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Protecting Your Right to Know for 30 Years!

March 22, 2017

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The Honorable Darryl Rouson
The Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street, Room 212 SOB
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1502 Disclosure of Contract Information

Dear Senator Rouson:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for your bill, SB 1502, requiring disclosure of contract information by those receiving public funding. The bill requires public disclosure of contract information including the purpose of the contract, specific performance standards, a detailed budget, and the value of services provided. Additionally, the bill stipulates that the amount of money paid by an agency to private contractors must be publicly disclosed.

As we know from recent news reports, a number of government agencies have attempted to withhold the amount of public funds paid to private contractors, claiming such information is somehow proprietary in nature. We have disagreed with such assertions and are gratified to see you tackle this issue, Senator.

Senate Bill 1502 is an important statement of public policy, and will serve to enhance the public's constitutional right to oversee its government and hold it accountable. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Joe Negron, President, The Florida Senate
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association