

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We, the following 17 organizations, write in support of the Electronic Court Records Reform Act (ECRRA), S. 2064. The bipartisan bill was introduced by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) on July 9, 2019. ECRRA modernizes the federal judicial records system and eliminates the paywall that restricts access to court records through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.

The public's right of meaningful access to judicial proceedings can be traced to a time preceding the First Amendment. The Supreme Court of the United States first recognized its constitutional roots in a landmark 1980 decision,

ECRRA enhances transparency by requiring that documents be text-searchable and machine-readable. It also requires audio and visual court records be made available. ECRRA directs the AOUSC to protect private information, mandating redaction of any information prohibited from public disclosure.

For these reasons, our organizations strongly support ECRRA. We respectfully ask for your support to promptly bring the bill to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Library Association
Association of Research Libraries
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Data Coalition
Demand Progress
Free Government Information
Government Accountability Project
Government Information Watch
GovTrack.us
National Freedom of Information Coalition
National Security Archive
National Security Counselors
Open The Government
Project on Government Oversight
R Street Institute
Senior Executives Association

cc: Members of the Committee