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FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT

May 2, 2017

CS/HB 843 FAILED on a vote of 68/48!!!!!!!

CS/HB 843 by Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Naples, would allow two members of the same board or commission to discuss public business privately without public notice or minutes of such meetings.

CS/HB 843 was on third reading in the House today; had it passed, it would have gone to the Senate for consideration.

BUT CS/HB 843 FAILED!

Under a 2002 amendment to the constitution, a 2/3 vote of each chamber is required to pass any proposed exemption to our open government laws. That means the CS/HB 843 would have needed 80 votes to pass.

This is a *BIG WIN* and the first time since 2002 that an exemption bill failed the 2/3 vote requirement.

In his closing, Rep. Donalds asked House members whether they preferred “maximum efficiency” over “maximum transparency,” and to their credit, enough of them said “maximum transparency” and killed the bill.

Our genuine thanks to those who debated against the bill:

Rep. Ben Diamond (D-St. Petersburg)

Rep. Joe Geller (D-Dania Beach)

Rep. Kristin Jacobs (D-Coconut Creek)
Rep. Cyndi Stevenson (R-St. Augustine)

If you'd like to see how those in your local delegation voted on this regressive bill, here's a link to the final vote: <http://bit.ly/2qAAfif>

And if you'd like to contact your legislators to express your thanks or disgust, you will find their email addresses here: <http://bit.ly/1PoX8DV>

If you have questions about CS/HB 843 or any of the other bills currently on the FAF tracking list, please contact Barbara Petersen at 800/337-3518 or sunshine@floridafaf.org.