



March 20, 2019

RE: Next Steps

Members of the Oregon Sunshine Committee:

Thank you for your hard work so far. While tackling the most daunting and difficult area of records law exemptions, you've hammered out tools to help approach the task before you. You've forged a common understanding of the labyrinthine and highly nuanced statutes and exemptions that comprise the law. And you've made concrete progress with the assistance of the PII subcommittee's efforts.

In the interest of supporting your work to improve the law, and better fulfilling the intent of the 2017 legislation that authorized you, HB 2101, we would respectfully suggest the following steps:

- 1) **Subcommittees:** Explore setting up one or two additional subcommittees. One focus could be the proverbial low-hanging fruit: exemptions that are unnecessary or easily consolidated.
- 2) **Legislative Counsel input:** Request input of the Legislative Counsel's representative to ensure recommendations to the Legislature are framed in the manner expected or most useful.
- 3) **Legislative engagement:** The Sunshine Committee was intended in part to provide a public window on the Legislature's work on the law when it is in session. We at SPJ believe a brief update at meetings could provide Committee members with valuable information and awareness of the context in which they work.

-Nick Budnick, Oregon Territory Society of Professional Journalists