

April 24, 2025

Dear Speaker Perez,

I am writing to address press coverage and statements being made by members of the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee concerning the grant that Save Our Society from Drugs (SOS) received from the Hope Florida Foundation.

What you (and others) may not know is that, ahead of the meeting I had with House Healthcare Budget Subcommittee Chairman Alex Andrade and my lobbyist R.J. Myers, Mr. Myers was pressured by Chairman Andrade to make me appear for the telephonic meeting. At the time, the 501 c (3) I also represent, Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. (DFAF), had an appropriations request pending before Chairman Andrade. Chairman Andrade brought up the pending budget request when persuading my lobbyist to make me take the meeting. Chairman Andrade further threatened to subpoena me if I failed to cooperate. SOS has important First Amendment rights and associational privileges I needed to protect, but I conducted the call with Chairman Andrade under duress due to the fear that DFAF would lose their funding pending before the Chairman and I would be subject to subpoena.

Additionally, Chairman Andrade told my lobbyist that everything shared during the call would be kept strictly confidential. When the call began, Chairman Andrade said he simply needed to prepare a timeline, and that nothing shared during the call would ever leave the room and everything would remain strictly confidential and would not be presented to the Subcommittee. Again, I participated in the call under extreme duress and based on a justifiable reliance on the promises of confidentiality by Chairman Andrade. Unfortunately, soon after the call, information I shared with Chairman Andrade appeared in media reports. Everything I had been promised by the Chairman with regard to confidentiality had been false.

Equally disturbing is that since the time of the call, Chairman Andrade has stated that James Uthmeier "okay'd" my use of SOS funds received from a grant from Hope Florida for a campaign to oppose the passage of Amendment 3. These statements are patently false. I told Chairman Andrade the truth, which is the exact opposite of what Chairman Andrade is now telling the public. At no time has James Uthmeier directed me or SOS on how to use funds received from an entirely appropriate grant from Hope Florida. It is regrettable that these false statements are being made by a public official and being reported by the press.

I expect I will have more to say soon. Indeed, I am in the process of engaging counsel

and intend to consult on recommended next steps. But, at this juncture, I feel it is important to provide context for why I even took a meeting with the Subcommittee Chairman in the first place, as well as to make clear that much of what has been said and reported is, put simply, untrue.

Thank you for your understanding and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Ronshausen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy Ronshausen
Executive Director, Save Our Society from Drugs