Catalyst Miami State Policy Priorities

Catalyst Miami is an economic justice non-profit that works with thousands of families annually to navigate social services, build grassroots community leadership, and advocate for policy change. Our mission is to identify and collectively solve issues adversely affecting low-wealth communities throughout Miami-Dade County.

1. Our Health is Our Wealth

Expand healthcare access and achieve health justice by supporting HB903/SB706, HB779/SB730, HB511/SB1078, HB61, and HB1199/SB646

2. Address our Housing Crisis

Floridians deserve healthy and safe housing that they can afford, as well as a fairer court system. In order to achieve this, oppose HB627/SB102, HB133/SB494, and HB1417/SB1586

3. Guarantee Florida’s Future

Taking climate action now is mandatory in order to protect Florida’s very existence. Ensure that our communities are protected by supporting HB903/SB706, HB957/SB970, HB175/SB192, HB293/SB680 and opposing HB821/SB1162, HB1217/SB1238, and HB1197/SB1240

4. Achieve Economic Justice

Build wealth and economic opportunity for all by opposing HB1267/SB580 and HB125/SB194

5. Preserve Local Governments

Restore local freedoms by reinstating and preserving local governments’ ability to legislate around critical issues by opposing HB1515/SB170, HJR129/SB1410, and HB1617/SB1718

6. Invest in our Future

Ensure education justice by opposing HB1/SB202, HB999/SB266, and HB543/SB150

info@catalystmiami.org
@catalystmiami
www.catalystmiami.org
Expand Healthcare Access

SUPPORT

HB511/SB1078 Expands Medicaid eligibility to up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (Sponsors: Rep. Joseph and Sen. Thompson)

HB61 Requires the Affordable Healthcare Act to establish & implement a Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities between 18 - 64 years of age whose incomes exceed the maximum income eligibility level for the Medicaid program. (Sponsor: Representative Woodson)

HB1199/SB646 Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, to conduct a study on the impacts of adjusting Medicaid income eligibility criteria to include adults aged 18-26 who are otherwise unable to obtain coverage. (Sponsors: Representative Cassel and Senator Berman)

Achieve Health Justice

SUPPORT

HB779/SB730 Requires that every female who is arrested and not released on bond within 72 hours be administered a pregnancy test upon request. Authorizes a sentencing court to stay the beginning of the period of incarceration for up to a certain amount of time for a pregnant woman convicted of any offense; requiring that, within 10 days of the start of the woman’s incarceration, she receive assessment and services. (Sponsors: Representative Hart and Senator Jones)
OPPOSE

HB133/SB494 Supported by out-of-state corporations, this bill would allow a monthly, non-refundable fee to be charged to renters in lieu of a security deposit, further increasing the cost of renting in Florida. (Sponsors: Representative Mooney and Senator DiCeglie)

HB1417/SB1586 Preempts the Tenant’s Bill of Rights policies that were created in multiple municipalities in the past years. This bill would remove any regulations protecting renters. (Sponsors: Represenative Esposito and Senator Trumball)

HB627/SB102 We oppose sections 2, 3, 5 & 6. Sections 2 & 6 preempt and ban any rent control initiative at the local level regardless of circumstances. Sections 3 & 5 offer new housing that excludes households and individuals that need it the most — only 2% of Floridians would be eligible. (Sponsors: Representative Busatta Cabrera and Senator Calatayud)
**Climate Justice**

**Educate Outdoor Workers**

**SUPPORT**  
**HB903/SB706**  
Requires employers to implement an educational heat exposure safety program for outdoor workers, including measures to ensure access to water, shade, and rest. (Sponsors: Rep. Gottlieb and Sen. Rodriguez)

**Green Futures for All**

**SUPPORT**  
**HB175/SB192**  
Establishes a 2-mile buffer around the Everglades National Park and heightened review for any proposals to develop in the area. (Sponsors: Representenative Busatta Cabrera and Senators Avila and Calatayud)

**OPPOSE**  
**HB1197/SB1240**  
Prohibits local governments from adopting policies relating to water, pollution control, discharge prevention or removal, or wetlands & preempts such regulation to the state. (Sponsors: Representative Maggard and Senator Burgess)
A Just Transition to Clean Energy

**SUPPORT**

**HB957/SB970** Prohibits drilling or exploration for, or production of fossil fuel products; requires statewide renewable energy electricity and carbon emission reductions by 2050; directs the state Office of Energy to develop a unified statewide plan; creates a Renewable Energy Workforce Development Advisory Committee. (Sponsors: Representative Eskamani and Senator Berman)

**HB293/SB680** Creates a task force — including one environmental justice expert and four residents of minority, underserved, rural, and low-income communities — to provide recommendations for a just transition. (Sponsors: Rep. Hinson and Sen. Davis)

**OPPOSE**

**HB821/SB1162** Weakens Public Service Commission (PSC) oversight on utility investments in gas and hydrogen projects and pipelines. If passed, utility companies could pay above-market prices for dirty energy projects and pass the costs on to customers with even less PSC scrutiny than they get away with now. (Sponsors: Representative Yeager and Senator DiCeglie)

**HB1217/SB1238** Prohibits local governments from setting building requirements that improve resilience and sustainability, incentivizing electric or clean vehicles, or prioritizing clean energy home improvements. (Sponsors: Representative Melo and Senator Rodriguez)
**Stop Corporate Greed**

**OPPOSE**

**HB1267/SB580**
Allows loan companies to charge a 36% interest rate on loans valued up to $25,000. The Florida Financial Services Association, which represents the lenders, donated $190,000 in 2022 to politicians from both political parties to gain support for SB580. Consumer loans under $25,000 are not subject to Florida usury laws, which limit interest rates to 18%. (Sponsors: Rep. Fernandez-Barquin and Sen. Gruters)

**HB125/SB194**
Allows large water companies to acquire municipal and private water utilities and pass on huge acquisition costs to new customers. Water users will pick up the tab when a big utility overpays to acquire a smaller utility. Over the long term, this is likely to increase water bills for everyone. (Sponsors: Representative McClain and Senator Hooper)
OPPOSE

**HB1515/SB170**
Requires business impact statements for legislation and delays local decision-making if challenged by corporate interests. Forces local governments to reimburse corporate attorney fees. (Sponsor: Senator Trumball)

**HB1617/SB1718**
Removes power from local municipalities to give community IDs to any undocumented person. Forces hospitals to share data on undocumented patients and what services they received. Requires all employers to use E-Verify to prove legal status. It would also allow for people to file complaints against undocumented individuals to get them removed and put into detention facilities. It would also prevent any undocumented person from being able to obtain a license to practice law. Finally, it would also remove in-state tuition from undocumented students that attended high school in the US. (Sponsors: Representative Michael and Senator Ingoglia)

**HJR129/SB1410**
Increases the public support needed to pass a constitutional amendment from 60% to 66.7%.
Invest in our Future

**OPPOSE**

**HB1/SB202**  Expands eligibility of state funds for private school vouchers to all Florida students in the largest expansion of Florida's school voucher program since its inception. The projected cost program is an estimated $4 billion, including $2 billion for students not previously covered by state funding.

**HB999/SB266**  Defunds diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at state institutions; concentrates hiring power in the hands of trustees; allows for post-tenure faculty review at any time; eliminates majors in certain subjects focused on race and gender; and creates new general education requirements. (Sponsors: Representative Andrade and Senator Grall)

**HB543/SB150**  Requires sheriffs to assist private schools in complying with a certain statute; Removes the requirement of a license to conceal and carry a weapon. Only requires the person to have a valid ID on them while carrying. It also says non-Florida residents can carry a concealed weapon while in the state if they meet requirements, including having a valid license to carry a firearm in their home state. (Sponsors: House Representatives Judiciary Committee and Senator Collins)