



**JEFF KOTTKAMP**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 3, 2009

To the Members of the Legislature:

Today we begin a new Session. The good people of your Districts have sent you here to be their voice in the legislative process. I know that each decision you make during the Session will be with your constituents in mind.

One of my responsibilities as Lieutenant Governor is to serve as Chairman of the Children and Youth Cabinet. Each member of the Cabinet, like you, is dedicated to our common vision of every child in Florida growing up safe, healthy, educated, and prepared to meet their full potential. Cabinet members include Secretary of the Department of Children and Families George Sheldon, Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice Frank Peterman, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration Holly Benson, Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Jim DeBeaugrine, State Surgeon General Ana Viamonte Ros, Florida's Chief Child Advocate Jim Kallinger, Interim Director for Agency for Workforce Innovation, Cynthia Lorenzo, Director of the state Guardian Ad Litem Program Theresa Flury, and Commissioner of Education Eric Smith. Senator Nan Rich and former Representative Loranne Ausley also serve on the Cabinet, as well as Dr. Judy Schaechter, David Lawrence, Gary Lancaster, Toni Crawford, Dick Batchelor, Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Guerra, Maureen Dinnen, and Justice Fred Lewis.

The Cabinet has spent significant time and effort to find ways for State government to serve the children and youth of Florida in a more efficient and cost effective way. We have been working diligently to develop an information sharing system for all state agencies that serve the needs of the children of our state. When fully implemented, the system will allow all state agencies to provide a comprehensive approach to serving our children. The information sharing system will also save the taxpayers of Florida millions of dollars at a time when such savings are desperately needed.

We are also working hard to identify every dollar the state spends on children and youth. Our goal is to identify areas where we can eliminate duplicative or ineffective efforts. We share your desire to maximize the impact of all taxpayer dollars used to serve the children of Florida.

The members of the Cabinet know full well that your job this Session is not an easy one. You are faced with some very serious challenges. We also know, however, that you are up to the task.

The Children and Youth Cabinet stands ready to assist as you consider both funding and policy decisions related to Florida's most precious resource---our children. We are prepared to help you in any way necessary to ensure their safety, education and well being.

On behalf of the members of the Children and Youth Cabinet---thank you for your hard work and dedication to the citizens of our great State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kottkamp".

Jeff Kottkamp

JK/psh