

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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Senate Committee on Human Services
Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Commenting on S.B. 1226, Relating to Child Care
Hearing: February 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote governmental transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit **comments** regarding **S.B. 1226**.

The Law Center raises a concern about section three of the bill. The proposed amendment would delay public access to complaints about child care facilities for an indeterminate time while DHS conducts an investigation. Existing law already protects complainant privacy and allows the DHS Director to withhold information if it would interfere with a criminal investigation. So it is unclear what public policy is served by denying public access to complaints for a prolonged period.

Parents, guardians, and other members of the public considering options among child care facilities should know whether complaints have been filed against that facility. If unaware of complaints, individuals may place a child in a DHS-licensed facility only to learn later that the child was exposed to potential risk because DHS was still investigating the complaints.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 1226.