



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

April 25, 2011

Thomas Perez  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Assistant Attorney General Perez:

I write to request that the Justice Department Civil Rights Division begin a formal review of a legislative initiative pending before the Florida Legislature.

Several supervisors of elections in Florida already have estimated that the measure – which, among other things, would cut early voting from fourteen (14) days to six (6) – will shrink poll access by 50 percent and disenfranchise a significant number of voters. Also, “not allowing address or name change changes on Election Day will create an undue burden on eligible voters” and “will also result in long lines at the polls and discourage many voters from voting,” says Pinellas County’s Republican Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark.

As Florida has five counties currently under active Section 5 preclearance requirements pursuant to the Voting Rights Act, my concern is that the Justice Department eventually will have to determine whether this legislation, H.B. 1355 as written, would in fact suppress the rights of voters in my state.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you or your staff have any questions, please direct them to my counsel Stephanie Mickle whose telephone number is (202) 224-1554.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nelson" with a long, sweeping underline.