



October 25, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

The Florida Senate  
Office of the General Counsel  
Attn: Public Records  
Suite 302 The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov](mailto:publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov)

Senate President Wilton Simpson  
409 The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street,  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida Senate Rule 1.48, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

1. All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, and text messages) between (a) Senator Wilton Simpson or anyone serving as his chief of staff, assistant, or scheduler, and (b) any of the following outside individuals and groups (including, but not limited to, at the specified domain names):
  - a. Alliance Defending Freedom ([adflegal.org](http://adflegal.org), [adfmedia.org](http://adfmedia.org))
  - b. America First Legal ([aflegal.org](http://aflegal.org))
  - c. American Family Association ([afa.net](http://afa.net))
  - d. Americans United for Life ([aul.org](http://aul.org))
  - e. Charlotte Lozier Institute ([lozierinstitute.org](http://lozierinstitute.org))
  - f. Concerned Women for America ([cwfa.org](http://cwfa.org), [concernedwomen.org](http://concernedwomen.org))
  - g. David Daleiden
  - h. Family Research Council and Family Research Council Action ([frc.org](http://frc.org); [frcaction.org](http://frcaction.org))
  - i. First Liberty ([firstliberty.org](http://firstliberty.org))



- j. FreedomWorks (freedomworks.org)
- k. GOP (gop.com, rnchq.com, msgop.org)
- l. Hacker Stephens LLP (hackerstephens.com)
- m. Heritage Foundation and Heritage Action for America (heritage.org, heritageaction.com)
- n. Home School Legal Defense Association (hsllda.org)
- o. Human Coalition and Human Coalition Action (hucoaction.org, humancoalition.org)
- p. Independent Women’s Forum (iwf.org)
- q. James Bopp, Jr. (bopplaw.com)
- r. Janet Porter and Faith to Action (f2a.org)
- s. Jonathan Mitchell ([jonathan@mitchell.law](mailto:jonathan@mitchell.law))
- t. Liberty Counsel (lc.org)
- u. Life Legal Defense Foundation (lldf.org)
- v. Live Action (liveaction.org)
- w. March for Life and March for Life Action (marchforlife.org, marchforlifeaction.org)
- x. Mark Crutcher and Life Dynamics (lifedynamics.com)
- y. National Association of Christian Lawmakers (christianlawmakers.com)
- z. National Pro-Life Alliance (prolifealliance.com)
- aa. National Right to Life Committee (nrlc.org)
- bb. Personhood Alliance (personhood.org)
- cc. Pro-Life Action League (prolifeaction.org)
- dd. Students for Life (studentsforlife.org)
- ee. Susan B. Anthony List (sba-list.org)
- ff. Thomas More Society (thomasmoresociety.org)
- gg. Troy Newman, Cheryl Sullenger, and Operation Rescue (operationrescue.org)
- hh. Florida Right to Life (frtl.org)
- ii. Personhood Florida (personhoodfl.com)

2. All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, and text messages) sent by Senator Wilton Simpson, or anyone serving as his chief of staff, assistant, or scheduler, containing any of the following key terms:

- a. SB8
- b. “SB 8”
- c. “S.B. 8”
- d. “Heartbeat bill”
- e. “Heartbeat act”
- f. “Whole Woman’s Health”
- g. Waskom
- h. Dixon
- i. Roe
- j. Abortion

- k. “Pro life”
- l. “Pro-life”
- m. “Right to Life”
- n. Unborn
- o. “Gestational Age”
- p. Dobbs
- q. “Planned Parenthood”

In an effort to accommodate the Florida Senate and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited item 2 of this request to communications sent by specified officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Senator Simpson’s response to an email or text about SB8 and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from May 19, 2021, through the date the request is received.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting your search, please understand the term “record” in its broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions. Our request includes any attachments to these records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

In addition, American Oversight insists that your office use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. **However, custodian searches are still required; your office may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.**

In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by your office before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your office can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

### **Conclusion**

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.<sup>1</sup>

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your office on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully

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<sup>1</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,630 followers on Facebook and 108,900 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 22, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 22, 2021).

releasing the requested records, please contact Taylor Stoneman at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 848-1319.

Sincerely,

/s/Taylor Stoneman  
Taylor Stoneman  
on behalf of  
American Oversight