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## Public Interest Law Section

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January 24, 2018

Commissioner Lisa Carlton  
 Chair, Executive Committee  
 Constitution Revision Commission  
 400 South Monroe Street  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
 VIA EMAIL: Lisa.Carlton@flrc.gov

Dear Commissioner Carlton and Members of the Declaration of Rights  
 Committee of the Constitution Revision Commission:

On behalf of the Public Interest Law Section of the Florida Bar, I am  
 writing to express the Section's support of Proposal 40.

The Public Interest Law Section has had a long-standing interest in  
 protecting the legal needs of children. In 2016, the Section adopted and  
 published a formal position supporting the appointment of attorneys for  
 children who are the subject of abuse and neglect proceedings, to  
 advocate for the children's interests in legal proceedings affecting their  
 placement and needed services.

We believe the proposed amendment is necessary to ensure that the  
 rights of Florida's dependent children are adequately protected and that  
 their needs and well-being are promoted in court proceedings. An  
 expressed-interests attorney for every child, in conjunction with the  
 best interests representation of the Guardian ad Litem Program, will  
 achieve the most effective outcomes for Florida's foster youth.

Accordingly, we believe this proposal should be approved by the  
 Constitution Revision Commission.

Sincerely,

*Rayni R. Bienenfeld*

Rayni R. Bienenfeld  
 Chair, Children's Rights Committee  
 Public Interest Law Section of The Florida Bar