

Speaker of the House Paul D. Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

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information unless there is a foreseeable harm or legal requirement to withhold the information. Codifying this would force agencies to uniformly apply the guidance and ensure that the next Administration cannot backslide and resort to the culture of secrecy that guided agencies in the past.

Additionally, the bill expands the exemption for intra-agency records. This exemption has broadly expanded and cited to justify withholding important public interest information, including Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) memos with key information on issues such as secret National Security Letters, the Bush-era torture program, targeted killing programs, and expansive NSA communications surveillance programs.

Lastly, the bill also provides the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) with the ability to submit reports and testimony directly to Congress and the President. This change is critical for making sure OGIS has the ability to report on agency performance, to suggest reforms to make FOIA work better for the public,

The undersigned organizations support the bicameral, bipartisan movement toward reforming the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Congress must continue to act to ensure before the end of this Administration that

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse
Tully Center for Free Speech at Syracuse

University
X-Lab

CC: Representative Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee;
Representative Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform
Committee.