

## Year-End Report - 2016

### Steering Committee

**Steven Aftergood**  
Federation of  
American Scientists

**Gary Bass**  
Bauman Foundation

**Tom Blanton**  
National Security  
Archive

**Rick Blum**  
News Media for Open  
Government

**Danielle Brian\***/  
**Sean Moulton**  
Project on Government  
Oversight

**Kevin Goldberg**  
American Society of  
News Editors

**Conrad Martin**  
Fund for Constitutional  
Government  
(Ex-officio member)

**Michael Ostrolenk**  
Liberty Coalition

**David Sobel**  
Electronic Frontier  
Foundation

**Tom Susman**  
National Freedom of  
Information Coalition

**Anne Weismann**

**John Wonderlich**  
Sunlight Foundation

\* Chair

**Patrice McDermott**  
Executive Director

**Jesse Franzblau**  
Policy Associate

**Emily Manna**  
Policy/Program Associate

In 2016, OpenTheGovernment.org (OTG) worked to defend and strengthen open and accountable government, combat attempts to increase government secrecy, provide information to the public about their right to know, the need for open government reform, and much more. We know the public can provide oversight and seek redress only when it is aware of what its government is doing.

Among the 2016 highlights, as described below, OTG:

- Worked to protect and strengthen the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – helping to shape the [FOIA Improvement Act of 2016](#), and building momentum to get the bill to the President’s desk and signed into law in June.
- Fought for the preservation and release of the Senate torture report, calling on the Archivist of the United States to declare the report a federal record. In December, the White House [announced](#) that its copy of the report would be preserved under the Presidential Records Act.
- Engaged the openness community in the fight for more open and accountable law enforcement, and worked with immigrant rights groups to highlight the need for more oversight and transparency in the immigration detention system.
- Worked to raise the visibility of FOIA and other critically important open government issues through editorials, analysis, and public events, as well as a set of open government [questions](#) for 2016 candidates for federal office.
- Pushed back against excessive secrecy in Congress and the Executive Branch, including advocating for reforms to the classification system and greater transparency around surveillance programs.
- Coordinated coalition recommendations for the United States Trade Representative 2016 open government plan, and worked with Representative Debbie Dingell’s office to incorporate the recommendations into the [Promoting Transparency in Trade Act](#).

### The Difference OTG Makes – setting the openness agenda

In 2016, OpenTheGovernment.org worked to make government more open and accountable by building coalitions and coordinating diverse communities to protect and strengthen public access to government records, meetings, and processes. The OTG coalition focused on many aspects of open government at the federal level, including defending and enhancing the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA), promoting critical

reforms to agency records management and classification systems, advocating for open and accessible government meetings, and pushing agencies to proactively disclose information that is in the public interest.

### ***Protecting and Improving the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)***

*“This bill [the FOIA Improvement Act] is the result of many voices providing feedback and helpful critiques. That is the way a good law is made. Advocacy groups such as OpenTheGovernment.org and the Sunshine in Government Initiative have been critical to the success of this legislation.” - Rep. Carolyn Maloney, June 13, 2016*



President Obama signed the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 in the Oval Office on Thursday. AP Photo/Susan Walsh

The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, [signed](#) into law by President Obama on June 30, is the result of years of hard work by the coalition. OTG was heavily involved in the process of FOIA reform in both chambers of Congress and [working to oppose](#) the inclusion of harmful provisions proposed by the Intelligence Community and other agencies and entities. The central

role that OTG plays in forging organizations with different focuses and priorities into a cohesive movement with a strong, unified voice, is exemplified by: a 2015 letter from 47 organizations in support of the House FOIA reform bill, [cited on the floor](#) by co-sponsor Rep. Elijah Cummings when the House passed its legislation in January 2016; and a sign-on [letter](#) in January 2016, raising concern over the last-minute changes made to the House bill to exempt the Intelligence Community from certain provisions of the FOIA amendments.

OTG also coordinated with a broad coalition of open government and media organizations to launch a [“50 Days of FOIA” campaign](#) ([#FiftyDaysofFOIA](#)), leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Act on July 4, 2016. Each day of the campaign featured stories about the role of FOIA or issues with its use, highlighting the importance of FOIA and promoting the eventual passage of the reforms.



After the FOIA reform bill passed and was sent to the President on June 13, OTG organized a [Town Hall on FOIA Beyond 50](#) to discuss the openness community’s vision for the next administration and Congress. The Town Hall resulted in the creation of several working groups, coordinated by OTG, that were tasked with identifying and developing plans for advancing open government priorities for the next administration and Congress.

OTG played a vital role combating new threats to FOIA in the form of proposed exemptions and rule changes. We [alerted](#) House leadership in January 2016 about the transparency and accountability community’s concern over the last-minute changes made to the House FOIA reform bill (mentioned above) to exempt the Intelligence Community (17 federal agencies) from disclosure of information related to “sources and methods” (which is undefined in statute and broadly abused) under any of

the amendments in the bill – including, most significantly, the presumption of disclosure provision which FOIA reformers have fought for a decade to codify into statute.

OTG and our partners fought back against efforts to weaken FOIA in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2016. The coalition [called for](#) the removal of exemptions that would have severely undermined the FOIA by creating an unnecessary secrecy provision at odds with FOIA's goal of transparency and a carve-out to the FOIA for the Pentagon. We met with Congressional offices to raise awareness about the provisions, and Congress ultimately [removed](#) the harmful provisions from the final version of the bill.

OTG submitted [comments](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security on their proposals to amend their FOIA regulations, recommending the regulations uphold requesters' rights under the FOIA, and conform to the new provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. The final regulations released by each of the agencies incorporated some of the important recommendations made by OTG and our partners.

In December, OTG and partners [wrote](#) to President Obama, asking him to halt any pending rules and regulations that would weaken the FOIA or the Privacy Act. The letter came in response to several proposed rules seeking to exempt agency records (specifically those in the Department of Homeland Security) from privacy protections, and noted the importance of safeguarding mechanisms of government accountability in preparation for the next administration.

## ***Ensuring Access to Government Information***

### **Preservation and Management of Electronic Records**

Without the required preservation of government records, there would not be any information to request under FOIA, no meaningful way to hold government accountable, and no history of our government and its policy formation. OTG and our partners pushed policymakers to recognize and ameliorate the poor state of records management, including email and other electronic records, in the federal government. In October, OTG and 14 other civil society open government leaders sent a [Proposal to Strengthen Records Accountability in the Next Administration](#) to the transition teams for both presidential candidates. In the proposal, advocates highlighted the widespread problems with electronic records management in the federal government, and recommended trainings, agency open records plans, and reporting on agency compliance with the 2012 memorandum issued by the Office of Management and Budget, "Managing Government Records Directive."

### **Circular A-130**

For the first time in fifteen years, OMB proposed revisions to its [Circular No. A-130](#), "Managing Information as a Strategic Resource" – a document that has a significant impact on public access to government information, as well as the management of federal records and other resources that are vital to the public interest.

OTG coordinated coalition members concerned with issues importantly affected by Circular A-130 to submit [comments](#) on proposed changes to the Circular. The comments reflected concerns about public access to government information, privacy protections, whistleblower protections, and

appropriate measures to protect the security of information, information resources, and information systems while ensuring transparency and accountability.

The updated Circular, [published](#) in July, incorporated some of the important suggestions OTG made, including re-instating language making clear that federal agencies “shall protect the public’s right of access to Federal information,” and added more references to information preservation.

### **Preserving Government Information at the End of a Presidential Term**

Amid growing concern that important and sensitive government data on climate, labor, and other issues may disappear from the web under the Trump Administration, OTG began coordinating with the [End of Term Harvest](#) to engage the coalition and others in efforts to preserve access to online government information. With representatives of the EOT Harvest, we organized an informational meeting on how groups could support preservation efforts for early 2017. (Listen to and read about the January 19 event [here](#).)

### **Reducing Secrecy**

OTG continued to push the Administration to release more information regarding the CIA’s post-9/11 torture program implemented during the Bush Administration. Despite publication of the Executive Summary of the *Senate Select Committee on Intelligence’s investigation into the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program* (the “Torture Report”) more than two years ago, the full report remains classified in full.

In April, OTG and 30 other organizations [wrote](#) to the Archivist of the United States requesting that he use his recently-affirmed [statutory](#) authority to declare the full Report a federal record. Following [reports](#) that the CIA inspector general’s office had “mistakenly” destroyed its only copy of the Senate Torture Report, OTG sent a [letter](#) calling on the Archivist to ensure preservation of the Report. In a November coalition [letter](#), OTG joined partners in calling on President Obama to take steps to preserve the White House copy, among other national security transparency and accountability asks. In a letter sent to Senator Dianne Feinstein on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the White House [announced](#) that its copy of the Report would be preserved under the Presidential Records Act. Separately, on December 28th, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth [ordered](#) that the Report – along with the CIA’s response to the Report and all cited documents – be preserved as part of a case involving a former CIA detainee.

OTG and 24 other groups, upon learning in January that the Committee planned to hold a classified oversight hearing on surveillance programs carried out under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act (FAA), [called](#) on the House Judiciary Committee to hold an open hearing. Prior to the hearing, members of the Intelligence Community – from the ODNI, DOJ, NSA, and FBI – released a joint unclassified [statement](#), made available on the House Judiciary Committee’s website. It included an overview of Section 702, along with examples of cases where Section 702 was reportedly integral to countering terrorist plots. The classified hearing allowed the Intelligence Community to use the opportunity to put out a public statement; it did not allow, however, for the claims to be challenged by legal experts. In order to ensure that the intelligence agencies are not violating the rule of law, the letter urged the Judiciary Committee to “change the designation of the session to “open,” consistent with Congress’s constitutional oversight role, long standing congressional practice, and

principles of transparency and justice,” and to include representation and engagement of privacy, civil liberties, and human rights organizations in the oversight of surveillance under Section 702.

OTG and partners [called on](#) ODNI and the NSA to halt plans to expand sharing with other federal agencies, including law enforcement agencies, of data from surveillance programs conducted under EO 12333, and to release more information about the plan to the public. The letter was prompted by a New York Times [report](#) that the White House and the Director of National Intelligence were in the process of establishing procedures for expanded information sharing. The letter gained [media attention](#) and led to a meeting of representatives of the open government and privacy communities with ODNI, NSA, and Department of Justice officials.

OTG, in June [comments](#) submitted to the Department of Justice, opposed the FBI’s proposal to exempt its controversial biometrics database (the Next Generation Identification, NGI, system) from key Privacy Act protections. The comments were endorsed by civil rights, human rights, immigrant rights, and privacy and transparency organizations. The comments called for stronger privacy and transparency measures for the FBI’s NGI system, and opposed the FBI’s proposal to weaken existing protections.

In October, OTG submitted [comments](#) to the DOJ on the proposed Privacy Act exemptions for the Insider Threat Program Records system, another FBI database. The comments expressed concern that removing key privacy protections would augment the Insider Threat program’s already chilling effect on whistleblowing.

OTG and our partners [called on](#) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) to withdraw a proposal that would have significantly raised fees on mandatory declassification requests (MDRs), limiting the ability of the public to file such requests to declassify information held by intelligence community agencies. In response to public pressure, ODNI [withdrew](#) the proposed rule and issued a revised proposal to make MDR fees comparable to ODNI’s FOIA fee structure.

In December, Patrice McDermott [delivered remarks](#) at a meeting of the Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB) on the need to modernize the national security classification system.



Dr. McDermott speaks at a meeting of the Public Interest Declassification Board

### ***Working to Make Public Authorities Open and Accountable to All Members of the Public***

Social and civil justice and immigrant rights communities have been working for years to ensure that public authorities are transparent and have sufficient oversight – work that is increasingly important as we enter 2017. To that end, OTG is working to mobilize the open government community to support and enhance ongoing efforts to make law enforcement and immigration authorities more open and accountable.

OTG brought together civil society leaders, from the ACLU, the Sunlight Foundation, the Leadership Conference, and ColorofChange.org and others, in a January 2016 [Town Hall on Transparent Policing and Accountable Law Enforcement](#) to discuss efforts to collect and use data to promote greater accountability in law enforcement. Panelists addressed some of the core data-related challenges to criminal justice advocacy work, and the event served as a first step toward further coordination among the openness, data transparency, and social justice and civil rights communities. Following the Town Hall, OTG distributed a [report](#) detailing the findings and core transparency issues addressed during the event.

In [comments](#) submitted to the city of Ferguson's public fairness hearings on its consent decree with the Department of Justice in April 2016, Dr. McDermott outlined the need for more robust transparency provisions, and concerns over the exemption that excludes information reviewed and produced by the Independent Monitor from public records laws.

In May and June, OTG hosted roundtable conversations to discuss opportunities for openness advocates to support the work of social justice, civil rights, and immigrant rights groups seeking accountability for law enforcement abuses in communities across the country. Participants identified transparency asks and obstacles to obtaining information needed for advocacy campaigns, including information relating to surveillance programs carried out at the federal, state, and city level.

In October, OTG and some of our partners submitted [comments](#) on the Department of Justice's proposed information collection requirement to update its implementation of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA). The comments expressed concern that the DOJ's proposal did not meet the full requirements of the DICRA, as it placed the burden on the Bureau of Justice Statistics to collect information rather than on police departments themselves, as the law requires. Shortly after the public comment period closed, the DOJ [announced](#) its plans to issue an updated proposal in response to public concern.

OTG organized and moderated a [session](#) on law enforcement transparency and accountability during the 2016 National Freedom of Information Coalition [FOI Summit](#). The [speakers included](#) civil rights and civil liberties advocates, journalists, and FOIA experts who discussed the challenges faced by advocates when trying to gain access to information on law enforcement policies and activities. The event provided an important venue to bring these critical issues more fully to the attention of the open government community and to identify where our work and knowledge can assist in improving the access to information needed for law enforcement accountability.



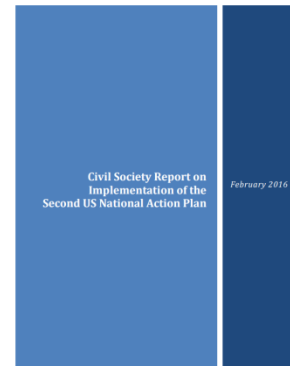
Carlton Mayers (NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund) speaks at the 2016 NFOIC Summit

In November, OTG hosted a [Town Hall on Enhancing Transparency and Oversight in Immigration Detention](#). In a discussion lead by experts from Human Rights Watch, Detention Watch Network, and the Project On Government Oversight, participants shared their experiences challenging

government secrecy around immigration detention, as well as their expertise on FOIA and other mechanisms they have used to push for government transparency and accountability.

### ***Promote a Culture of Openness in Government***

OTG coordinated the efforts of civil society organizations to influence the creation and implementation of the US' National Action Plans. In 2016, OTG published an [evaluation](#) of the administration's implementation of its Second [National Action Plan](#) (NAP). The evaluation included the input and expertise of 23 civil society groups and academic institutions. Among the findings, the report highlighted the need for the government to have a deeper commitment to openness measures and identified shortcomings in the completion rate, lack of political mandate and follow-through, and need for greater focus on civil society/government collaboration.



Final Civil Society Evaluation of 2<sup>nd</sup> US National Action Plan

OTG submitted recommendations for inclusion in agencies' 2016 Open Government plans, including: [urging DOJ](#) include provisions to enhance law enforcement transparency by developing guidance and standards for data collection, and reducing secrecy around investigative technology; and calling on [all agencies](#) to update their policies to facilitate access for the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), so that the latter is better able to assess FOIA compliance in the agencies. We also submitted [recommendations](#) urging the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to commit to making trade negotiations more transparent and to appointing a new transparency officer. Our recommendations for inclusion in the USTR plan were incorporated into [a bill](#) introduced in the House in October by Representative Debbie Dingell.

### ***Raising the Visibility of Open Government & Accountability Issues***

Since 2006, OTG has hosted a webcast during Sunshine Week calling attention to major transparency issues. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, OpenTheGovernment.org [joined](#) the Newseum Institute, the



Participants make their cases in a mock caucus at the 2016 National Freedom of Information Day

American Society of News Editors, Sunshine Week, and the American Library Association in hosting National Freedom of Information Day at the Newseum. Among the day's full schedule of events, OTG organized a [mock caucus](#) allowing attendees to weigh in on which of four issues presented they viewed as the top policy priorities for strengthening accountability and open government in 2017. Panelists pitched their issues of expertise to the audience, explaining why each should be a focus for the openness community's advocacy with the next administration/Congress.

The audience then questioned the speakers and offered their own thoughts on the issues. When the final votes were tallied, police transparency came out on top, followed by ethics and money in politics, national security, and then whistleblower protections.

OTG partnered with the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) to publish [questions](#) for journalists to ask all 2016 candidates for federal offices. The questions were intended to amplify attention to critical transparency issues the election cycle, from FOIA to national security to accountable policing. OTG also joined ASNE and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for the [OpenOurGov](#) campaign, which aimed to get a fundamental question on open government asked during a presidential debate.

In September, Dr. McDermott participated in a Congressional Transparency Caucus [panel](#) to discuss the progress this Congress has made on transparency issues, and the work still to be done in the next administration.



Patrice McDermott speaks at briefing hosted by the Congressional Transparency Caucus

In February, Dr. McDermott wrote an [op-ed](#) for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on ways to improve transparency and accountability measures in the city of Ferguson's consent decree with the Department of Justice. In the fall, OTG published editorials on the need for greater [transparency in U.S. trade negotiations](#), the public's [right to know in the Flint water crisis](#), and [including government transparency](#) in the 2016 election discourse. OTG's work on FOIA, the Open Government Partnership, surveillance transparency, and other issues has also been featured in publications such as *Christian Science Monitor*, *Government Executive*, and *The Hill* (see below).

OpenTheGovernment.org's work in 2016 was made possible through the generous grants from: the Bauman Foundation, CS Fund, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Scherman Foundation, and the Stewart R Mott Foundation.

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## Examples of our Work in our Focus Areas

### Letters and Comments

Open government groups call on the White House to repudiate DOJ stance on presumption of openness  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5152>

OTG, partners tell President Obama there's still time to make crucial reforms  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5160>

Open government groups call on ODNI to remove burdensome cost barriers to mandatory declassification  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5164>

Coalition letter calls for halt to NSA data sharing with law enforcement agencies  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5175>

Recommendations for the Justice Department's 2016 Open Government Plan: Enhance data collection and reporting standards for law enforcement agencies  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5185>

OpenTheGovernment.org submits comments to city of Ferguson on DOJ agreement  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5188>



OTG pushes Archivist to preserve Senate torture report  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5217>

Recommendations for the United States Trade Representative 2016 Open Government Plan  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5220>

Coalition submits comments opposing FBI proposal to exempt controversial biometrics database from Privacy Act protections  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5260>

Openness groups tell HHS to uphold requesters' rights & conform to the FOIA  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5288>

Coalition comments urge adherence to requirement of Deaths in Custody Reporting Act and greater accountability in DOJ proposed implementation guidance  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5328>

Coalition Opposes FBI Proposal to Weaken Privacy Protections for Insider Threat Program Records  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5343>

Coalition calls for President Obama to take urgent action on national security transparency and accountability  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5366>

Coalition calls on the Obama Administration to halt efforts to weaken the FOIA and the Privacy Act  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5378>

### **Improving Access**

FOIA Reform Bill UPDATE -- Passed in the House  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5092>

Bipartisan Bill to Make CRS Reports Public Introduced in House, Senate  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5143>

FOI Day Mock Caucus Sparks Debate on Transparency Priorities  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5161>

Updating agency FOIA regulations--DOJ's guidance and template mostly ignores civil society's model FOIA regulations  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5171>

Congressional leaders call for GAO review of agency FOIA compliance  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5204>

Congress sends FOIA reform bill to the President's desk  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5240>

President signs most significant reform to FOIA since its original passage  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5255>

Coalition praises removal of harmful FOIA exemptions from final NDAA legislation  
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5372>

### **Opening Government**

Flint water crisis resurfaces familiar federal transparency problems

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5109>

OTG Forum Identifies Opportunities for Engagement on Transparent Policing and Accountable Law Enforcement Advocacy

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5117>

Updated: Questions for 2016 Candidates for Federal Offices on Government Accountability, Public Disclosure, and the Right to Know

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5116>

OTG releases civil society progress report on the Administration's open government commitments

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5123>

Abuse of Congressional Oversight Authority Poses a Threat to Open Government Advocacy Work

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5312>

OTG endorses Promoting Transparency in Trade Act

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5320>

Challenges to law enforcement transparency and accountability efforts highlighted at 2016 FOI Summit Session

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5332>

OTG's Patrice McDermott joins Transparency Caucus briefing panel

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5324>

OTG, openness groups publish Proposal to Strengthen Records Accountability in the next Administration

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5344>

OTG Town Hall reveals common goals for openness and immigrant rights' communities

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5364>

Exec Dir McDermott delivers remarks on improving the security classification system

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5379>

## **Reducing Secrecy**

House Judiciary Committee Holds Closed Hearings on Section 702 of the FISA – UPDATE

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5106>

ODNI's fee proposal would prevent public requests for declassification

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5138>

Secrecy around Government Surveillance Looms Large in Obama Administration's Final Year

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5159>

[ODNI revises rule on excessive MDR fees in response to public comments](http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5192)

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5192>

Senate Judiciary Committee holds first public review of Section 702 surveillance programs

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5209>

Major advancement for open government: White House ensures preservation of Senate "Torture Report"

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5383>

## Op-Eds Placed

[Ferguson's short window for enforceable police and city transparency](#)

[St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Patrice McDermott, February 7, 2016]

[Op-Ed: Secrecy, democracy and the TPP: trade transparency is what the public wants—and needs](#)

[The Hill, Patrice McDermott and Emily Manna, September 12, 2016]

[Op-Ed: Flint and fighting for public's right to know](#)

[Battle Creek Enquirer, Patrice McDermott and Jesse Franzblau, September 21, 2016]

[Getting our candidates to answer core questions on government secrecy and our right to know](#)

[Chicago Tribune, Patrice McDermott, October 27, 2016]

## OpenTheGovernment.org in the News

[Advocacy groups press for open dialogue on foreign surveillance reform](#)

[Christian Science Monitor, Joshua Eaton, January 27, 2016]

[Congressional Hearings on Surveillance Programs to Kick Off — in Secret](#)

[The Intercept, Jenna McLaughlin, January 28, 2016]

[Obama Transparency Initiative Lacks Political Will, Advocates Say](#)

[Government Executive, Charles S. Clark, February 17, 2016]

[Sean Moulton: New report looks at progress toward more open government](#)

[Federal News Radio, Tom Temin, February 22, 2016]

[NSA data-sharing plan opens door to mass surveillance, say rights groups](#)

[Christian Science Monitor, Joshua Eaton, April 7, 2016]

[Opposition mounts to NSA's data-sharing plans](#)

[The Hill, Julian Hattem, April 7, 2016]

[FOIA Reform Appears Close, But Not a Done Deal](#)

[Government Executive, Charles S. Clark, April 22, 2016]

[Obama Under Fire Over Transparency as Congress Advances FOIA Reform](#)

[Inside Sources, Graham Vyse, April 26, 2016]

[Congress revives debate over national security, limits of 'incidental' snooping](#)

[Washington Times, Andrea Noble, May 10, 2016]

[Tech, civil liberties leaders fight FBI biometric program](#)

[Christian Science Monitor, Joshua Eaton, June 2, 2016]

[FOIA reform bill headed to Obama](#)

[Politico, Josh Gerstein, June 13, 2016]

[Cornyn-Leahy open records bill soon to become law](#)

[Dallas News, Todd J. Gillman, June 14, 2016]

[Bill to Prevent 'Power-Hungry' Feds from Hiding Information Heads to Obama](#)

[Government Executive, Charles S. Clark, June 14, 2016]

[Obama just made it much easier for the public to access government records](#)

[Vice News, Jason Leopold, June 30, 2016]

[Documents Confirm CIA Censorship of Guantanamo Trials](#)

[The Intercept, Mattathias Schwarz, August 15, 2016]

[Legislators call for better implementation of transparency legislation](#)

[FCW, Chase Gunter, September 22, 2016]

[Candidates must answer for secrecy](#)

[Wisconsin State Journal, Editorial Board, October 9, 2016]

[Legal Loophole Lets Feds Delete Tons of Official Records](#)

[The Libertarian Republic, Kathryn Watson, December 23, 2016]

[What will government transparency look like under Trump](#)

[ThinkProgress, Aysha Khan, December 19, 2016]