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25 March 2015

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
Florida House of Representatives  
Room 317, The Capitol  
402 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: CS/CS/HB 185 Exemption/Home Addresses – U.S. Military Personnel

Dear Representative Gaetz:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding your bill, CS/CS/HB 185, as amended yesterday in the House Government Operations Subcommittee. As originally filed, HB 185 created a public record exemption for the home addresses and other personal information of current or former service members of U.S. military special operations units. The bill was amended yesterday and now exempts such information for all current or former active duty service members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserve Forces, and National Guard. It is our position that the bill, as amended, is overly broad and the exemption is unwarranted.

We understand your concerns for the safety of those who have served in the military, Representative Gaetz, particularly in light of the recent threats posed by ISIS against the 100-targeted military personnel. We believe it's important to take this threat in context. The group responsible for creating the target list did not make a public record request to obtain the information about those targeted – the information was posted to the Internet by the U.S. Military. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/service-members-purported-isis-hit-list-unfazed-threat/story?id=29827367>

The exemption is simply too broad, Representative Gaetz. My 93-year-old father served in World War II as an active duty pilot – does he need the protection this exemption affords? In addition, the burden the exemption will place on record custodians will be extreme, requiring them to track thousands (if not tens of thousands) of requests for confidentiality. The cost of access to public records will increase exponentially – reaction costs are passed along to the requestor – as will time delays in accessing commonly

requested public records, placing an impermissible barrier to our constitutional right of access.

For these reasons, we respectfully recommend CS/CS/HB 185 be amended to mirror its original language or that it be withdrawn from further consideration.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns, Representative Gaetz. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
Jon Kaney, FAF General Counsel, Kaney & Olivari  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Gil Thelen, Executive Director, Florida Society of News Editors