



Friday, September 7, 2018

The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 1421 – Request for Approval

Dear Governor Brown,

I write you today on behalf of Firearms Policy Coalition, a fiercely non-partisan nonprofit organization that promotes individual liberty and sound public policy through litigation, research, education, grassroots outreach, and direct advocacy.

Senate Bill 1421 would require certain law enforcement or custodial officer personnel records and records relating to specified incidents, complaints, and investigations involving peace officers and custodial officers to be made available for public inspection pursuant to the California Public Records Act, some other related changes to define the scope of disclosable records, and set limitations and boundaries on how and when these records would be made available.

As we said in our letter urging you to approve Senate Bill 1244, “[p]ublic access laws serve a crucial function. Openness in government is essential to the functioning of a democracy. Implicit in the democratic process is the notion that government should be accountable for its actions. In order to verify accountability, individuals must have access to government files. Such access permits checks against the arbitrary exercise of official power and secrecy in the political process.” *City of San Jose v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal. 5th 608 (Cal. Supreme Court 2017) at 615 (quoting *International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21, AFL-CIO v. Superior Court*, 42 Cal.4th 319, 328-329) (cleaned up).

Senate Bill 1421 would make reasonable, tailored, and common-sense changes to the Act so that the people can better understand the operations of its government and its officers. That’s something everyone should support.

We respectfully ask for your approval of Senate Bill 1421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Combs', written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Combs
President