

Submitter: Anita Davidson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB555

I am a citizen who believes democracy depends on government accountability, and accountability depends on access and review of records used by a government body to make decisions. I oppose any measure, such as SB555, that seeks to limit public access to such information. A long list of exceptions to disclosure already exists; we do not need an additional blanket exclusion for any government office(s). Any witness--and any testimony, data, opinions and reports they present--must be available for review, possible scrutiny, and counterpoint for robust discussion of laws and policies to occur. Presentation of truthful testimony should cause no fear in a democracy. And if it does, there is something wrong with the democracy, or perhaps with the testimony--all the more reason for that testimony to be made accessible for review unless it meets the already well-established exceptions to disclosure.