

Submitter: Elaine Woods

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee on Rules

Measure: SB 417

Honorable Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee

I am writing in support of SB 417, which was written to reduce fees for public records requests to the least expensive manner reasonably possible.

SB 417 has the benefit of input from the Public Records Advisory Council and the Council's Legislative Subcommittee, who heard testimony from members of the public, government employees, and other experienced parties in order to offer input for this bill. This proposal meets the needs of the public and offers clear instructions for determining fees in a clear and equitable manner. Thank you Senator Thatcher and all who were involved in the creation of this bill.

The Rules Committee has already received examples from the public regarding frustrations with trying to obtain public information for exorbitant fees. These experiences frustrate the public and give the impression that they are being blocked from a government that does not want to operate in transparency. However, since the goal of the public records law is transparency, access and disclosure, the passage of this bill will do much to meet the needs for public access to information. It will also give guidelines for government employees in setting reasonable fees and lessen the frustration on both sides of this issue.

Please **vote YES** to pass **SB 417**.

Thank you,

Elaine Woods