

Joani Freitas

From: Joani Freitas <joanifr6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 7:57 AM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Cc: Blessing, Matthew T - WHS; Ferguson, Paul M - DOJ; Naab, Bryan S - LAB; Schmidt, Melissa A - LEGIS; Broady-Rudd, Sandra; Buesing, Carl; Sorce, Peter
Subject: Re public access to electronic communications

I write this email with full expectation that it could and should be subject to public records disclosure. I could have sent a text with the same expectation. I ask for nothing less from our elected and appointed public officials, even though I could justifiably ask for more. Their communications are assumed to be our communications. These records can inform us of legislative intent, educate us on important concerns and issues, and alert us to motivations that are perhaps not in the public interest. More than anything though, the availability of and access to these records keeps the door open to OUR government.

One can not help but become afraid of public officials who rejected the reasonable protections to their privacy previously in place and who, one can only assume, feel that in order to accomplish their public service they require and deserve an absolute guarantee of unfettered privacy. To shield much and potentially most of their electronic communications from their own constituents based purely on the classification of these communications as "transitory records" is not a reasonable expectation of privacy, it is purely and by definition an unreasonable restriction on government access.

The back door approach that was taken earlier this year to limit public access to electronic communications should have been the very reason not to limit public access to electronic records. If it couldn't have been done openly, with the level of public review and discussion such a significant change required and deserved, it absolutely should not have been done at all. It should have begged the very question of why are the board was being asked to do this at all.

We can do better.
We must be better.

The open records law was not designed to impede government but to illuminate it.

I'm calling on the Public Records Board to please rescind its earlier action and to please restore public access to these records as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Joan Freitas
Madison WI

Sent from my iPad