



January 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Kevin Olsen
Secretary of the School Activity Eligibility Commission
350 North State Street
Capitol Board Room, Suite 240
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
kvolsen@agutah.gov

Re: Government Records and Access Management Act Request

Dear Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Utah Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA), Utah Code §§ 63G-2-101 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within ten business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by School Activity Eligibility Commission Member Paul Hruz, or anyone communicating on his behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler, to any email address ending in .com, .co, .us, .net, .org, .mail, .edu, .law, .legal, .ch, .me, or .group.

For part one of this request, in an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by Paul Hruz. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Hruz's response to an email from an email address ending in .com and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For part 1 of this request, please provide all records from February 2, 2023, through February 28, 2023.

2. All email communications (including email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (A) School Activity Eligibility Commission Member Paul Hruz, and (B) any of the external entities or individuals listed below (including, but not



limited to, anyone communicating from a listed email address or an email address ending in the listed domain(s)).

External Entities or Individuals:

1. Alliance Defending Freedom (adflegal.org)
2. American College of Pediatricians (acpeds.org)
3. American Principles Project (americanprinciplesproject.org)
4. Catholic Medical Association (cathmed.org)
5. Concerned Women for America (concernedwomen.org or cwfa.org)
6. Family Policy Alliance (familypolicyalliance.com)
7. Heritage Foundation (heritage.org or heritageaction.com)
8. Moms for Liberty (momsforliberty.org)
9. Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine (segm.org)
10. State Representative Brad Wilson (bradwilson@le.utah.gov), or anyone communicating on his behalf

For part two of this request, please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Hruz received a mass-distribution news clip email from a listed entity or individual, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Hruz forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For part 2 of this request, please provide all responsive records from February 2, 2023, through the date the search is conducted.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with Utah Code § 63G-2-203(4)(a), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. Disclosure of the requested information will primarily benefit the public rather than a person, because the requested records will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information primarily benefits the public rather than a person.¹ The public has a significant interest in communications concerning restrictions on transgender student athletes. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent School Activity Eligibility Commission members have communicated with external entities regarding such matters. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to public records

¹ Utah Code § 63G-2-203(4)(a).

requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

Furthermore, this request is not for American Oversight's personal or financial interest. As described above, this request is primarily and fundamentally made for the purpose of educating the public and is not made for any commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is 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.com.²

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.³ Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records and analysis related to the organization's investigations into misconduct and corruption in state governments;⁴ posting records and analysis of federal and state governments' responses to the Coronavirus pandemic;⁵ posting records received as part of American

² American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,400 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Jan. 17, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Jan. 17, 2024).

³ See generally *News*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>.

⁴ See generally *State Investigations*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/states>; see, e.g., *State Government Contacts with Voting-Restriction Activists*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/state-government-contacts-with-voting-restriction-activists>; *Georgia's Voting Machines and Election Security*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/georgias-voting-machines-and-election-security>.

⁵ See, e.g., *The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus>; *Tulsa Health Officials Initially Estimated Trump Rally Would Directly Lead to 2 to 9 Deaths*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/tulsa-health-officials-initially-estimated-trump-rally-would-directly-lead-to-2-to-9-deaths>; *Wisconsin Documents Offer Window into Early Uncertainty over COVID-19*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/wisconsin-documents-offer-window-into-early-uncertainty-over-covid-19>; *In the Documents: Florida Health Department Efforts to Suppress Release of Coronavirus Records*, American Oversight,

Oversight’s “Audit the Wall” project to gather and analyze information related to the Trump administration’s proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;⁶ and the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department’s process for issuing such waivers.⁷

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

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.
- 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.
- 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. 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 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

<https://www.americanoversight.org/in-the-documents-florida-health-department-efforts-to-suppress-release-of-coronavirus-records>.

⁶ See generally *Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall>; see, e.g., *Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall>.

⁷ *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco’s Recusal*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance>; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents>.

basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

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.

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 understand any part of this request, please contact Emma Lewis at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 919-6303. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emma Lewis
Emma Lewis
on behalf of
American Oversight