



FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

336 East College Avenue, Suite 101 Tallahassee, FL 32301

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January 20, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Clemens
The Florida Senate
226 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 606, Ethics and Open Government Training/City Officials

Dear Senator Clemens,

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the provision in SB 606, 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 606 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, Senator Clemens. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, The Florida Senate
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Sandy D'Alemberte, Florida Society of News Editors