**Resolution 2025-04**
**Regarding Vote By Mail**

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2001 was passed to ensure that disabled Americans have the right to cast a private, secure, and verifiable ballot independently; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 101.62 guarantees that disabled Floridians have access to vote privately, securely, and independently; and

WHEREAS, all eligible voters have the constitutional right to cast a secure, private, and verifiable ballot; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 101.62 specifically allows for Vote By Mail for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 396, introduced in the 2025 Florida Legislative Session, aimed to amend this statute by requiring medical proof of why a person could not physically vote in a polling precinct; and

WHEREAS, requiring medical documentation to use Vote By Mail infringes upon a voter’s right to medical privacy; and

WHEREAS, Vote By Mail is currently available to all eligible voters in Florida without requiring justification, making any additional requirement for disabled individuals discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, requiring medical proof could violate a patient’s right to privacy under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), depending on the type of information required and the security of the entity requesting such documentation; and

WHEREAS, compelling voters to share any medical information in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote is contrary to the spirit and intent of HIPAA and is unnecessary to the Vote By Mail process; and

WHEREAS, forcing voters to choose between maintaining their medical privacy and casting a ballot would discourage participation and disenfranchise disabled voters; and

WHEREAS, Florida is a “no excuse” vote-by-mail state, where providing proof of disability or any other reason is not required to request or use a mail-in ballot:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, in convention assembled this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2025, in the City of Altamonte Springs, Florida, that this organization condemns and deplores efforts by the Florida Legislature to erect additional barriers for disabled Floridians seeking to cast their constitutionally guaranteed ballots, such as requiring medical proof to use Vote By Mail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this organization strongly urges the Florida Legislature to ensure that all disabled voters are provided the opportunity to cast their ballots securely, privately, and independently, without assistance of a third party ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of Florida strongly urges the Florida Department of State to approve Electronic Ballot Return for disabled voters, allowing them to cast their ballots in the same manner and with the same accessibility afforded to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of Florida calls upon the Department of State to align all voting accommodations with the principles of the Help America Vote Act, ensuring full, equal, and accessible participation in all elections by voters with disabilities.