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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston) and Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R-Fort Myers) introduced [House Bill 1229](#), bipartisan legislation that ensures the identity of an adult against whom an injunction for the protection of a minor is ordered appears in official online public court records. The bill is named *Serena's Law* after a resident of southwest Florida who discovered this online public records gap through her own experience.

House Bill 1229 was unanimously voted on the House floor. It ensures that if a court determines that an adult has sexually abused a minor or enacts an order to keep the adult away from the child, individuals, such as school administrators or summer camp employers, can search for the identity of the offender. This closes a loophole in the law to prevent the abuse of children.

"I am grateful to Serena for sharing her powerful and important story with us. Through her experience, we have discovered a potential gap in online public court records that could impact the safety and well-being of our children," said **Representative Persons-Mulicka**. "We must ensure that the public has online access to these important records. We will always fight for our children and must do everything that we can to prevent one more child from becoming a victim."

Representative Bartleman, prime cosponsor of the bill, gave her take on Serena's Law:

"As a mother, when I dropped my daughters off at a camp or youth group, I was under the impression that a thorough background check was done on the people that would be around my children and that it would find any problems. After hearing Serena's story, it is clear that a loophole exists and this law is an effort to close it. If a court of law determines that an adult has sexually abused a minor or enacts an order to keep the adult away from the child for his or her protection, this information should be public. I appreciate Serena coming forward and sharing her story to keep Florida's children safe."

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