## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

November 27, 2012

Mr. Martin R. Castro Chairman U.S. Commission on Civil Rights 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 1150 Washington, DC 20425

## Dear Mr. Castro:

We write to request that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights hold a hearing regarding H.B. 1355, which was signed into law by Florida Governor Rick Scott on May 19, 2011. Recently, former Governor Charlie Crist, former Florida Republican Chairman Jim Greer, as well as an anonymous group of Republican consultants alleged that the Republican-controlled Florida legislature passed H.B. 1355 in order to intentionally suppress Democratic turnout. The law limited access to the polls for minorities, seniors, and college students. In particular, it reduced the number of early voting days and imposed new restrictive regulations on voter registration groups.

In light of these allegations, we are extremely concerned over the integrity of this law and the justification for its implementation. Therefore, we believe that a hearing must be held as soon as possible. As you know, trust in our democracy is what holds our country together. Voters must be able to trust that their elected officials are acting in their best interest.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our request and look forward to a prompt response.

Alcee L. Hastings

Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Member of Congress

Ted Deutch

Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown

Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson

Member of Congress

## Cc:

Abigail Thernstrom, Vice-Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Peter N. Kirsanow, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Roberta Achtenberg, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Gail Heriot, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Todd Gaziano, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Michael Yaki, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights David Kladney, Commissioner, U.S. Commission Civil Rights