



FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

336 East College Avenue, Suite 101 Tallahassee, FL 32301

www.floridafaf.org

January 13, 2014

The Honorable Aaron Bean
The Florida Senate
Room 302, Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SPB 7014 OGSR/Department of Health

Dear Senator Bean:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding SPB 7014, reenacting with minor modification section 893.0551, F.S., a public record exemption for information relating to the electronic monitoring system for the tracking of prescription drugs held by any agency.

While we do not object to protecting patient identifying information, we are concerned that the exemption provided by s. 893.0551 is overboard in that it denies public access to identifying information of a health care practitioner, pharmacist, and pharmacist's agency. The exemption precludes any opportunity for public oversight of agency performance. We respectfully suggest that the bill be amended to exempt only patient identifying information.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns, Senator Bean. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

cc: The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, The Florida Senate
The Honorable Aaron Bean, Chairman, Health Policy Committee
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association