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March 4, 2014

The Honorable Greg Evers
308 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1356 Exemption/Dates of Birth – Registered Voters

Dear Senator Evers:

We have carefully reviewed SB 1356, which, in part, creates a public record exemption of dates of birth provided by voter registration applicants and registered voters. We have spoken with numerous journalists who have expressed their concerns regarding the proposed exemption, Senator Evers. We have learned that a voter's date of birth is regularly used to verify the identity of a registered voter when there are multiple voters with the same name; currently, the date of birth is the only way identity verification can be assured. For example, a few years ago access to dates of birth in the voter rolls by reporters for the *Miami Herald* was key in showing fraud in a City of Miami mayoral election; as a result of the investigative team's findings, the election was overturned.

This is a serious and real concern, and we must oppose the proposed expansion of the exemption in s. 97.0585, F.S., to include dates of birth. We strongly suggest that the bill be amended to delete the exemption for dates of birth. If the bill is amended, we would support SB 1356, which would then limit the exemptions in s. 97.0585, F.S., to only that information obtained for the purpose of voter registration.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, Senator Evers. Should you need any additional information, 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