Florida Statewide Birth Justice Coalition

2026 END OF SESSION

Newsletter

For another year, SBJN returned to Tallahassee for Birth Justice Days at the Capitol, bringing together advocates, birth workers, youth, and community members to uplift the voices of Black mothers, birthing people, and families across Florida. During the visit, 30 advocates met with lawmakers, attended committee meetings, and visited 31 legislative offices to share the importance of Birth Justice and raise awareness about the vital role doulas and midwives play in improving maternal health outcomes.

As Representative Ashley V. Gantt shared in one of our meetings, "Educating people on how important doulas are is a task." Her words reflected the importance of the conversations taking place throughout the Capitol during the event. **This year's Birth Justice Days focused on laying the groundwork for future advocacy by helping advocates feel confident engaging directly with policymakers.** Rather than speaking on behalf of advocates, SBJN created space for them to share their own stories, experiences, and expertise with lawmakers and staff.

Birth Justice Days at the Capitol remind us that real change happens when people come together and use their voices. Every advocate who showed up and shared their story helped strengthen the movement.

While our time time in Tallahassee has come to an end for 2026, the work continues in our communities every day.

Together, we are building a stronger Birth Justice movement across Florida.

The movement moves with us.



THIS EXPERIENCE CONTINUES TO BE A HIGHLIGHT IN MY YEAR OF ADDRESSING MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH. AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE MY RIGHT AS A CONSTITUENT AND RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IS BEYOND CRITICAL IN THESE TIMES.

I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MENTORING AND SUPPORTING THE BIRTH JUSTICE DOULAS FIND THEIR VOICES IN LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS AND SPACES, OWN THEIR STORIES AND ELEVATE THEM PROUDLY AND CONFIDENTLY WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVES.

- ESTHER ROSE

Florida Statewide Birth Justice Coalition

Session Highlights

BROUGHT TOGETHER 30+ ADVOCATES.

ENGAGED WITH 31 LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.

MET WITH KEY POLICYMAKERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVE TUCK, CHAIR OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS & PROGRAMS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE PRESIDENT ALBRITTON, AND HOUSE SPEAKER PEREZ.



STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICYMAKERS THROUGH DIRECT CONVERSATIONS ON BIRTH JUSTICE AND MATERNAL HEALTH.



CENTERED ADVOCATES' LIVED EXPERIENCES, CREATING SPACE TO SHARE STORIES AND EXPERTISE DIRECTLY WITH POLICYMAKERS.



HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF DOULAS AND MIDWIVES IN IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.

INCREASED VISIBILITY OF SBJN

Florida Statewide Birth Justice Coalition

2026 END OF SESSION

Newsletter



JOIN THE BIRTH JUSTICE MOVEMENT!

Stand with SBJN as we continue to demand dignity, equity, and safety for all birthing people, by joining the **Statewide Birth Justice Coalition**. Help bring awareness to the **Birth Justice Bill of Rights**, a powerful declaration of every person's right to respectful, culturally affirming, and empowering care. Explore and share the **Maternal Health Guide**—a vital resource designed to educate, inform, and protect our communities. Together, we can build a future where all births are just and all families thrive.