



July 18, 2022

VIA U.S. MAIL

Governor Tate Reeves
Office of the Governor of the State of Mississippi
Attn: Public Records Compliance Officer
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Re: Mississippi Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act, Miss. Code § 25-61-1 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within seven working days:

All records reflecting the participants and substance of the July 27, 2021 virtual briefing for governors on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* co-hosted by Governor Tate Reeves and Susan B. Anthony List, including, but not limited to: complete calendar invitations, agendas, talking points, formal or informal meeting notes, transcripts, presentation slides, other records of the briefing's content, and any records shared during or in connection with the meeting.

Records obtained by American Oversight containing an email invitation to the briefing are included as Exhibit A to aid in your search.

Please provide all responsive records from June 1, 2021, through August 1, 2021.

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

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files,



appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their 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 for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- 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 a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why 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 the agency 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.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. 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 agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF 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.¹

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Hart Wood at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1743.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hart Wood
Hart Wood
on behalf of
American Oversight

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 117,900 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited July 6, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited July 6, 2022).

EXHIBIT A

Hoffner, Rylín

From: B Nelson <mbarrie.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 6:03 PM
To: Liz.filmore@governor.alabama.gov; jo.bonner@governor.alabama.gov;
Kip.knudson@alaska.gov; gconger@az.gov; dscarpinato@az.gov; ccorieri@az.gov;
Alison.Williams@governor.arkansas.gov; ryan.loke@georgia.gov;
Chris.spencer@laspbs.state.fl.us; bobbi-jo.meuleman@gov.idaho.gov;
jhammod@gov.in.gov; stephanie.groen@iowa.gov; sara.craig@governor.iowa.gov;
ariel.judah@maryland.gov; kirsten.lepore@state.ma.us; AnneHall.Brashier;
Aaron.Willard@governor.mo.gov; kayla.hahn@governor.mo.gov;
christine.heggem@mt.gov; Miltenberger, Matt; Ficke, Melissa; jayne.millerick@nh.gov;
jabeehler@nd.gov; nikki.guilford@governors.ohio.gov; Zachary.Lee@gov.ok.gov;
TWalker@governor.sc.gov; ttimehouse@governor.sc.gov; Maggie.Seidel@state.sd.us;
blake.harris@tn.gov; Tony.Niknejad@tn.gov; gordonlarsen@utah.gov;
brittney.wilson@vermont.gov; brian.r.abraham@wv.gov; rebecca.d.blaine@wv.gov;
renny.mackay@wyo.gov; danielle.erickson@alaska.gov;
Jordan.bearden@governor.arkansas.gov; joan.varsek@gov.idaho.gov;
scheduling@governor.mo.gov; Hoffner, Rylín; jane.graham@nh.gov; alfeist@nd.gov;
scheduling@gov.ok.gov; Sandra.douvier@state.sd.us; tiffeniwall@utah.gov;
tracy.delude@vermont.gov; Rebecca.d.blain@wv.gov; mary.a.harrison@wv.gov;
Diane.Moulton@eog.myflorida.com; Marie.Dahlmann@gov.texas.gov;
toni.bell@wyo.gov; scheduling@tn.gov; lcraymond14@gmail.com;
amelia@briankemp2022.com; samfrainejh@gmail.com; christinakawata@gmail.com;
haley.arnold97@gmail.com; annaraefiedler@gmail.com; tgault48@gmail.com;
leighlemoine@gmail.com; caroleanneorsborn@gmail.com
Cc: Anne Hall Brashier; Cory Custer; Shelby Wilcher; Tanner Wheat; Bailey Martin
Subject: Governor Reeves Invites You to a Briefing for Governors on 15-Week Limit Supreme Court Case

You're Invited – Briefing for Governors on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:00 PM Central Time

Zoom Webinar (info to be shared upon RSVP)

Please join **Governor Tate Reeves, Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser**, and a member of **veteran pollster Wes Anderson's team** for an exclusive briefing on the *Dobbs* case that will be heard by the Supreme Court in their upcoming term.

At issue is Mississippi's 15-week abortion limit, which was passed overwhelmingly by the legislature only to be struck down by lower courts.

In accepting the case, the Supreme Court said it will consider the following question posed by the State of Mississippi in its appeal: **"Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."**

The outcome of this case will have a big impact on pro-life laws at the state level and litigation moving forward.

The briefing will feature a presentation by a veteran pollster with OnMessage, who conducted extensive polling on behalf of Susan B. Anthony List on the case. The presentation will ensure governors and their staff are equipped with the messaging that resonates with their constituents. The results are encouraging!

Please let us know if your Governor and/or a member of senior staff can join and we will send you the webinar info.

Sincerely,

Barrie Nelson
Office of Governor Tate Reeves
(c) 601-668-4592

Hoffner, Rylin

From: B Nelson <mbarrie.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Liz.filmore@governor.alabama.gov; jo.bonner@governor.alabama.gov; Kip.knudson@alaska.gov; gconger@az.gov; dscarpinato@az.gov; ccorieri@az.gov; Alison.Williams@governor.arkansas.gov; ryan.loke@georgia.gov; Chris.spencer@laspbs.state.fl.us; bobbi-jo.meuleman@gov.idaho.gov; jhammod@gov.in.gov; stephanie.groen@iowa.gov; sara.craig@governor.iowa.gov; ariel.judah@maryland.gov; kirsten.lepore@state.ma.us; AnneHall.Brashier; Aaron.Willard@governor.mo.gov; kayla.hahn@governor.mo.gov; christine.heggen@mt.gov; Miltenberger, Matt; Ficke, Melissa; jayne.millerick@nh.gov; Beehler, Jace; nikki.guilford@governors.ohio.gov; Zachary Lee; TWalker@governor.sc.gov; ttimehouse@governor.sc.gov; Maggie.Seidel@state.sd.us; blake.harris@tn.gov; Tony Niknejad; gordonlarsen@utah.gov; brittney.wilson@vermont.gov; brian.r.abraham@wv.gov; rebecca.d.blaine@wv.gov; renny.mackay@wyo.gov; danielle.erickson@alaska.gov; Jordan.bearden@governor.arkansas.gov; joan.varsek@gov.idaho.gov; scheduling@governor.mo.gov; Hoffner, Rylin; jane.graham@nh.gov; Feist, Andrew L.; scheduling@gov.ok.gov; Douvier, Sandra; tiffeniwall@utah.gov; tracy.delude@vermont.gov; Rebecca.d.blain@wv.gov; mary.a.harrison@wv.gov; Diane.Moulton@eog.myflorida.com; Marie.Dahlmann@gov.texas.gov; toni.bell@wyo.gov; scheduling@tn.gov; lcraymond14@gmail.com; amelia@briankemp2022.com; samfrainejh@gmail.com; christinakawata@gmail.com; haley.arnold97@gmail.com; annaraefiedler@gmail.com; tgault48@gmail.com; leighlemoine@gmail.com; caroleanneorsborn@gmail.com
Cc: Anne Hall Brashier; Cory Custer; Shelby Wilcher; Tanner Wheat; Bailey Martin
Subject: TOMORROW: Governor Reeves Invites You to a Briefing for Governors on 15-Week Limit Supreme Court Case

Hello everyone! I just wanted to remind everyone of this briefing at 6 PM Central Time tomorrow night, July 27 - I am going to be sending zoom webinar info shortly to those of you who have contacted me!

Barrie Nelson

You're Invited – Briefing for Governors on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:00 PM Central Time

Zoom Webinar (info to be shared upon RSVP)

Please join **Governor Tate Reeves, Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser**, and a member of **veteran pollster Wes Anderson's team** for an exclusive briefing on the *Dobbs* case that will be heard by the Supreme Court in their upcoming term.

At issue is Mississippi's 15-week abortion limit, which was passed overwhelmingly by the legislature only to be struck down by lower courts.

In accepting the case, the Supreme Court said it will consider the following question posed by the State of Mississippi in its appeal: **“Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.”**

The outcome of this case will have a big impact on pro-life laws at the state level and litigation moving forward.

The briefing will feature a presentation by a veteran pollster with OnMessage, who conducted extensive polling on behalf of Susan B. Anthony List on the case. The presentation will ensure governors and their staff are equipped with the messaging that resonates with their constituents. The results are encouraging!

Please let us know if your Governor and/or a member of senior staff can join and we will send you the webinar info.

Sincerely,

Barrie Nelson
Office of Governor Tate Reeves
(c) 601-668-4592

Miltenberger, Matt

From: Brian Sanderson <bsanderson@threeoakgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Brian Sanderson
Subject: New polling regarding the 15-week ban ahead of SCOTUS
Attachments: SBA National Survey Memo.pdf

Good afternoon. I wanted to share with you the recent polling concluded by OnMessage for the SBA List regarding the 15-week abortion ban case that is now in front of the Supreme Court. Top lines include: 55% of likely voters say they are more likely to support a 15-week limit on abortion when they learn that an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.

In addition, attached is an exclusive Washington Examiner article by Paul Bedard and, below, the SBA List press release, which includes a link to the ad regarding the case. Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks – Brian

Brian W. Sanderson



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2021 | [LINK](#)
Contact: Prudence Robertson, probertson@sbalist.org

New Polling: Majority of Voters Reject Abortion on Demand, Support 15-Week Limit

Polling Demonstrates Strength of Mississippi's 15-Week Limit Under SCOTUS Review

Washington, D.C. – Today the national pro-life group **Susan B. Anthony List (SBA List)** released a **national poll** of likely voters conducted by **OnMessage Inc.** that finds a strong majority of voters reject abortion on demand and support limits on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The polling found that likely voters are much more likely to support Republican candidates who back a 15-week limit on abortion versus Democratic candidates who back unlimited abortion.

The polling comes on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court **granting review** of Mississippi's 15-week abortion limit in which it will consider the question of whether all "pre-viability" bans on abortion are unconstitutional. The case is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

The **memo** reads in part:

"Among other findings, this survey of 1,200 likely voters showed that there is a strong center-right coalition that supports the Supreme Court allowing significant limits on abortion. In short, a strong majority of voters oppose unrestricted, abortion on demand, throughout pregnancy. Additionally, this

study strongly indicates that the pro-life side of the issue enjoys significantly more intensity than the pro-choice side. Politically, the pendulum has swung decisively in our direction.”

Key poll findings include:

- **53% of likely voters are more likely to vote for a Republican candidate who supports a 15-week limit on abortion versus just 28% of voters who prefer a Democratic candidate who supports unlimited abortion up until the moment of birth.** Independent voters break strongly to the GOP side by a 54% to 18% margin.
- **55% of likely voters say they are more likely to support a 15-week limit on abortion when they learn that an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.**
- **43% of likely pro-life voters identified abortion as being very important (10 on a 1-10 importance scale) in deciding their vote for an elected official, while only 29% of pro-choice voters said the same.**

SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser commented, saying:

“The majority of voters reject late-term abortion and the Democratic candidates who shamefully advocate for it. At 15 weeks, unborn children can feel pain, and most European countries limit abortions at this point. There is strong support among the American people for our nation’s laws to finally catch up with science and international norms.”

SBA List has launched a **\$2 million video ad campaign** asserting the humanity of unborn children. The **:30 spot** is currently airing on national cable, including on Lifetime and Bravo networks, as well as select streaming services, and in the Washington, D.C. media market on top news stations.

SBA List is a network of 900,000 pro-life Americans nationwide, dedicated to ending abortion by electing national leaders and advocating for laws that save lives, with a special calling to promote pro-life women leaders.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Susan B. Anthony List Leadership
From: Wes Anderson
Date: June 7th, 2021
Re: Nationwide Abortion Survey

We recently fielded a nationwide survey with the goal of gaining a better understanding of voter opinion regarding several questions related to abortion. Among other findings, this survey of 1,200 likely voters showed that there is a strong center-right coalition that supports the Supreme Court allowing significant limits on abortion. In short, a strong majority of voters oppose unrestricted, abortion on demand, throughout pregnancy. Additionally, this study strongly indicates that the pro-life side of the issue enjoys significantly more intensity than the pro-choice side. Politically, the pendulum has swung decisively in our direction. The findings come on the heels of the Supreme Court granting review of a Mississippi law that limits abortions after 15 weeks, with a decision expected during the heat of the 2022 elections.

PREFERRED CANDIDATE STANCE

In order to determine the true fault lines on the issue, we asked a head-to-head in the context of two candidates – a Republican who supports a limit at 15 weeks, with exceptions, vs a Democrats that supports abortion on demand, throughout all nine months of pregnancy. The results of this campaign simulation are both greatly encouraging and insightful. A majority of voters (53%) support the GOP candidate in this question. More importantly, only 28% support the Democrat. While that’s great news, the better news is the split by party. This question yields a strong center-right coalition for life, with Independents supporting the GOP/15 week limit candidate over the Democrat/abortion on demand candidate 54% to 18%. At the same time Republicans break 90% to 3% on the question. That is the definition of a strong center-right coalition.

Thinking about the 2022 election for congress, please tell me which of the following candidates you would be more likely to vote for.

	Total	DEM	IND	GOP
A Republican candidate who supports limiting abortions after 15 weeks with exceptions for the life and physical health of the mother or severe abnormality of the baby	53%	17%	54%	90%
A Democrat candidate who supports unlimited abortion up until the moment of birth	28%	58%	18%	3%
Don't Know	19%	25%	28%	7%

We also asked likely voters how important the issue of abortion was to deciding their vote and the enthusiasm is on our side. Forty-three percent of Pro-Life voters identified abortion as being very important (10 on a 1-10 importance scale) in deciding their vote for an elected official while only 29% of pro-choice voters said the same.

15 WEEK ABORTION LIMIT

In addition to the head-to-head campaign simulation question mentioned above, we asked about support or opposition to a 15 week limit without partisan candidates attached. We found that several factors drive favorability of a 15 week limit far more than any other messages and again reveal a strong center-right consensus. Among them are the unborn child's capacity to feel pain and the presence of a heartbeat at 15 weeks. Additionally, the heightened physical risks to the mother after 15 weeks also tested well.

Knowing the following, are you more or less likely to support the proposed 15 week limit?

By 15 weeks, an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.

	Total	DEM	IND	GOP
More Likely	55%	35%	48%	80%
Less Likely	26%	40%	26%	11%

By 15 weeks an unborn child has a beating heart, can move around in the womb, can close his or her fingers, can start to make sucking motions and hiccup, and senses stimulation from outside the womb.

	Total	DEM	IND	GOP
More Likely	53%	34%	48%	76%
Less Likely	27%	40%	28%	16%

Abortion carries significant physical and psychological risks to the mother, and these risks increase with late abortions.

	Total	DEM	IND	GOP
More Likely	52%	35%	46%	73%
Less Likely	29%	42%	29%	15%

CONCLUSION

These results clearly demonstrate that a majority of voters reject abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. Moreover, while the issue of abortion is a stronger motivator in deciding one's vote for Republicans, even Independent voters side with the pro-life side of the argument, creating a strong center-right coalition. On top of this, when voters are reminded that at the 15 week mark the child can feel pain, shows significant signs of development and the risk to the mother greatly increases, our support only grows. Taken as a whole this survey shows broad support for limiting abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

METHODOLOGY

This nationwide survey was conducted by OnMessage Inc. Telephone interviews were conducted on May 25-27, 2021. This survey consists of 1200 likely general election voters and was stratified to reflect historical voter trends. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 2.82%.

OUR RECORD

Wes Anderson is a leading GOP pollster with 25 years of experience in opinion research. As a founding partner, Wes now leads the polling divisions of OnMessage Inc. and OnMessage Sports, providing political and corporate clients with a full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative opinion research products. For his stellar work in the 2018 election cycle Wes Anderson was named as the 2019 American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) "Pollster of the Year." You can read more about Wes Anderson at onmessageinc.com.