



October 10, 2017

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Chairman Beruff and Members of the CRC:

Every 20 years, Florida provides a truly unique opportunity for a comprehensive review of how the Constitution is working and what improvements need to be made. It is encouraging to see how many citizens have stepped forward to share their ideas and submit proposals for your consideration. We encourage you to remain true to the intended purpose of the CRC - an independent, non-political assessment of our governing document to identify and recommend changes for the benefit of all Floridians.

As the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel editorial board recently noted, "It would be a gross misuse of the commission for (political) leaders — or anyone else — to use this nobly intended invention as a platform for political campaigns. But that's the danger as the CRC prepares to begin discussing possible amendments this month."

The Constitution should reflect broad statements of democratic values and not policy objectives that can be achieved by statutes or regulations. Governor Rick Scott's recent call for the CRC to consider constitutional protections for nursing home residents is a glaring example. There are regulatory and statutory pathways to achieve these stated goals in an equally effective and much more timely manner than a constitutional amendment and we are eager to support and protect our elderly population through these proper channels.

We encourage you to reject all attempts to use the CRC for political or policy objectives and hope you will focus solely on your obligation to recommend amendments that appropriately belong in the constitution to guide and govern future generations of Floridians.

Sincerely,

Howard Simon, Executive Director
Kirk Bailey, Political Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Florida

Liza McClenaghan, State Chair
Common Cause Florida

Rich Templin, Ph.D, Legislative & Political Director
Florida AFL-CIO

Laura Goodhue, Executive Director
Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates

Joanne McCall, President
Florida Education Association

Barbara A. Petersen, President
Florida First Amendment Foundation

Terry Sanders, President
Florida NOW

Joseph Pennisi, Executive Director
Florida Policy Institute

Ashley Walker , Director
For Our Future

Pamela Goodman, President
League of Women Voters Florida

Esteban Garces, State Director
Mi Familia Vota

Mark Ferrulo, Executive Director
Progress Florida

CC: All Commissioners

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