

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
RAISED BILL NO. 289, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ONLINE SUBMISSION
AND POSTING OF STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission wholeheartedly supports R. B. 289, An Act Concerning the Online Submission and Posting of Statements of Financial Interests. The purpose of the bill is to require the statements of financial interests be filed electronically and to make such statements available to the public through online posting of such statements.

In light of the abundant corruption scandals, now, perhaps more than ever, it is likely that citizens, if asked, would say they believe the public should have electronic access to the statements of financial interests. The FOI Commission believes that requiring online submission and publication of statements of financial interests, represents a step forward in increasing the openness and accountability of public servants and will increase citizen awareness of government. There is a sound public policy in favor of making these records available to the public in an electronic format.

Furthermore, the language in the bill that would require all statements of financial interests filed to be available through the Internet and that the public be provided a computer terminal at the Office of State Ethics to access such statements is essential to greater accessibility and transparency and helps to close any digital divide.

The FOIC feels that this proposal is an opportunity to have a meaningful impact on transparency. We therefore urge you to support this bill.

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