



Oklahoma Bondsman Association

222 N.E. 27th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

(405)524-5920 Fax: (405)601-6484

Toll Free: (866)374-6257

March 11, 2018

The Honorable Jim Bridenstine
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Citizens' Right to Know Act H.R. 2152

Representative Bridenstine,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Bondsman Association, I am writing to thank you for your support and cosponsoring of H.R. 2152, also known as the Citizens' Right to Know Act, sponsored by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX). The legislation was recently reported out of Judiciary Committee as Do Pass.

This long overdue legislation would allow, for the first time, public scrutiny of taxpayer-funded release programs. The bill would require publicly funded pretrial release agencies who receive federal funds to report on who participates in their programs, including information regarding: criminal history, including previously filed charges; previous failures to appear for court proceedings; and previous and current non-compliance infractions.

Under current law, federally-funded pretrial release programs are not required to report any information relating to the defendants released through their program. Basic information on defendants is neither collected nor reported in any fashion as the DOJ only collects data from pretrial release agencies related to crime trends in the aggregate. Due to this, there is no mechanism in place to determine if pretrial release agencies are effective in ensuring that defendants adhere to their pretrial release requirements or whether these defendants actually show up for court.

If Congress continues to use taxpayers' money to fund pretrial release programs, then surely Congress must also be able to determine the effectiveness of said programs. Taxpayers deserve to know if their resources are being spent wisely and in a fashion that enhances, or at least holds harmless, their community's safety.

I believe that the passage of H.R. 2152 is essential to provide greater transparency for pretrial programs while also providing greater accountability over taxpayer funds. Most importantly, the passage of H.R. 2152 is vital to ensuring the safety of our Oklahoma communities.

Thank you again for your cosponsoring and full support of H.R. 2152. We hope that the rest of Oklahoma's congressional delegation will follow suit in championing such an important piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond Merrill".

Raymond Merrill
President, Oklahoma Bondsmen Association



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The Honorable Tom Cole
2467 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Citizens' Right to Know Act H.R. 2152

Representative Cole,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Bondsman Association, I am writing to express my strong support of H.R. 2152, also known as the Citizens' Right to Know Act, sponsored by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX). The legislation was recently reported out of Judiciary Committee as Do Pass.

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Oklahoma Rep. Jim Bridenstine has already signed on as a cosponsor of this legislation and I respectfully ask that you consider becoming a cosponsor as well.

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Raymond Merrill
President, Oklahoma Bondsman Association



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The Honorable Frank Lucas
2405 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Citizens' Right to Know Act H.R. 2152

Representative Lucas,

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The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Citizens' Right to Know Act H.R. 2152

Representative Mullin,

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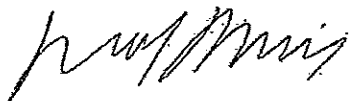
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Raymond Merrill
President, Oklahoma Bondsman Association



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The Honorable Steve Russell
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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