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LMA NEWSLETTER

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Saving Schools

This weekend was historical as a rare Saturday Senate floor session was held for 9 hours to debate the gun and school safety bill. Senator Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican, led the debate and opened with this: "We have not done enough to try to have mechanisms in place in a comprehensive manner to prevent this (Parkland shooting) incident from occurring in the future. Since then all of us (Senators) have interacted with advocates, law enforcement, community leaders, parents, and so many others who are encouraging us. The proposed legislation before you (Senators) is a compilation of ideas from the Governor, Attorney General's office, the House and everyone in this room (Senate Chambers) to take those steps and look at all the areas where we can improve and do better. I think that this journey is just beginning. This is not the be all end all and I plan to do much in this area as we continue to learn and be prepared so that all schools and kids are safe. This proposed legislation addresses four areas: mental health, firearm safety, school safety, communication and coordination of communication."

And then for the next 9 hours, over 50 amendments were debated with passionate pleas by Democratic senators to remove the "Marshal plan" (allowing school personnel who volunteer to be trained to have weapons on campus) from the bill. Today, the debate will continue in the Senate and then the House and Senate will negotiate this historic bill in the legislature's attempt to prevent shooting massacres from ever happening again.

I invite you to share your thoughts about [this legislation](#) and welcome your input, so that I can share it with so many legislators I have spoken to since this Valentine's Day tragedy. Blessings to all of you for a good week.

Lisa