



Randy McNally
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

1 Legislative Plaza
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0026
TELEPHONE (615) 741-6806

110TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE OF TENNESSEE

Beth Harwell
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

19 LEGISLATIVE PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0181
TELEPHONE (615) 741-0709

March 14, 2017

Ann Butterworth, JD
Office of Open Records Counsel
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 1700
James K. Polk Building
Nashville, TN 37243-1402

Dear Ms. Butterworth,

Thank you for your service to the state of Tennessee, and your work to ensure government transparency. We both believe good government means open government. The Office of Open Records counsel and the Advisory Committee on Open Government serve an important function in ensuring that Tennessee remains an open and transparent state.

During a recent event at the Tennessee Press Association's Winter Meeting, the expanding number of exemptions to the Tennessee Public Record Act (T.C.A. § 10-7-501 et seq.) was discussed.

We respectfully request a thorough and comprehensive review of the exemptions to the Tennessee Public Record Act (T.C.A. § 10-7-501 et seq.). We ask that a detailed list of current exemptions in the Tennessee Code Annotated be compiled as soon as possible. In the interest of transparent and open government, we would like to review this list in order to potentially remove or place in sunset at least some of the various exceptions.

We understand that this is a serious and time-consuming undertaking. We would hope to have the list by the start of the 2018 legislative session. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to working with you to ensure state government is open, accessible, and transparent.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Randy McNally in black ink.

Randy McNally
Lieutenant Governor

Handwritten signature of Beth Harwell in black ink.

Beth Harwell
Speaker of the House