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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Rep. Geller and Sen. Taddeo File Legislation in Hopes of Promoting Fair Districts

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Rep. Geller and Sen. Taddeo File Legislation in Hopes of Promoting Fair Districts

TALLAHASSEE -- In order to increase accountability and provide adequate information to constituents in regards to redistricting, **Representative Joseph Geller (D-Aventura)** and **State Senator Annette Taddeo (D-Miami)** have filed repealer bills, <u>HB 6053</u> and <u>SB 530</u>, that will provide the public with crucial information involving the redrawing of the maps.

SB 530/HB 6053 will alert voters when a politician works towards plans for redistricting. They remove the public records exemption for drafts, requests, reapportionment plans, redistricting plans, supporting documents, or amendments. This brings accountability to lawmakers and awareness to the public about how politicians plan on redistricting, and if map manipulation is a problem in their district. All too often the task of redistricting leads to partisan gerrymandering, which too often favors one party and disadvantages communities of color.

Since, the Florida legislature is currently meeting to discuss redistricting in our state, it is imperative that this legislation be passed so we do not go another 10 years with map manipulation.

"It is essential that this redistricting records exemption be repealed," said **Senator Annette Taddeo**. "I am concerned that even though members have been urged to retain all records, by law, Florida Statutes currently exempts redistricting communications and draft maps from public records."

"Redistricting is the public's business, and the public has a right to know what's going on. This is really just a part of the transparency we've been promised," said **Representative Joseph Geller.**