



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Common Cause Opposes House Bill 1121 and Senate Bill 2108**

*--Urges Legislature to Preserve Separation of Powers Between Clerks and Judges--*

**TALLAHASSEE** -- Common Cause of Florida today announced it will urge the Legislature to preserve the role of the elected Clerks of Court and "the important separation of powers" between Clerks and the Judiciary.

"Clerks of Court are Constitutionally created and independently elected to fulfill an important check and balance with the courts. The Legislature should not shift Clerks' duties to court administrators, who are employees of the judiciary, without a vote of the people. These bills seek to countermand the Florida Constitution and take protections away from the citizens without allowing them a vote. Clerks of Court are custodians of court records and other public records and answer to the public in that capacity. To put those records under the care of the judge who created them violates the separation of powers envisioned by the Constitution and leaves the citizens with fewer protections than they currently enjoy."