

The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 3299

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition – HB 7089

Dear Chairman Ingolia and members of the House State Affairs Committee:

Advancement Project is a next generation, multi-racial civil rights organization. Rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice, we exist to fulfill America's promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy. Advancement Project's National Office provides this written testimony in opposition to HB 7089. We respectfully request that this testimony be included in the record of the meeting and made available to the public in the committee packet and/or meeting notes. Further, we respectfully request that you withdraw this legislation from consideration for the reasons set forth below.

Background

On November 6, 2018, an overwhelming 64.55% of Florida voters cast their ballots in favor of Amendment 4, the Voting Restoration Amendment. This clearly reflects the will of the people to grant a second chance to citizens with former felony convictions who have paid their debt to society. The passage of Amendment 4 also highlights the paramount importance voters have placed on the right to vote, a cornerstone principle of our nation's democracy.

We are deeply concerned that HB 7089 is unconstitutional in that it is overly broad, vague, and extends