

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FLHouseDems](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Geller Calls for Special Session to Make Florida Safer  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 4:44:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Special Session Request Letter.pdf](#)

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2022

### **CONTACT**

Joel Ramos  
Office of Joseph Geller  
[Joel.Ramos@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Joel.Ramos@myfloridahouse.gov)  
954-646-9780

## **Representative Geller Calls for Special Session to Make Florida Safer**

**Tallahassee, FL** – In response to recent mass shootings across the country, as well as the seemingly endless gun violence epidemic in Florida communities, **Representative Joseph Geller (D-Aventura)** is calling for a special session to address the problem claiming thousands of lives every year in the Sunshine State.

In his letter to **Secretary of State Cord Byrd**, **Representative Geller** stated, “It is imperative that we take common sense steps to address this epidemic of gun violence that has led to atrocities in places like Parkland, FL, Buffalo, NY, and most recently in Uvalde, TCX.”

If adopted by the legislature, the special session would address three common sense topics to make our communities safer:

1. Regulate **large capacity rifle magazines**, limiting the destructive power of the most common weapons used in the deadliest mass shootings
2. **Universal Background Checks** for firearms sales, adding a layer of security to ensure guns stay out of the hands of those who should not possess them
3. Expand Florida’s successful **Red Flag law**, passed after the Parkland shooting

When 20% of the Legislature makes this request to the Department of State, the Secretary of State is required to conduct a poll of the Legislature. Sixty percent of both chambers must then vote for the special session. Alternatively, the two presiding officers or the Governor could call a special session.

**Representative Geller** said, “Something must be done to fight back against the deadly scourge of gun violence that touches every community from Pensacola to Key West.

It has invaded our schools, our supermarkets, our houses of worship, and our neighborhoods. People deserve to feel safe in their own communities, and its past

time we do something.

Hopefully, responsible Republicans will join us in the discussion and we can find ways to make our communities safer. Floridians deserve nothing less.”

**Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando)** added, “Universal criminal background checks are consistently supported by overwhelming bipartisan majorities of Floridians. Expanding Florida’s Red Flag law, already proven effective at keeping guns out of the hands of those who should not have them, would save even more lives while limiting large capacity rifle magazines can help prevent mass shootings like the one at Pulse nightclub that took the lives of 49 people in 2016. Each of these common-sense gun safety reforms will make our state more safe. We cannot sit back and do nothing while Floridians demand action.”

Please find **Representative Geller’s** letter attached.

###