



# OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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February 1, 2018

Representative Wes Retherford  
The Ohio House of Representatives  
The Vern Riffe Center  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Rep. Retherford:

I am writing today to express the support of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association for House Bill 451.

Our members do occasionally receive public records requests for the types of records described in your bill. Many prosecutors have expressed to us that they make every effort to deny such requests. Others feel that there is currently no authority to do so. All agree that it would be very beneficial to have a clearly stated exclusion.

House Bill 451 appropriately excludes the records of some very private and very sensitive events from the public sphere. We do not believe that someone, under the guise of public records request, should be able to obtain records of such a private nature. Granting the public access to such records does not further the purpose of Ohio public records law and is a disservice to the victims of crime.

We hope your legislation can be voted on favorably during the current session.

Sincerely,

Steve C. Hall  
Assistant Executive Director

cc: Rep. Louis Blessing  
Rep. Kathleen Clyde  
Marisa Myers