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The Florida Constitution Revision Commission
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida Chamber Opposes Proposal 29

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to Florida as a Commissioner of the 2018 Constitution Revision Commission. Your role in refining and debating our state's central document has the potential to set Florida on a path of continued prosperity.

One of the many issues that you as Commissioners will debate is the proper role of our state government in relation to the federal government. Many issues, such as foreign policy or immigration policy, are best decided at the federal level. The Florida Chamber of Commerce supports a consistent federal policy of immigration enforcement that avoids unnecessary burdens on employers.

The Florida Chamber has consistently opposed state proposals that undermine the federal government's duty to enforce immigration laws as well as those that could harm either Florida's economy or reputation in the international community. Although well intentioned, the Florida Chamber believes that Proposal 29 places undue burdens on employers, relies on a historically inaccurate program, and improperly encroaches on the role of the federal government.

But most concerning is the placement of this complicated and changing program into our state's foundational document. The Florida Chamber of Commerce opposes constitutional proposals that can be accomplished through the legislative process. If other states' experiences are any guides, new immigration policies open up many unintended consequences and the inflexibility of a constitutional mandate cannot be easily changed to adjust to new circumstances.

Specifically, the Florida Chamber of Commerce opposes Proposal 29 because it:

- Places a flawed federal program into our state constitution when similar policy objectives may be accomplished through the legislative process;
- Creates a new constitutional cause of action, which could result in a significant increase in lawsuits;
- Grants a single state agency significant new enforcement powers including the authority to question all employees and inspect business records without a warrant; and
- Could jeopardize a business's license based on unintentional compliance errors of one employee.

The Florida Chamber urges you to vote against this proposal, but looks forward to working with the Constitution Revision Commission to help write Florida's next chapter of collaboration and success.

Regards,

Securing Florida's Future



Frank C. Walker, III
Vice President of Government Affairs

CC: Bob Gramig, Chair, Florida Chamber of Commerce
Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce
David Hart, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber of Commerce