



**March 23, 2020**

**The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Florida State Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001**

Dear Governor DeSantis,

In the eleventh hour of the 2019 legislative session, Florida's legislature adopted new restrictions to the constitutional amendment process. Those changes have been challenged in court throughout the past year and have led to the failure of a number of citizen-led efforts. During the 2020 legislative session, Florida's legislature has taken another step towards stripping our constitution from the people and placing it into the hands of corporations, billionaires, and dark money with the passage of SB 1794.

The sad truth is that because of the legislature's efforts to restrict the Citizen Initiative process in the past, getting an initiative on the ballot has become a business. Citizen Initiative costs have been estimated to be \$6.5M-\$8M per issue. This provision, if signed into law, would increase those costs even more.

Arguments have been made in favor of SB 1794 because many believe that our ballots are too lengthy. While some may believe that, we'd like you to note that from 1969 through 2018, there have been a total of 185 constitutional amendments placed on the ballot and considered by Florida's voters. 116 of those 185 amendments were referred to the ballot by the Florida legislature. The Citizen Initiative process has only had 38 amendments since 1969 and of those, only 27 have passed. Lengthy ballots are not the fault of the Citizen Initiative.

We'd like to remind you that citizens have championed directrh f