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CONTACT

Janice Kinsler
Office of State Representative Ashley Gantt
Janice.Kinsler@myfloridahouse.gov
(786)351-9644

Representative Gantt Responds to House Bill 991

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, [HB 991 - Defamation, False Light, and Unauthorized Publication of Name or Likenesses](#) was heard in the **Civil Justice Subcommittee**. **House Bill 991** attempts to silence journalists and force the reveal of their sources by incentivizing lawsuits from public figures against them. This bill creates a hard rule that allegations of discrimination are defamation per se and it prohibits the use of truth as a defense if the discrimination is based on religious or “scientific” beliefs.

Representative Ashley V. Gantt (D- Miami) released the following statement:

“The first amendment is paramount to the fabric of the way of our lives as Americans. This bill is purposed to chill the marketplace of public opinion. I am staunchly against a state attempting to preempt longstanding and established federal law under. The heralding of this being a free state is becoming more of a satirical cliché as we continue to see bills, such as this, be introduced to stifle a core value and tenant of our democracy.”

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