Public access laws could have prevented his mistreatment...

but nursing home abuse records are now sealed.

Access to public information is a basic right in Florida. We have a long and rich tradition of open government. Our Constitution and state “Sunshine Laws” guarantee us the right to attend public meetings and see public records so we can make the best decisions for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

However, each year the Florida Legislature passes new exemptions to these laws, sealing more records. Some exemptions are necessary. Many are not.

Public access laws are based on the democratic principle that the more we know, the better decisions we can make. So, the next time you hear about a new exemption, ask if it will help you make a more informed decision.