

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



Hand Received

MAR 07 2018

Office of the Governor

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0000

Re: ESB 6617

Dear Governor Inslee:

Democrats control the House, Senate, and Governor's mansion. They control the hearings and notice of hearings process. The Democrats scheduled a hasty joint work session and vote in both chambers on SB 6617. We understand that you and the Democrat leaders have orchestrated a veto of SB 6617. That is a good start. We will be demanding that Speaker Frank Chopp hold a hearing on HB 2255, "The Legislative Transparency Act," with the proper 5-day notice next Wednesday in the State Government Committee.

We requested a hearing on HB 2255 repeatedly. Each request was summarily denied.

A member of the Republican Caucus introduced HB 2255 on December 5th, 2017, to apply the public records act to the Legislature while maintaining that the Legislature is not 147 separate state agencies but a separate branch of government. It also absolutely ensured the privacy of the citizens of Washington. Further discussions included an amendment to clearly protect victims and witnesses so our constituents may continue to hold government accountable at all levels without fear of retaliation.

As members of the minority caucus we don't get to choose which bills run or when they run. We only get to choose to vote yes or no. While SB 6617 was the only solution allowed by the Democrats, many of our members thought this was at least a step in the right direction. However, all 48 of our members wished they could have voted for a better bill.

The people demand disclosure. Our constituents demand privacy of victims and witnesses. We agree and continue to support transparency.

The House Republican Caucus (In Its Entirety).