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"Greenlining" in the Sunshine State *JMI Releases Policy Brief on Philanthropic Freedom*

TALLAHASSEE – Should Americans be allowed to make charitable donations of their choice for specific causes? The "greenlining" movement spawned in California is challenging this freedom, and in so doing, undercutting the idea of voluntary philanthropy and compromising the property rights of donors.

"The Future of Philanthropy in Florida," a new Policy Brief written by JMI Adjunct Scholar Matthew Vadum, examines the roots of the greenlining movement and the issues it has raised. As a bellwether state and home to financially successful residents and retirees, Florida's policymakers and citizens need to be aware of and educated on this already active threat.

Greenlining's stated goal is to ensure what *they* deem a "proportionate" share of philanthropists' giving goes to minority-led groups. Furthermore, their difficult-to-attain definition of a "minority-led" organization is: 50% or more of the organization's staff consists of minorities, 50% or more of the organization's board of directors consists of minorities, and the mission and programs of the organization are aimed predominantly toward communities of color.

"The idea that donors should control their own funds is well established in American law. . . Going back centuries, it has been the view that government should intervene only when a bequest is immoral, unlawful, or is rendered obsolete or impossible to attain, and then a probate court should reach a decision that comes closest to the donor's intent." –**Matthew Vadum, JMI Adjunct Scholar and Capital Research Center Senior Editor**

"A basic principle undergirding philanthropy in a free society is respect for the wishes of the individual." –**Robert Sanchez, JMI Policy Director**

This and other JMI publications are available on-line at www.jamesmadison.org. To comment or request a copy, contact Tanja Clendinen at 850.383.4633 (toll free 1.866.340.3131) or Tanja@jamesmadison.org.