

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



March 1, 2018

Dear Governor Inslee:

We have heard loud and clear from our constituents that they are angry and frustrated with the process by which we passed ESB 6617, the Legislative Public Records Act. We supported the bill because of the important transparency reforms that it would enact. These include requiring that for the first time the Legislature would make public all lobbyist communications with legislators; calendar information for legislators; and records related to completed disciplinary investigations, while preserving privacy protections for constituents.

However, we made a mistake by failing to go through a full public hearing process on this very important legislation. The hurried process has overshadowed the positive reforms in the bill.

We think that the only way to make this right is for you to veto the bill and for us to start again. We will convene a task force including legislators; open government advocates; representatives of the news media; representatives of your office, the office of the Attorney General, and the state archivist to engage in a public process over the next nine months to make recommendations to the 2019 Legislature regarding the release of legislative records.

We look forward to working with you to uphold Washington's strong traditions of transparency and open government.

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