



April 29, 2024

**VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

Mississippi State Department of Health  
Attn: Office of Data Governance, Public Records Liaison  
P. O. Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39215

**Re: Mississippi Public Records Act Request**

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act, Miss. Code § 25-61-1 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within seven working days:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below and containing any of the key terms listed below.

State Department of Health Officials:

1. Daniel Edney, State Health Officer
2. Christin Williams, Legal Counsel
3. Logan Dillon, Legislative Liaison
4. Krista Guynes, Women's Health
5. Breanne Hancock, Director of Policy Evaluation
6. Elayne Anthony, Board of Health Member
7. Frederick Barnett Carlton, Jr., Board of Health Member
8. James P. Chaney, Board of Health Member
9. John Davis, Board of Health Member
10. Beth Edmiston, Board of Health Member
11. Gene Benny Hubbard, Jr., Board of Health Member
12. Lee Ann Griffin, Board of Health Member
13. Lucius Lampton, Board of Health Member
14. Robert Moody, Board of Health Member
15. Jim Perry, Board of Health Member
16. Thad Waites, Board of Health Member

Key Terms:



- a. "AL Supreme Court"
- b. "Alabama Supreme Court"
- c. "assisted reproduction"
- d. "assisted reproductive"
- e. "in vitro"
- f. "in-vitro"
- g. "juridical person"
- h. "legal person"
- i. "life at conception"
- j. "standard of care"
- k. "TRAP law"
- l. "TRIP law"
- m. "wrongful death of a minor"
- n. cryo
- o. embryo
- p. fertility
- q. fertilization
- r. fertilize
- s. gamete
- t. "I.V.F."
- u. invitro
- v. IVF
- w. personhood
- x. unborn
- y. utero
- z. zygote

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 the listed officials. 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 a listed official's response to an email containing a listed key term and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

**Please provide all responsive records from February 16, 2024, 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:

- 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.
- 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 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.com.<sup>1</sup>

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 Elizabeth Haddix at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (252) 359-7424 ext. 1031.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Elizabeth Haddix*  
Elizabeth Haddix  
on behalf of  
American Oversight

---

<sup>1</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,200 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Apr. 23, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Apr. 23, 2024).