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*Affiliations appear only
for purposes of identification.*

May 22, 2020

Re: House Amendment 4 to SB 2135

To Whom It May Concern:

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (“Reporters Committee”) is a nonprofit association based in Washington, D.C. The Reporters Committee was founded by leading journalists and media lawyers in 1970 when the nation’s news media faced an unprecedented wave of government subpoenas forcing reporters to name confidential sources. Today, its attorneys provide *pro bono* legal representation, amicus curiae support, and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

The Reporters Committee opposes the following portion of House Amendment 4 to SB2135:

16 (5 ILCS 140/3.4 new)
17 Sec. 3.4. 2020 exception. Notwithstanding any provision of
18 law or rule to the contrary, no public body shall be considered
19 in violation of this Act for failing to respond within the time
20 prescribed by this Act to any request due on or after March 9,
21 2020 and prior to June 1, 2020, provided the public body
22 provides a response by the later of 30 days after the effective
23 date of this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly or
24 the time prescribed by this Act for the relevant request.

The Reporters Committee takes no position on any other portion of House Amendment 4.

Sincerely,
The Reporters Committee for
Freedom of the Press