



# FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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March 1, 2011

The Honorable Bill Montford  
The Florida Senate  
208 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Senate Bill 1240 Public Record Exemption/EMTs and Paramedics

Dear Senator Montford:

We are writing to express our concerns about Senate Bill 1240, which would create an exemption for emergency medical technicians and paramedics, as well as their spouses and children. While the bill is based upon existing exemptions for law enforcement personnel and others, as currently drafted, the statement of public necessity that supports the exemption provides no information in support of the exemption. The exemption merely provides a bare assertion that release of this information might result in disgruntled persons trying to harm emergency medical technicians and paramedics or their spouses and children. We have seen no evidence that a threat of harm exists to these individuals or that such harm has in fact occurred in the state. Further, the statement of public necessity does not identify examples of such harm, either that has been threatened or that has occurred. It is our opinion that the statement of public necessity does not justify the exemption and that, therefore, the exemption does not meet the constitutional standard for public record exemptions under Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution. As such, we respectfully request that you withdraw the bill.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Petersen, President

cc: Jon Kaney, FAF Senior Counsel, Cobb & Cole, P.A.  
Sandy D'Alemberte, Palmer and D'Alemberte, P.A.  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Carol LoCicero, Thomas and LoCicero, P.A.