

**KATE BROWN**  
**GOVERNOR**



June 29, 2017

**To:** Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Smith and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government

**Subject:** HB 2101A – Engrossed

Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Smith, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for having me here today. My name is Emily Matasar, and I am the Government Accountability Attorney in the Governor's Office.

As I stated last time I testified before your Committee, one of Governor Brown's leading priorities is continuing to improve state government accountability and transparency. Governor Brown believes in a state government that is open, accessible and accountable to Oregonians.

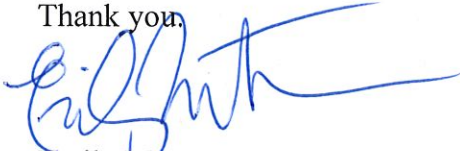
This Legislative Session, there are a number of bills aimed at increasing transparency in Oregon, but I'm going to focus on three: what Representative Huffman calls the "three-legged stool." The Attorney General's Senate Bill 481, which Governor Brown was proud to sign into law earlier this month, sets deadlines for responding to public records requests, and directs the Attorney General's Office to catalogue the hundreds of exemptions from disclosure that are currently scattered throughout the Oregon Revised Statutes. As you know, the Governor's Senate Bill 106, which you recently passed to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, creates the Office of the Public Records Advocate to educate public bodies on topics related to public records and to assist in amicably resolving disputes between state agencies and requesters. SB 106 also establishes the Public Records Advisory Council to review public records practices and procedures and to make recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislative Assembly. Representative Huffman's bill before you today tackles the content of those many exemptions from disclosure, both existing exemptions (with the Legislative Counsel Committee's subcommittee's review) and future contemplated exemptions (with the Open Government Impact Statement).

Collectively, these three bills represent the most significant Public Records Law reform since the Public Records Act was passed in the 1970s. These bills address issues that exist in the law today, and establish a system to continue addressing new issues as they arise in the future.

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Governor Brown believes there is always more work to be done to create a more open, accessible, and accountable government. The Governor supports HB 2101 and believes that these three bills represent a significant step forward.

Thank you.



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Office of Governor Kate Brown