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CONTACT:

Kinyatta Wright
Communications Manager
press@floridarrc.org
407-664-6451

FRRC Leaders & Hundreds of Returning Citizens Traveled Back to State Capitol for Advocacy Day

-Group Advocating For Second-Chance Employment, Housing & Voting Initiatives-

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. – (February 23, 2022) On February 16, 2022 the [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC), including 283 returning citizens (formerly convicted persons) from across the state, on 9 buses, met at the State Capitol for Advocacy Day 2022. Advocacy Day gave returning citizens the opportunity to meet with their lawmakers. Over 90 meetings were scheduled on that day.

The theme for [Advocacy Day](#) 2022 was “**Our Vote, Our Voice, Our Vision.**”

FRRC leaders met with key elected officials regardless of party affiliation, advocating for policies that break down barriers to employment, housing and voting initiatives.

FRRC Executive Director [Desmond Meade](#) led this year’s Advocacy Day. Meade, who is nationally recognized, led a constitutional amendment campaign that restored voting rights for 1.4 million people with felony convictions in 2018.

“Advocacy Day allowed people from all across the state to share our vision for a better Florida,” said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition.

Below are some of the bills FRRC is working on:

SB 1548/HB 1259: Occupational Licensing

Both Occupational Licensing Bills would prohibit occupational licensing boards in Florida from denying an application solely because of a person’s conviction.



SB 1732: Landlord Liability

The Landlord Liability Bill would lay out that a landlord cannot be held liable solely for leasing a housing unit to a tenant convicted of or found guilty of a criminal offense, except for under specific circumstances.

SB 1862: Background Screening (“Desmond Meade Bill”)

The Background Screening Bill would require that any entity that contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections for prison labor may not exclude a person once they are released from prison from consideration for employment or disqualify them from a job because of their criminal record unless certain conditions are met.

FRRC Democracy Initiative

The state has no unified system for determining if a returning citizen has paid off their criminal legal debt and is eligible to vote. FRRC’s goal is to work with the Department of State to provide funding to create a more automated system for determining voter eligibility under Amendment 4.

Video: [Advocacy Day 2020](#)

About the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit <https://floridarrc.com/>.

For interview requests, to talk with a local FRRC member about Advocacy Day, or for further information, contact Kinyatta Wright at kinyatta@floridarrc.org, or at 407-664-6451.