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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. SC14-924

JAMES APTHORP,

Petitioner,

v.

KEN DETZNER, in his official capacity
as Secretary of State of Florida,

Respondent

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE A BRIEF AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT

Pursuant to Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.370, the Florida House of Representatives; Will Weatherford, in his official capacity as Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Florida Senate; and Don Gaetz, in his official capacity as President of the Florida Senate (collectively, the "Legislature"), respectfully move the Court for leave to file a brief as *amici curiae* in support of the Respondent, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner.

Over the past two years, the Legislature has enacted significant reforms to the state's ethics laws on a bipartisan (and often unanimous) basis. The reforms included in Senate Bill 2 (2013) have been praised as "the most significant effort at

ethics reform in 37 years in Florida." Press Release, "League of Women Voters of Florida Responds to Governor's Actions on Alimony, Ethics, and Campaign Finance Reform" (available at: http://thefloridavoter.org/files/download/674).

The Legislature has a strong interest in this case because the Petition challenges its constitutional authority to enact meaningful ethical standards for public officials and candidates. The Legislature also has an interest in this case because the Petition raises objections to a component of the recent ethics reform legislation: the adoption of clear statutory standards governing the use of qualified blind trusts.

While the Legislature supports the Respondent in opposing the relief sought by the Petition, its interests and arguments are distinct from those of the Secretary of State and may aid the Court in its resolution of this matter. The Legislature's brief responds to the deficiencies in the Petition's characterization of the qualified blind trust law, offers important clarifications to ensure that the qualified blind trust law is properly understood and interpreted, and demonstrates that the qualified blind trust law is consistent with the requirement of "full and public disclosure" under the Florida Constitution. The Legislature's brief also addresses the jurisdictional questions raised by the Court.

Pursuant to Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.370(a), the undersigned counsel has contacted counsel for the parties and represents that both the Petitioner

and the Respondent consent to the filing of this brief

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Florida Senate
and President Don Gaetz

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this motion has been furnished to the following persons via electronic mail this 19th day of May, 2014:

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