



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 8, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Khahilia Shaw

records@americanoversight.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) Request

Dear Ms. Shaw:

This Office received your FOIA request dated May 25, 2022, which seeks:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) and text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, or Parler) sent by any of the officials listed below containing any of the following key terms:

Office of the Attorney General Officials:

- I. Attorney General Alan Wilson, or anyone communicating on his behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler
- II. Chief Deputy Attorney General William “Jeff” Young
- III. Barry Bernstein, or anyone acting as Chief of Staff
- IV. Robert Kittle, or anyone acting as Communications Director

Key Terms

- a. “One America News”
- b. OAN
- c. OANN
- d. DirecTV
- e. AT&T
- f. Morrow

- g. "Bill Morrow"
- h. "Herring Networks"

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited this request to emails or texts sent by the specified officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email and text chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Attorney General Wilson's response to an email or text containing one of the listed key terms and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, responsive records to the extent that a key term only appears in a news clip or news story.

Please provide all responsive records from January 14, 2022, through the date the search is conducted.

On June 9, 2022, you were informed that there were documents responsive to your request, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-30(C).

Also on June 9, 2022, in accordance with § 30-4-30(B), the Office required a deposit of \$19.00 before proceeding with your request.

On June 16, 2022, we received your deposit.

We were able to complete our search more quickly than we originally anticipated; therefore, you are not being charged anything additional beyond the \$19.00 deposit. The records responsive to your request are attached.

Please be advised, some documents are exempt from disclosure under S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(7), and certain documents have been redacted under S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(2).

Sincerely yours,



Harley L. Kirkland
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

From: [Alan Wilson](#)
To: [beth.kaufman](#)
Cc: "Matt Gates"
Subject: RE: SC vaccine passport
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 2:55:00 PM

Sorry for my late response. I will look into this. Thank you so much.

Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General
Post Office Box 11549
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549

DeLinda Ridings, Executive Assistant
Direct: (803) 734-3596
Email: dridings@scag.gov

From: beth.kaufman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Alan Wilson <agwilson@scag.gov>
Subject: SC vaccine passport

You don't often get email from beth.kaufman@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

It was nice to meet you today.
Here is the Politico article that highlights SC passport roll out.

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/future-pulse/2022/02/23/red-states-putting-their-stamp-on-vaccine-passports-00010875?fbclid=IwAR3OVUvHexc56ZCE8v8xOe59rHHsSv2fjgSafkfwxV3QmdgcVX-ioty3r0>

Best,
Beth Kaufman
Beaufort county
Moms for Liberty

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

SC-AG-22-0523-A-000001

From: [Robert Kittle](#)
To: [Adam Benson](#)
Subject: RE: Talking to the AG about the opioid settlement
Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:42:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

We won't be able to do an exclusive since this will be a big story when it is finalized so we'll have to talk to all media who want to talk to him, but an embargoed interview ahead of time may be possible.

ROBERT KITTLE, Communications Director
South Carolina Attorney General's Office
Executive Division | Office 803-734-3670 | Cell 803-381-3453
P.O. Box 11549 | Columbia, SC 29211
scag.gov



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From: Adam Benson <abenson@postandcourier.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Robert Kittle <RKittle@scag.gov>
Subject: Re: Talking to the AG about the opioid settlement

Awesome, that's a deal. Thanks. We are working on a much longer piece for the weekend about the settlement. Do you think Alan would be willing to give us an exclusive when terms are announced?
Even if we can do an interview ahead of time and embargo it, we'd love that

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
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From: Robert Kittle <RKittle@scag.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 12:59:57 PM
To: Adam Benson <abenson@postandcourier.com>
Subject: Talking to the AG about the opioid settlement

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Adam,

I just spoke to the AG about your request to talk to him about the opioid settlement and he said what I expected—that he can't talk about it at this point because it's still not finalized.

But he asked me to tell you that he appreciates your covering the story and that he'll be happy to talk to you about it once the ink is dry on the final settlement.

ROBERT KITTLE, Communications Director
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From: [Robert Kittle](#)
To: [Adam Benson](#)
Subject: RE: opioid settlement
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:21:54 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

The deadline for cities and counties to decide whether to sign on to the settlement is today. Then AGs, here and nationwide, have two weeks to decide whether to proceed, based on the percentage of subdivisions that signed on. Then the distributors have two weeks to make the same decision, whether to proceed. So Feb. 25 is when we'll know whether there's a deal.

If there is a deal, there will be an 18-year payout. There's a formula that divides money up as it comes in: to the states and subdivisions, to discretionary spending, and to attorneys' fees. It's all done by percentage. That structure is worked out but until it's all signed we can't release details, but we should be able to release that soon.

If this all comes to fruition, regardless of how much money becomes available, this is not money that goes directly to counties or cities that they can use however they want. It cannot be used for roads or schools, for example. It has to be used for approved abatement purposes, such as educational programs to lower opioid use, Narcan, law enforcement, and rehab and treatment centers. That's all part of the national deal.

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From: Adam Benson <abenson@postandcourier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:09 AM
To: Robert Kittle <RKittle@scag.gov>
Subject: Re: opioid settlement

Can you tell me the timeline for when this might be settled, and how SC could receive and pass through to involved parties?

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From: Robert Kittle <RKittle@scag.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:07:05 AM
To: Adam Benson <abenson@postandcourier.com>
Subject: RE: opioid settlement

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Adam,

I've attached the complaint.

And I can confirm that Horry County is one of the involved parties. Let me know if you need anything else.

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From: Adam Benson <abenson@postandcourier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:48 AM
To: Robert Kittle <RKittle@scag.gov>
Subject: opioid settlement

Good morning. Just following up on a vote by the Horry County Council Monday regarding a potential settlement with opioid manufacturers. Can you send me a copy of the lawsuit that was initially filed and confirm whether Horry County is one of the involved parties? Thanks

Adam Benson
Post & Courier reporter

SC-AG-22-0523-A-000005

(843) 607-0848

Twitter: @AdamNewshound12

From: [Robert Kittle](#)
To: [Alan Wilson](#); [Barry Bernstein](#); [Bob Cook](#); [DeeBo Kelly](#); [DeLinda Ridings](#); [Don Zelenka](#); [Jeff Young](#); [Matt Gates](#); [Matt Wills](#); [Nick Barboza](#); [Robert Kittle](#); [Valerie Ingram](#)
Subject: Exec. News Clips 1.18.2022
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:22:22 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Today in History

Post-World War I peace conference begins in Paris

On January 18, 1919, in Paris, France, some of the most powerful people in the world meet to begin the long, complicated negotiations that would officially mark the end of the First World War.

The State

[Columbia attorney waited 10 years to be on 'Jeopardy!' and ran into a 'buzzsaw'](#)

[The fight to protect voting rights must go on, say SC leaders at virtual King Day event](#)

[SC lawmaker who flipped seat for Democrats in 2020 to give party's response to McMaster](#)

[Columbia activist enters 2022 US Senate race to take on SC's Tim Scott in November](#)

Greenville News

[More snowfall could be on the way as Upstate SC thaws out from winter storm](#)

[Greenville County teachers can now return to class after COVID exposure with no symptoms](#)

[Greenville County Councilman is determined to keep the minority a majority in his district](#)

[Shane Beamer named Co-Steve Spurrier National First-Year Coach of the Year](#)

Post and Courier

[Will 2022 be the year for ethics reform in South Carolina?](#)

[Underlying conditions, low vaccine rate place SC 13th in US for highest COVID death rate](#)

[SC Sen. Harvey Peeler suddenly in control of state spending in a year with record cash](#)

[Gun discoveries surged at S.C., U.S. airports to new record in 2021 amid fewer passengers](#)

WSJ

[Texas Abortion Law Could Stay in Effect for Months After U.S. Appeals Court Ruling](#)

[Pfizer's New Covid-19 Pill Works Against Omicron in Lab](#)

[Drugmaker Gilead Alleges Counterfeiting Ring Sold Its HIV Drugs](#)

[AT&T Will Avoid Airports With New 5G Service to Prevent Flight Delays](#)

Office Mentions

[More human trafficking victims are being reported in South Carolina. A hotspot for activity is in York County](#)

[Ladson man accused of distributing child sexual abuse material](#)

[19-year-old Ladson man arrested on 20 sexual exploitation of a minor charges](#)

[Newberry Co. Sheriff's Office reports reveal new events & allegations leading up to lawmaker's indictments](#)

[Aiken County in top 10 list of counties where human trafficking cases reported](#)

['Victory for the rule of law': McMaster cheers court ruling blocking Biden vaccine mandate](#)

[A year after SC inmate's death, family still seeking charges](#) (AP story picked up by 200+ outlets)

[Family of Jamal Sutherland, others demanding charges and transparency in inmates death](#)

[Republicans praise SCOTUS vaccine ruling](#)

[Navient settlement: Will my student loans be forgiven?](#)

[Attorney General Alan Wilson announces settlement with student loan servicer Navient](#)

[McMaster, AG Wilson praise SCOTUS vaccine ruling](#)

[Student loan debt canceled for hundreds of SC borrowers after Navient settlement](#)

[Why Horry County remains SC's human trafficking hot spot](#)

[1.16.2022 FITSNews __ South Carolina Supreme Court Investigating Alex Murdaugh's Alleged 'Smuggle Buddy'](#)

[1.18.2022 FITSNews __ Judge Denies Alex Murdaugh's Motion For Bond Reduction](#)

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