71–41 · 03/01/2018

5. Cancelling Free Speech on Campus: Limits the ability of students to practice free speech on campus. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB4 · Rejected 36–74 · 03/05/2018

6. Firearm Restrictions: Exploits the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to push through a wide-ranging attack on 2nd Amendment rights. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB7026 · Rejected 48–66 · 03/06/2018

Why do these votes matter?

1. Strengthening Stand Your Ground

SB128 requires the state to provide "clear and convincing evidence" that a self-defense claim is invalid.

The Florida State Senate passed SB128 on April 5, 2017 by a vote of 74 to 39. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the right to self-defense is fundamental and tied closely to protections afforded by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This bill requires a prosecuting body, rather than the defense, to prove wrongful death with "clear and convincing evidence," when a legal defense of self-defense is raised following a deadly event. The ability of citizens to protect themselves when under personal threat is a critical natural right that protects a society from falling into chaos.

2. Immigration Enforcement

HB697 ends "sanctuary city" policies and requires state and local governments to work with federal authorities on immigration enforcement.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed HB697 on March 28, 2017 by a vote of 76 to 41. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because illegal migration flaunts the rule of law, is harmful to American workers, and is unconstitutional. The U.S. Constitution states in Article 1, Section 8; and Article 2, Section 3 that the federal government shall have the power to establish uniform immigration law and ensure that such law be faithfully executed. The 10th Amendment allows for the states to address the crisis of illegal migration and provide for their own public safety.

3. Banning Red Light Cameras

HB6001 prohibits Florida counties and municipalities from creating red light camera programs.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed HB6001 on January 12, 2018 by a vote of 83 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because red light camera programs are unconstitutional under the 6th Amendment. Under that amendment's confrontation clause, a criminal defendant has a right "to be confronted with the witnesses against him." Furthermore, red light camera programs are an unethical money grab. Device errors are common and well-documented, and much of the money they generate is routed to third-party companies that exploit a system of crony capitalism.

4. Dismemberment Abortion

HB1429 bans dismemberment abortion, a ghoulish procedure involving the cutting apart a fetus to remove it from the mother.

The Florida State House of Representatives passed HB1429 on March 1, 2018 by a vote of 72 to 42. We have assigned pluses to the yeas because, though this bill does not fully protect the life of the unborn, it is a step in the right direction by ending the gruesome procedure of "dismemberment abortion," a process of dissecting the unborn so to remove it from the mother. The right to life is fundamental, God-given, and protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

5. Cancelling Free Speech on Campus

SB4 limits the ability of students to practice free speech on campus.

The Florida State House of Representatives failed to pass SB4 by on March 5, 2018 by a vote of 37 to 75. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill contains a shameful erosion of principles of free expression by way of eroding the protection of free speech on campus. Critically the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords the people the right to assembly and the right to speak freely. The people must resist efforts toward abridgment of the freedom of speech, a foundational right upon which our many other rights depend.

6. Firearm Restrictions

SB7026 exploits the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to push through a wide-ranging attack on 2nd Amendment rights.

The Florida State House of Representatives failed to pass SB7026 on March 6, 2018 by a vote of 49 to 67. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill is a flagrant attack on the 2nd and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution. This bill prohibits individuals under the age of 21 from purchasing firearms and calls for police to seize weapons of certain individuals, superseding due process of law in gross violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.