

Dear editor,

As the Voice of Florida Business, it is imperative that our legislators improve court access this session to ensure citizens and business owners have the resources they need from our state's judicial system. The current state budget crisis is only creating more issues of access to court services and time is of the essence to find solutions.

However, we are one step closer to a resolution with the great work of Senator Pruitt and the Florida Senate. Their bill gives the Legislature oversight over the clerks' budgets for court-related functions and clarifies the process for spending. Additionally, it keeps traditional clerk functions intact while focusing all attention on guaranteeing court services and procedures are properly funded. Improving the transparency of all parts of state government during difficult economic times ensures everyone is held accountable for responsibly using taxpayer dollars, and I encourage the Florida House and Governor Crist to support this Senate package as they look to address matters of justice.

Florida's businesses are counting on solutions to guarantee this necessary access to the courts. We support efforts to secure adequate funding and efficiencies in the work of our state courts. After all, they ensure that the business of Florida is fair and swift, and that's all that anyone can ask for.

Sincerely,

Barney T. Bishop, III
President & Chief Executive Officer
Associated Industries of Florida