



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
P.O. Box 470932
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0932
www.floridaactioncommittee.org

February 5, 2018

Jon Sherman, Esq.
Tiffany Davis, Esq.
Fair Elections Legal Network
1825 K St. NW Suite 450
Washington DC 20006

SENT VIA EMAIL
info@fairelectionsnetwork.com
jsherman@fairelectionsnetwork.com
tdavis@fairelectionsnetwork.com

RE: VOTING RIGHTS FOR DISENFRANCHISED FELONS IN FLORIDA

Dear Mr. Sherman and Ms. Davis,

The Florida Action Committee (FAC) is a not-for-profit organization which advocates for the civil rights of *all* individuals, including those who have a history of a sex offense. FAC does not condone sexual abuse in any form. In fact, our goal is to prevent the cycle of abuse by reforming current ineffective “feel good” legislation in favor of policies that are based on empirical evidence.

Our membership is comprised of over eight hundred individuals, including; registrants, their family members, friends, treatment providers and other stake-holders. We are active in legislative advocacy and seeking to reform laws and defeat harmful bills. Unfortunately, many of our members are disenfranchised, so while every year there is new legislation that impacts practically every aspect of their lives, they have no say in these bills.

Voting rights are immensely important to this population, as they are to every citizen of our country.

We were very excited to learn of last week’s decision in the Northern District of Florida (*Hand et al v. Scott et al*) which found Governor Rick Scott’s arbitrary and partisan system of restoration unconstitutional. We applaud you for bringing the action and appreciate your efforts.

At the same time, we are concerned. Judge Walker gave the parties until the 12th of this month to brief on a proposed remedy to the issue. Whenever restoration of voting rights has been considered, the proposal that seems to always be offered as an accommodation is to exclude “murderers and sex offenders”. For some reason, it’s very easy to throw this population under a bus.

As you are undoubtedly working hard to brief proposed resolutions and may be engaged in further negotiation with the State, we sincerely hope that you will not consider sacrificing the constitutional rights of our population.

Sincerely,

s/
Gail Colletta, President
The Florida Action Committee, Inc.
561-305-4959
gail@floridaactioncommittee.org