



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
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January 24, 2018

Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Inc
Attn: Desmond Meade
3000 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard
Suite 502
Clearwater, FL 33759

SENT VIA EMAIL
info@ffafd.org.

RE: THE “VOTING RESTORATION AMENDMENT”

Dear Mr. Meade:

The Florida Action Committee (FAC) is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy organization. Among our members are registered sex offenders/predators and their families.

We are writing concerning your organization’s efforts towards restoring felon’s voting rights in Florida. While we find it admirable that you seek to restore the rights of *certain* disenfranchised, we find it ironic that “Floridians for a Fair Democracy” has approached this effort in such an *unfair* and prejudiced manner by expressly excluding a class of Floridians, namely those registered as “sex offenders”.

There are over 70,000 individuals registered as “sex offenders” in Florida. The designation includes a broad spectrum of offenses, ranging from the very benign to the most heinous. Included in the list you have teens who engaged in consensual activities amongst themselves. You have “Romeo and Juliet” offenders. You have individuals who have first-time, non-contact offenses and who viewed illegal images online.

Sex Offenders have among the *lowest* rates of recidivism of any criminal offense. They are, however, subject to the harshest and most punitive post-sentence restrictions. Each year, the sanctions become more severe and in Florida, the punishments endure for life!

How do you expect a population whose rights and civil liberties are so blatantly tread upon, can have their positions heard if you take efforts to further suppress their voice?

How can you stand in judgment of an entire class of citizen and claim people “*have done their time and paid their debts [and]... have earned the opportunity to participate in and give back to their communities*” but not ‘them’?

How can your organization call itself “fair” or “democratic” when your website, <https://secondchancesfl.org/>, has a large bullet point that says, “The Amendment **specifically excludes** those people who have committed murder or a felony sexual offense,”? (with “specifically excludes” in bold and underlined?)

As a representative of the population you are blanketly seeking to suppress, I wanted to make you aware of our position, offer to share with you research and studies on *the facts* about sex offender recidivism rates and respectfully request you re-consider your discriminatory position.

Sincerely,

s/

Gail Colletta, President

The Florida Action Committee, Inc.

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cc: ACLU
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