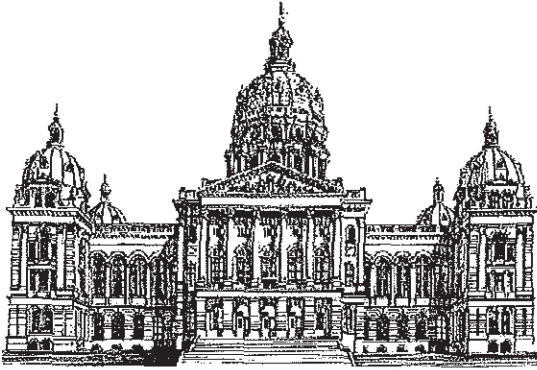




**The Senate**  
State of Iowa

**W. Charles Smithson**

*Secretary of the Senate*

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April 26, 2021

Mehreen Rasheed  
Sara Wishingrad  
American Oversight  
Via Email

Re: Response to FOIA ID# IA-Sen-21-0559

The Iowa Senate is in receipt of your request of April 20, 2021, seeking documents in the possession of Iowa State Senator Roby Smith or Iowa State Senator Chris Cournoyer that analyze Senate File 513.

The Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that the legislature has the “constitutional authority to shape its own rules.”<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Article III, Section 9, of the Iowa Constitution grants the Senate the power to determine its own rules of proceedings.

Senate File 513 is a bill sponsored by the Iowa Senate Committee on Judiciary that deals with “confidentiality of certain law enforcement information involving a person experiencing a mental health crisis, substance-related disorder crisis, or housing crisis.” Senators Smith and Cournoyer are not members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill is on the Senate calendar, but no floor vote has been taken.

As such, there are no records in the possession of Senator Smith or Senator Cournoyer related to your request for an analysis of Senate File 513.

In closing, I note that you reference information from the Iowa Public Information Board in support of your request. Iowa Code section 23.12 expressly states that the Iowa Public Information Board “shall not have jurisdiction over the...legislative” branch.

Sincerely,

W. Charles Smithson  
**Secretary of the Senate**

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<sup>1</sup> See Des Moines Register v. Dwyer, 542 N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> 491 (Iowa 1996).