



# First Amendment FOUNDATION

March 9, 2021

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House Government Operations Subcommittee  
209 House Office Building  
402 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

## Open Government Bills before the House Government Operations Subcommittee

The First Amendment Foundation writes in regard to House Bill 691, which will be heard before the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Wednesday, March 10.

House Bill 691 would exempt the home addresses and photographs of current and former staff and domestic violence advocates of domestic violence centers from public records. While we do not oppose protection for current staff and advocates, we do object to extending the exemption to all former staff and advocates.

The statement of public necessity asserts that personnel and their family members are at a heightened risk of harm from perpetrators of domestic violence. However, the bill provides no information or evidence that former employees or volunteers continue to be forever at risk of harm.

Home address and photograph exemptions create unequal privacy protections for only certain professions in this state, and place additional burdens on state employees who must redact thousands of documents. This bill fails to justify applying this exemption to *former* staff and advocates for all time after their work at a domestic violence center, and thus is far broader than necessary.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela C. Marsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Pamela C. Marsh, President

Cc: The Honorable Chris Sprowls, Speaker, Florida House  
Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation  
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
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