

Testimony Submitted by Jaye Pershing Johnson, Governor's Counsel

Senate Judiciary Committee

May 23, 2025

Re: Draft 1.1 – H. 219 orphan language – 5/21/2025 – BEN – 9:28A.M (S. 109 Insert)

Honorable Committee Members,

I apologize for not meeting with you in person on this matter and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. As you know, Governor Scott vetoed H. 219, An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program. The veto message can be found here: [H.219 Veto Letter 5.15.25.pdf](#). The message was simple. We had no objections to the policy. The objection was to the provision directing the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections to include a line item in his budget as part of the Governor's budget submission pursuant to Title 32.

We agreed to work with the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions on replacement language to make minimal changes to H. 219 which simply address the constitutional infirmity of the original bill. This proposed S. 109 Insert represents the agreed language. It maintains the legislative policy intent and most of the original language of H. 219, while also maintaining the integrity of the Governor's budget development process.

Thank you.