



August 4, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Administrative Procedures Section
P.O. Box 83720
450 W. State Street, 10th Floor
Boise, ID 83720
pr@dhw.idaho.gov

Re: Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Custodian:

Pursuant to Idaho's Public Records Act, as codified at Chapter 1 of Title 74 of the Idaho Code, I.C. T. 74, Ch. 1, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

In 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little signed a bill to make abortion services a felony in the state if the United States Supreme Court were to overturn the protections of *Roe v. Wade*. On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision overturning *Roe*. As a result, the Idaho abortion ban is expected to take effect in August of 2022.¹

American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on state health officials' assessments of abortion restrictions in Idaho.

Requested Records

Pursuant to Section 74-103(1) of the Idaho Code, American Oversight requests that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare produce the following records within three working days, or, if a longer period of time is needed and American Oversight is so notified, within ten working days:

All formal or informal assessments, reports, analyses, recommendations, or guidance (including memoranda and other written products) prepared by your office or otherwise provided to your agency by other state or local offices, or independent experts, regarding any projected or actual impacts of potential or actual new state abortion restrictions affected by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

¹ Audrey Dutton, *State Says Health Care Boards Don't Want Idaho Supreme Court to Delay Abortion Ban*, Idaho Capital Sun (July 6, 2022, 4:35 AM), <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2022/07/06/state-says-health-care-boards-dont-want-idaho-supreme-court-to-delay-abortion-ban/>.



Please provide all responsive records from May 17, 2021, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to Idaho’s Public Records Act if they were “prepared” by your agency, including by an employee of your agency.²
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records.³ If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this

² See I.C. § 74-101(13); cf. *Cowles Pub. Co. v. Kootenai Cty. Bd. of Cty. Comm’rs*, 144 Idaho 259, 263 (2007).

³ I.C. § 74-112.

request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁴

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 118,400 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited July 29, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited July 29, 2022).

understand any part of this request, please contact Emma Lewis at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 919-6303.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emma Lewis

Emma Lewis
on behalf of
American Oversight