

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