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## **FJP Statement on Today’s Appellate Court Ruling that Gov. Ron DeSantis’ Suspension of State Attorney Andrew Warren Violated First Amendment**

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky welcomed today’s [opinion](#) from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that Gov. Ron DeSantis’ suspension of Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren violated Constitutionally protected activities, and that one of those impermissible grounds included “the political benefit DeSantis would derive from suspending a reform prosecutor.” The Court vacated the decision and remanded the case to the District Court for further review:

“We are greatly encouraged by the Court of Appeals’ ruling that Gov. Ron DeSantis’ removal of State Attorney Andrew Warren violated his First Amendment rights and that the lower court must reevaluate the legality of his suspension based on today’s decision. This is an important confirmation of the need to preserve and protect the will of the people of Hillsborough County, who twice elected SA Warren based on his vision of promoting public safety through data-supported approaches to prosecution.

Today’s opinion reaffirmed that there has never been a legal justification for the governor’s removal of SA Warren, and that the governor engaged in a political witch hunt for his own personal gain. At a time when local control and prosecutorial independence are under assault by some nationwide, it’s essential that the courts protect communities from the tyrannical behavior of politicians who care far more about protecting their own power than about protecting public safety.

We commend the Court for today’s decision and will continue to stand proudly with SA Warren in his ongoing effort to vindicate the will of his community and serve out the remainder of his duly elected term.”

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*Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*