Pravasi Bharat

To: Shrimati Meira Kumar   Date: 17th August 2013.
Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha,
17, Parliament House,
New Delhi. India
110011.

Subject: <u>Save RTI from Amendments.</u>

Dear Madam,

We, the citizens of India living in abroad, request you to save RTI, with in your reach as a speaker of Lok Sabha, The amendment to RTI Act that has been tabled in the house on the 12th August 2013.

If possible, please put it forward to standing committee to facilitate public consultation, instead being putting to vote immediately.

As you are well aware that RTI act is one of the best tool available for common man in our nation; it increased both the transparency and accountability in most of the public sectors. We felt happy with the order of Central Information Commission (CIC), declaring that political parties are public authorities under the RTI Act. We believe the transparency and accountability through RTI in the political parties of India will definitely enhance our democracy.

Madam, we have come across the news through electronic and online media on the plans in amendment of RTI Act. It is reported that the Government is in process to amend the RTI law, as a reaction to the recent Central Information Commission order. We, as citizens of India requests that it not be amended. The Act has enabled accountability and strengthened our democracy through citizen active participation.

We request you to refer such an amendment Bill to a Standing Committee or a Select committee of the House to facilitate widespread public consultation on the issue. This will be in keeping with the Central Government's assurance to the Parliament in 2009 that the RTI Act would not be amended without public consultation.

Jai Hind
Sincerely,

Nagender Chindam
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[Attached, the signatures of the concerned Indian citizens living abroad - who support this petition.]