



# First Amendment FOUNDATION

Protecting Your Right to Know Since 1985

Dear Friends,

As the Florida Legislative Session unfolds, we find ourselves at a critical juncture, defending the cornerstone of our democracy: the right to free speech. While we have managed to defeat several bad bills through our testimony and advocacy, several dangerous bills still remain, including Defamation HB757 and SB1780, Social Media Use for Minors HB1 and SB1788, and Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders: HB75 and SB184. These proposed laws pose significant threats to our freedoms, compelling us to reach out for your support.

**Defamation HB757 and SB1780:** These bills aim to reshape defamation laws, lowering the bar for rich and powerful people to sue their critics for reports online, in newspapers, or broadcasts. It would chill speech and stifle public debate, impacting commenters on Facebook as well as on the 6 o'clock evening news. Defeating these bills isn't just about protecting journalists; it's about preserving robust political debate across the political spectrum and the right of all citizens to speak truth to power without fear or intimidation.

**Social Media Use for Minors HB75 and SB184:** Proposed legislation that could limit minors' ability to express themselves online and would require every new account holder to present credit cards or government identification to prove their age, eliminating anonymous voices on social media platforms, a violation of our First Amendment rights not only to speak but to parent. Our recommendations to follow U.S. Supreme Court proposals to improve parental controls on the front end of these platforms to deal with the issue have gone unheeded.

**Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders HB75 and SB184:** Aims to protect first responders by creating a 14-foot buffer zone around them to prevent them from being harassed in the line of duty. However, this restriction could unintentionally penalize lawful protests and speech, including filming or recording police for news or to document their actions for accountability. Such measures may not only curb free expression but also diminish public trust and the transparency critical to open governance. A similar law from Arizona has been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

These bills, among others, challenge the very principles that uphold our rights to speak freely, criticize the government, and hold those in power accountable. Their passage could have far-reaching consequences for press freedom, individual expression, and the open exchange of ideas on digital platforms. Over the last years, we have seen several ill-advised and unconstitutional laws passed only to be challenged and lost in the courts, but not before creating stress for citizens impacted by these bad laws and costing taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees. We cannot overstate the urgency of this situation. We need your support to ensure that these dangerous proposals do not become law.

## Why Help Us

We are at a pivotal moment where the actions we take can either protect or erode our fundamental freedoms. We urge you to join us in this fight by:

1. Making a Donation: Your financial support will enable us to advocate effectively

against these bills, ensuring that our voices are heard loud and clear in the Florida Legislature.

2. Writing to the Governor: We need you to write to Governor Ron DeSantis, urging him to veto particularly concerning bills like HB75 and SB184. Your letters can make a difference in protecting the rights of all Floridians.

## Stand With Us

This is not just a battle for the press or activists; it's a fight for every citizen who values the right to speak freely and access information without fear of retribution. By standing together, we can safeguard our rights and ensure that the spirit of "we the people" prevails.

Let's reclaim your voice and defend the principles that make our society free and open. Your support, whether through donations, advocacy, or spreading the word, is invaluable.

[DONATE](#)

**P.S. Don't wait until it's too late! Your support is urgently needed to stop these bills in their tracks. Make your voice heard and donate today!**

FOLLOW US



First Amendment Foundation | 317 East Park Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-224-4555

[Unsubscribe info@floridafaf.org](mailto:info@floridafaf.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@floridafaf.org](mailto:info@floridafaf.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!