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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **House Democratic Caucus Leadership Responds to Fox News Network Exclusive**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – On Wednesday, May 6, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Georgia-style voter suppression bill into law only one year after he lauded the 2020 elections as the “gold standard” for elections in the country.

Local news media were barred from entering the bill-signing event, and only one national news outlet was given exclusive access to the event, preventing local reporters from asking questions on behalf of Floridians who will be directly affected by the strict voter suppression bill signed into law.

Florida House Democratic Caucus members offered the following responses to today’s egregious assault to Florida’s democratic elections.

“Governor DeSantis signed into law yet another piece of legislation that is bad for Florida. SB 90 is an archaic, anti-democratic bill that creates additional barriers to the vote-by-mail process and it is especially designed to discourage voter participation in elections. Anything that gets in the way of Floridians casting a ballot in a safe and secure election is dead wrong. Florida doesn’t need it. Florida doesn’t want it. And, democracy will absolutely be better off without it,” said **Leader Bobby DuBose (D-Ft. Lauderdale)**.

“SB 90 is an unnecessary, anti-democratic bill that punishes voters by creating additional barriers to the vote-by-mail process and severely restricts the use of secure drop boxes. More than *1.5 million Floridians used* the drop boxes in 2020 when they were concerned about the pandemic and feared a postal service slowdown. The drop boxes were helpful, safe, and well-liked by Florida’s voters. These changes aren’t needed in the Sunshine State, but certainly do fit the anti-democratic falsehoods by former President Trump. Over 350 bills have been filed in more than 40 Republican-led state legislatures to make it harder to vote. We’ve seen the mess created by new voter suppression laws in places like Georgia. Florida, and democracy, does not need such mess,” said **Representative Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)**.

“What happened today was a grave and serious blow to the health of our democracy. After a year, that according to Governor DeSantis, was the ‘gold standard’ for elections in the country, we now need these radical changes without proof for the need to change? Absurd. The Supervisors of Elections do not want these changes. They worked hard to change or make this bill better. They provided over 40 recommendations to better this legislation, yet less than half were remotely considered. SB 90 places undue burdens on Supervisors of Elections offices and restricts secure drop box use. We must listen to the leaders and subject matter experts in elections-related issues. And that happens to be Florida’s Supervisors of Elections,” said **Representative Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville)**.

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