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**FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED DECLARING REDISTRICTING
AMENDMENTS UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

Pensacola, Fla. – A bipartisan group of Florida citizens have filed a federal lawsuit in Pensacola today, seeking to have declared unconstitutional §§ 20 and 21 of Article III of the Florida Constitution, commonly referred to as the “FairDistricts” Amendments, *as they have been applied* by Florida’s Supreme Court.

Stafford Jones, one of the plaintiffs in the suit, issued this statement:

“In their incredible wisdom, our Founding Fathers identified five inalienable rights that they deemed so fundamental, so critical to protect a free country and individual liberties, that they ensclosed those five rights, together, in the very First Amendment of our Constitution. In doing so, our Constitution gives **equal weight to** the freedoms of Religion, Speech, the Press, Assembly and the Petitioning of Government.

I take these rights, and privileges, seriously. I believe they apply EQUALLY to ALL citizens, of ALL political parties, and I have stood up time and again for that equal application, even when I don’t necessarily agree with others.

As chairman of the Alachua County Republican Executive Committee one of my most important and sacred duties is to organize like-minded people to share their opinions and petition OUR government. Whether visibly or anonymously, this is an indisputable, inalienable right guaranteed to ALL citizens by the First Amendment of our Constitution.

Yet, the extraordinarily over-reaching court opinions of Florida’s FairDistricts laws have quite cynically, if not dangerously, redefined protected political free speech and the anonymous petitioning of government as a “conspiracy”; *a conspiracy to commit Democracy?*

Rather than encouraging citizen participation and oversight of OUR government, citizens and activists are *in fear of* organizing and petitioning OUR government. How could this happen in Florida? How could this happen anywhere in America? I will not stand idly by and simply allow this to happen.

In order to restore the inalienable rights guaranteed to **ALL** citizens by our First Amendment, I have joined what I refer to as the “*Fighting for Democracy*” lawsuit filed today in the United State District Court for the Northern District of Florida. The plaintiffs in “*Fighting for Democracy*” include Democrat, Republican, African American, white, female and male citizens seeking to quash the anti-democratic actions of the Florida Supreme Court that have absconded with citizens’ fundamental rights of Speech, Assembly and Petitioning Government.”

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