



CITIZENS FOR  
RESPONSIBILITY &  
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

October 18, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Clay Redden, Public Information Officer  
Alabama House of Representatives  
11 South Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
[clay.redden@alhouse.gov](mailto:clay.redden@alhouse.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request, HB 8**

Mr. Redden:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records from the Alabama House pursuant to §§ 36.12.40-41, 41.13.1-44, and 36.25A.1-11 of the Alabama Code (“Public Records Law” and “Open Meetings Law”, respectively).

Specifically, CREW requests the following records relating to House Bill 8 (“HB 8”) from January 1, 2021 to the present:

1. All records reflecting any communications, meeting, phone calls, or conversations regarding HB 8 or any predecessor version of that bill with representatives of any non-governmental or private organization, including without limitation the following organizations and individuals:
  - i. Claremont Institute (@claremont.org)
  - ii. Be the People Project
  - iii. Unity Training Solutions (@unitytrainingsolutions.com)
  - iv. Steamboat Institute (@steamboatinstitute.org)
  - v. America First Policy Institute (@AmericaFirstPolicy.com)
  - vi. The Hoover Institute
  - vii. American Majority (@americanmajority.org)
  - viii. American Cornerstone Institute (@americancornerstone.org)
  - ix. 1776 Action (@1776action.org)
  - x. Heritage Action for America (@heritageaction.org)
  - xi. Heritage Foundation (@heritage.org)
  - xii. Susan B. Anthony List (@sba-list.org)

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[CITIZENSFORETHICS.ORG](http://CITIZENSFORETHICS.ORG)

- xiii. American Principles Project (@americanprinciplesproject.org)
  - xiv. Tea Party Patriots
  - xv. FreedomWorks (@freedomworks.org)
  - xvi. American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) (@alec.org)
  - xvii. Family Research Council
  - xviii. Honest Elections Project (@honestelections.org)
  - xix. State Policy Network (@spn.org)
  - xx. Alliance Defending Freedom (@adflegal.org)
  - xxi. Federalist Society (@fedsoc.org)
  - xxii. Cleta Mitchell
  - xxiii. Ken Cuccinelli
2. All records discussing the potential effect of any provision of HB 8 on Black, Latino, or other racial, ethnic, or sexual minorities and including without limitation the following provisions of HB 8:
    - i. Prohibition on employees of public K-12 schools and public institutions of higher education teaching concepts suggesting “that an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.” (HB 8, Section 1)
    - ii. Prohibition on employees of public K-12 schools and public institutions of higher education teaching concepts “[a]ssigning fault, blame, or bias to a race, sex, or to a member of a race or sex, because of their race or sex. The term includes any claim that, consciously or unconsciously, and by virtue of his or her race or sex, members of any race are inherently racist or are inclined to oppress others, or that members of a sex are inherently sexist or inclined to oppress others.” (HB8, Section 2)
  3. All records reflecting any analysis, consideration, or determination regarding how HB 8 would serve to decrease political divisiveness or promote racial, ethnic, or sexual equality, including any evidence or data supporting such analyses.

Please search for responsive records in the office of the following representatives:

- Rep. Chris Pringle
- Rep. Arnold Mooney

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to



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emails and other records, as well as emails to which the subjects of this request were cc'ed or bcc'ed.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please state the basis of the exemption you contend is applicable. Ala. Code § 36.12.40-41. If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records.

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and reducing the influence of money on politics. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, CREW agrees to pay up to \$100. However, CREW also requests a waiver of all fees associated with the instant request because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest. The public is entitled to information concerning the decision-making processes of the Alabama House and the requested records would likely contribute to public understanding of who is seeking to influence the bill's passage and why. The public deserves to know what role, if any, external organizations may be playing promoting this proposed legislation. Further, this information is not being sought for commercial purposes. If copying fees are expected to exceed \$100, or if you anticipate that "extensive use" of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance will be needed to fulfill this request, please contact me at [foia@citizensforethics.org](mailto:foia@citizensforethics.org).

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me at either [foia@citizensforethics.org](mailto:foia@citizensforethics.org) or Justine Ellis, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1331 F St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Justine Ellis