

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

September 17, 2018

Florida Governor Rick Scott State of Florida The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: FLORIDA DADS TAKE YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL DAY

Dear Governor Scott:

I am president of the Florida Action Committee (FAC). FAC is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy organization. Our membership is comprised of over Two Thousand (2,000) individuals in Florida.

It was with great excitement that I learned about Florida's initiative to encourage fathers to become involved in the education of their children. I was encouraged to read, in your proclamation, that your administration recognizes the "critical contributions made by fathers" to their children.

While the promotional materials for this program (see attached) claim that "all father figures are welcome", in fact, <u>not all</u> fathers are welcome. There is a segment of Florida's population that is excluded from schools and consequently excluded from participating in a significant component of their children's education and upbringing; namely persons required to register as "sex offenders".

Not all persons required to register as sex offenders are homogenous, yet the State of Florida makes no distinction among them. All are subject to the same draconian banishment that forever prevents them from attending their children's sporting events, plays, graduations or programs such as yours. To the children of these individuals, your announcement of the "DADS" program serves yet another reminder of how the registry is an instrument for breaking certain families apart.

I strongly encourage you to rethink this State's policies with respect to the children of parents who are required to register as sex offenders and somehow enable them also to have the benefit of having their Dads participate in the educational process.

Sincerely,

s/ Gail Colletta, President The Florida Action Committee, Inc.

