



# First Amendment FOUNDATION

Protecting Your Right to Know Since 1985

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January 6, 2020

The Honorable Joy Goff-Marcil  
Florida House of Representatives  
402 S. Monroe Street, Room 1302 Cap  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 749 Exemption/Fraud, Identity Theft and Skimmer Advisory Task Force

Dear Representative Goff-Marcil:

I am writing on behalf of the First Amendment Foundation in response to HB 749, which would create public record and meeting exemptions for the Fraud, Identify Theft and Skimmer Advisory Task Force.

While we do not object to the proposed exemptions, we do suggest that the bill be amended to provide some sort of record, such as a recording, of those portions of meetings that would be closed under the exemption. Records of closed meetings are vitally important, allowing for oversight of the task force in the event that questions arise about whether the task force limited itself to the discussions it is allowed to have in private. We would suggest an amendment modeled on the language in SB 1170, lines 278-292.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if we can be of assistance in drafting the suggested amendment, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Marsh, President

Cc: The Honorable Jose Oliva, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
Mr. Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation  
Mr. Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Ms. Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors