



May 12, 2026

Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco  
1021 O Street, Suite 4510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT – AB 1821 (Pacheco): Damaging the Public Records Act – OPPOSE**

Dear Asm. Pacheco:

The California Policy Center writes in opposition to AB 1821. Government transparency and accountability are foundational to a free society, and the California Public Records Act is one of the most important tools citizens have to hold government to account. As originally drafted, AB 1821 would weaken that tool in ways that are arbitrary, constitutionally dubious, and fundamentally unfair.

While the bill has been recently amended removing its most damaging components of new financial penalties, dramatically delayed agency response deadlines and a two-tiered system of government transparency, the California Policy Center will continue to oppose any incremental policy that weakens public access to public documents.

To avoid any confusion about the intent of the April 6, 2026 amendments, we ask you to shelve this bill indefinitely to avoid the long and costly process of litigating this through the courts should it become law.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen  
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs