Dear Representative/senator:

My name is [insert name]. I am a proud member of the National Federation of the Blind of [insert chapter name], Florida. I am your constituent. The National Federation of the Blind of Florida is a proud affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind; the nation’s oldest and largest organization of the blind. I am writing to you about HB7041/SB90, making changes to the Vote By Mail process, currently under consideration. I am asking that you do not support this damaging piece of legislation.

Voting is both a right and privilege of all American citizens including those with a disability. The Vote By Mail process is integral to maintaining our protected American right to vote, allowing traditionally underrepresented people access to participate in a cornerstone of our democracy. The current legislation under consideration will further move away from and infringe upon our right to vote privately and independently. Within Florida, the voter registration process remains inaccessible to blind and print disabled eligible voters and the changes under HB7041/SB90 will continue this pattern of inaccessibility to blind and print disabled Floridians.

The criminalization of obtaining assistance to utilize an available friend or family member to drop our completed ballots off will impact and impede our ability to take part in the Vote By Mail process. Removing drop boxes from locations that are accessible to the transportation disadvantaged, mobility challenged or any disability, infringes upon the disabled vote.

Please keep in mind the following: Under Florida Statute, Chapter 2002-081, S.14:

*101.662 Accessibility of vote by mail.—It is the intent of the Legislature that voting by vote by mail be by methods that are fully accessible to all voters, including voters having a disability. The Department of State shall work with the supervisors of elections and the disability community to develop and implement procedures and technologies, as possible, which will include procedures for providing vote by mail, upon request, in* *alternative formats that will allow all voters to cast a secret, independent, and verifiable vote by mail without the assistance of another person.*

I urge you to not support legislation that will further disenfranchise blind and print disabled Florida voters.

Sincerely,

[insert your name]

[insert any titles you hold in the NFBF]