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March 6, 2019

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The Honorable Barbara Watson
Florida House of Representatives
402 South Monroe Street, Room 212 Cap
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 585 Exemption/Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams

Dear Representative Watson:

We are writing in response to HB 585, creating public record exemptions for certain information held by an elder abuse fatality review team. The bill also creates an exemption for portions of public meetings during which such information is discussed.

We are not opposed to the purpose and intent of the proposed exemptions, Rep. Watson. We suggest, however, the bill be amended to require a recording of the closed portions of meetings to allow an opportunity for oversight and accountability of the public board. If HB 585 is amended to require the recording, the Foundation will take a neutral position on the bill.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns, Rep. Watson. If you or staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Mel Ponder, Chair, House Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee