



# FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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January 20, 2014

The Honorable Charles David Hood, Jr.  
The Florida House of Representatives  
1003 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: House Bill 655, Ethics and Open Government Training/City Officials

Dear Senator Hood:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the provision in HB 655, amending section s.112.3142, F.S., to require mandatory ethics and open government training for elected municipal officials. In our experience, many of the access problems encountered by citizens can be resolved with additional education and training, and we firmly believe that such training is necessary to ensure that Floridians can freely exercise their self-executing rights under Article I, section 24 of the Florida Constitution.

House Bill 655 is a critically important statement of public policy and it reinforces Florida's reputation as the Sunshine State. We greatly appreciate your efforts on this meritorious legislation, Representative Hood. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Will Weatherford, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Sandy D'Alemberte, Florida Society of News Editors