

Steering Committee

Steven Aftergood

Federation of
American Scientists

Gary Bass

Bauman Foundation

Tom Blanton

National Security
Archive

Rick Blum

Sunshine in Government
Initiative

Danielle Brian*

Project On Government
Oversight

Kevin Goldberg

American Society of
News Editors

Conrad Martin

Fund for Constitutional
Government
(Ex-officio member)

**Katherine McFate/
Sean Moulton**

OMB Watch

Michael Ostrolenk

Liberty Coalition

Thomas Susman

National Freedom of
Information Coalition

David Sobel

Electronic Frontier
Foundation

Anne Weismann

Citizens for
Responsibility & Ethics
in Washington

John Wonderlich

Sunlight Foundation

* Chair

Patrice McDermott

Executive Director

Amy Bennett

Assistant Director

Katherine Hawkins

National Security Fellow

Abby Paulson

Program Associate

Mary Treacy

Outreach Coordinator

Year-End Report - 2014

OpenTheGovernment.org accelerated its work in several areas this year, seizing opportunities to push for reforms in national security secrecy and the Freedom of Information Act. OTG continued its work to leverage the opportunities presented by the Open Government Partnership to achieve meaningful openness reforms.

As described below, in 2014 we:

- Led the civil society push for passage of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reform legislation in both chambers.
- Provided crucial policy recommendations and commentary on national security secrecy issues, particularly the US government's torture and surveillance programs.
- Pushed for a more robust connection between government and civil society groups in the creation and implementation of the open government National Action Plan.

The Difference OTG Makes

On May 8th, the coalition celebrated its 10+ years of fighting for a more open government. The occasion was marked by a reception at the Mott House and [video](#) chronicling the successes of the past and challenges ahead. The video has been viewed more than 100 times on YouTube. OTG conducted the interviews with founders, funders, and steering committee members and shot the footage used in the final video put together by an independent contractor. OTG used its extra footage to [spotlight](#) OTG's work on several issues in the weeks leading up to the celebration. Senators Patrick Leahy and John Cornyn also [shared statements](#) commending OTG on its work.

Protecting and Improving the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

OpenTheGovernment.org led the civil society charge in shaping and pushing Freedom of Information Act reform in Congress. After the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act passed the House unanimously in February, civil society groups worked with Senate staff to pass a similar bill that made improvements where the bill did not go far enough. The Senate bill, the FOIA Improvement

Act (S. 2520), passed unanimously through the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the Senate, the bill encountered some opposition from Senator Rockefeller, who placed a hold on the bill. After negotiations, the bill passed in the full Senate and returned to the House for its passage. The clock ran out on FOIA reform, however, when Speaker John Boehner failed to put the bill to a vote before Congress departed for the holidays. OTG will continue to work with its civil society partners to pass FOIA reform in the new Congress.

Leading up to the votes, OTG worked to spread the word about the House and Senate legislation and urged Congress and the public to support reform. On March 11th, Assistant Director Amy Bennett testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on FOIA reform. The text and video of her testimony are available [here](#). Coalition staff also leveraged OTG's communications team to publish several pieces in support of the bill in papers across the country and online. Amy Bennett's pieces "[Putting Freedom Back in FOIA](#)" and "[President Obama Can \(And Should\) Embrace the FOIA Improvements Act](#)" were placed in many papers across the country. A piece penned by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and placed through OTG "[Why We Need FOIA Reform Now](#)" appeared in Roll Call.

OTG staff also work closely with staff from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to support the office's efforts to make FOIA work better for agencies and requesters. On January 30th, OTG coordinated a half-day conference with FOIA advocates and OGIS staff to facilitate an in-depth discussion about differing visions of, assumptions about and expectations for the office. The number of people invited to the meeting was limited both



Dr. McDermott leads a panel with Congressional staff at the "OGIS at 5" event at the Newseum

to encourage a free exchange of ideas and to make sure all attendees—both from the FOIA community and OGIS—had an opportunity to share their views. In October, the Newseum Institute, OGIS, and OpenTheGovernment.org hosted a half-day event examining OGIS' first five years and its role in the future. We also hold occasional brown-bag meetings with OGIS to provide outside stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views on how OGIS can achieve its strategic goals and serve its mission.

Delivering Results in the Open Government Partnership

OTG staff continues to coordinate civil society engagement on and evaluation of the US National Action Plan for open government. The first [6-month evaluation](#) was published in June. Following the publication, the government set up meetings on commitments that

received low marks on collaboration or where civil society had not seen any progress. OTG continues to push the US government to work with civil society organization both to meet the commitments, and to determine what next steps need to be taken. Over the final year of implementation, OTG and our civil society colleagues will publish an interim evaluation and a final comprehensive report in December 2015.

Coalition and OTSP staffs co-moderate a government and civil society open government listserv, which includes nearly 90 members of civil society and about 50 government officials. Through this listserv, members of civil society and agency officials are able to share updates on their open government work. The new channel of communication has proved a useful tool for civil society groups to share input on agencies' open government plans and put pressure on agencies that [failed to meet the deadline](#) for publishing plans. Shortly after one of our partner organizations used the list to share an infographic of agencies that missed the deadline, a number of agencies published their plans.

In addition to the evaluation process, OTG hosted Al Kags, a Mandela Washington Fellow from Kenya this summer. Mr. Kags is the founder of the Open Institute, a non-profit organization that works with governments and civil society groups to promote citizen participation and open government. He researched how other civil society organizations are leveraging OGP to make their governments more open and accountable and what lessons OTG can incorporate in its own evaluation process. The [final report](#) made several recommendations for government and the OGP itself for improving civil society engagement.

Executive Director Patrice McDermott traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia in March on the invitation of the US government to share OTG's experience with Indonesian government officials and leaders of civil society organizations. Dr. McDermott also participated in meetings at the high-level Open Government Partnership event at the United Nations. In October, Abby Paulson attended the World Bank's Youth Summit on Open and Responsive Governments, and shared OTG's experience with other young civil society members engaging with the OGP or advocating for membership. Dr. McDermott participated in the Americas Regional OGP Conference in Costa Rica in November.

Dr. McDermott and OTG staff frequently participate in panels and events to share US civil society's approach to evaluating the government's implementation of the National Action Plan.

Reducing Secrecy

In March, OpenTheGovernment.org expanded its staff to include a National Security Fellow, funded by the Omidyar Network. Katherine Hawkins is a researcher and lawyer previously with the Constitution Project Task Force on Detainee Treatment. Among other responsibilities, she is tasked with raising the profile of national security transparency issues

and coordinating advocacy efforts. These efforts have focused on government surveillance, targeted killing, and the Senate CIA torture report.

OTG has been a central force for focusing attention on how secret interpretations of the law are at the heart of many of the year's most compelling stories – from the United States' dragnet surveillance programs to its targeted killing policies to ongoing secrecy about detainee abuse. In October, OTG published a [shadow report](#) to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, illustrating how the secrecy surrounding Guantanamo and the classification of CIA's rendition and 'black site' programs leads to multiple violations of the Torture Convention.

After many years of advocacy by civil society groups including OpenTheGovernment.org, the US government [released](#) the Executive Summary of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's study of the CIA torture program on December 9th. Following the summary's publication, the OpenTheGovernment.org [outlined](#) several recommendations for restoring oversight and democratic accountability over intelligence programs.

This year, OTG called for CIA Director John Brennan's resignation over the CIA's spying on the Senate, made [recommendations](#) for reforming Congressional oversight of the intelligence community, submitted [comments](#) to inform the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board's agenda, highlighted the confusion surrounding the [legal basis](#) for strikes in Syria, and mobilized the open government community to submit comments to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) objecting to the CIA's [request](#) to destroy its emails more quickly.

The coalition also continues to work on classification issues. In May, Executive Director Patrice McDermott [testified](#) before the House Subcommittee on Government Operations, addressing the use of the "Sensitive But Unclassified" markings in the Executive Branch. In her testimony, Dr. McDermott shared the community's concerns about the long timelines for implementing the President's Executive Order on Controlled Unclassified Information, and the consequences of continued delay. OTG staff and coalition partners also met with the Archivist of the United States to discuss the CUI implementation and records management issues.

Ongoing Programmatic Work

In honor of OTG's [10th anniversary](#) this year's [Sunshine Week event](#) began with the Newseum's [Gene Policinski](#)



OTG staff and Steering Committee Members were active during Sunshine Week 2014

interviewing the current and former chairs of OTG's [Steering Committee](#) and its first director and current Executive Director. The event then tackled two pressing issues in open government: surveillance, and reform of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). OTG and the Sunshine in Government Initiative brought together reporters and policy-makers to talk about both the 1971 break-in to the Media, PA FBI Field Office and the current leaks of information about the National Security Agency's surveillance programs, the effects on society in these cases, and resulting reforms in intelligence policy and practice. In the afternoon, Hill staff and an Office of Science and Technology Policy official discussed Congress' and the administration's approaches to FOIA reform. In addition to the sizable live audience at the Newseum's Freedom Forum in Washington, DC, OpenTheGovernment.org's 2014 event was [live streamed](#).

In early 2014, the coalition launched quarterly "Town Halls" during which groups may join in person or via telephone and update the community on current projects, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. The first Town Hall allowed groups to coordinate their Sunshine Week events to avoid duplication and overlap in a tightly-scheduled week celebrating the right to know. The second spotlighted the Sunshine in Government Initiative's [FOIA Files](#), an interactive resource of journalism made possible by the Freedom of Information Act. While the FOIA Files had been available for a while, the resource was not well-known by many in the community. The meeting helped spread knowledge about the potentially valuable resource, and attendees offered suggestions for how to make the resource more user-friendly and its upkeep less labor-intensive. For the third Town Hall, OTG brought in representatives of FindTheBest, a company making extensive use of government data to help the public make more informed choices, to talk about what government data they are using and what other data sets we would like to see added to their catalog.

Our outreach coordinator, Mary Treacy, continues to connect with groups beyond the beltway and focus areas that could be engaged in and benefited by the open government community. Her outreach is strengthening OTG's connections with groups concerned with environmental, farming, and food safety issues. These communities are an initial focus because of a commitment on agriculture and nutrition data in the second National Action Plan. Since November, OTG has added 13 groups to the coalition. Among OTG's new partners based beyond the beltway are the Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy, the Rural Coalition, Rural Strategies, and New England First Amendment Coalition are. OTG aims to widen the field of groups engaging on openness issues by illustrating the connections between open government and the concerns of a wide variety of interest groups. This year, Treacy connected with civil society groups at gatherings of the National Association of State Legislatures conference, CodeforAmerica, the Association of State and Local Historical Associations and the IMLS research project on Public Libraries and Open Government. Treacy works remotely from Minneapolis.

Communications

The staff of OTG continues to pursue opportunities to work with new and traditional media to educate them on openness and secrecy and to learn how to convey our message to and through them. With the help of a consultant at American Forum, OTG staff and steering committee members have placed numerous opinion pieces in national and local news outlets spreading hard-hitting messages on the need for open government, freedom of information, and more. Through these efforts, OTG communicates open government priorities, news, action alerts, and strategy in ways that are engaging for wider audiences.



Dr. McDermott discusses transparency reforms at an Advisory Committee on Transparency Event

OTG opened up its partnership with American Forum to partners to amplify voices for open government in the media. American Forum is a non-profit organization that helps OTG place opinion pieces and also provides media training and consultation. In June, OTG and American Forum hosted a webinar for partners giving an overview of effective op-ed writing and the process for partners to submit pieces in partnership with OTG. Following the webinar, OTG partners placed several key op-eds, including a piece by the Government Accountability Project on whistleblower protections, and another the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington on FOIA reform. In October, the Center for Effective Government penned an op-ed highlighting how open data revealed many US schools are in a “chemical danger zone.”

In addition to our op-ed initiative, OTG worked with Do Good Lab to develop a comprehensive communications plan for the coalition’s Open Government Partnership work. The development of this plan included multi-level surveys of OTG’s partners and outside colleagues about OTG’s value and approach.

Throughout 2014, OTG partners and colleagues perceived an increase in opinion pieces and academic writing arguing that too much transparency was causing gridlock in Congress and tying the hands of the federal government. In October, OTG convened many members of the transparency community to begin strategizing about the community’s response to the trend. OTG also continues to track media coverage of the issue.

Examples of our Work in our Focus Areas

Letters to the Administration and Congress

Improving Access

Now or (Almost) Never for FOIA Reform

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4746>

Lame Duck Not Looking So Lame for Open Gov

http://www.openthegovernment.org/Lame_Duck_Open_Gov_Bills

Making FOIA Work Needs More Than a DATA Act Model

http://www.openthegovernment.org/FOIA_Needs_More_Than_DATA

5 Assumptions You Might Make About the FOIA Improvement Act

http://www.openthegovernment.org/FOIA_Improvement_Act_Assumptions

International Right to Know Day: How Well Do You Know the Freedom of Information Act?

http://www.openthegovernment.org/How_Well_Do_You_Know_FOIA

FOUO and FOIA: Two Letters (Should) Make All the Difference

http://www.openthegovernment.org/FOUO_and_FOIA_Two_Letters_Should_Make_All_the_Difference

DOD FOIA Response Adds a New Meaning to the Term “Snail Mail”

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4405>

The Time is Ripe for Increased Access to Congressional Mandated Reports

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4325>

Opening Government

Information About Congress That Should Be at Your Fingertips

http://www.openthegovernment.org/Congress_Info_at_Your_Fingertips

Office of Special Counsel Releases Open Government Plan; Some Required Plans Still Missing

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4737>

Players or Spectators: Observations on CSO Participation in the OGP

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4697>

Public Has Little Direct Access to Revisions Made to Supreme Court Decisions

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/public-access-supreme-court-decision-changes>

Agencies Begin to Publish Open Gov Plans 3.0

http://www.openthegovernment.org/Agencies_Publish_Open_Gov_Plans_3

A Step Forward for Legislative Data

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4443>

Coalition for Court Transparency Launches

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4343>

Reducing Secrecy

To Fix House Intelligence Oversight, Change the Rules

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4746>

Statement on the Release of the Senate Torture Report's Executive Summary

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4732>

Public Interest Groups Call for CIA Director to Resign

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/frontpage?page=4>

DC Circuit Court Ruling Good News for Fight Against Secret Law

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4599>

Leahy's USA Freedom Bill Takes Steps for Transparency

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4567>

OTG Responds to Cybersecurity Bill in Washington Post

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4578>

ODNI's Transparency Report: What It Tells Us, and What it Doesn't

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/ODNI-transparency-report-what-it-tells-us-what-it-doesnt>

The Barron Nomination and the Second Circuit Drone Case

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/Barron-Nomination-Second-Circuit-Drone-Case>

USA Freedom Needs its Transparency Provisions Back

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4453>

Privacy Board Makes Strong Case for Transparency, Against Secret Law

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4296>

Preserving Records

The CIA's Oversight Committee Doesn't Want It Deleting Emails Either

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4718>

Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments Pass Senate

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4651>

Court Records Disappear from PACER

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4627>

Clinton White House Records Released, No Assertion of Privilege

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4356>

Modernizing Records Management

<http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4293>

OpenTheGovernment.org In the News

[Anticipated PCLOB reports: Classified? Toothless?](#)

[Access Now, January 14, 2014]

[House Passes Cummings Bill to Expand Access to Presidential Records](#)

[Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, January 14, 2014]

[Virginia AG's office says public can't access food stamp data](#)

[Watchdog.org, February 6, 2014]

[Advertising Campaign Pitches Cameras in Supreme Court](#)

[Legal Times, February 17, 2014]

[Ads Push Cameras in Supreme Court](#)

[Politico, February 18, 2014]

[Coalition Calls for Cameras in Supreme Court](#)

[CBS News, February 18, 2014]

[New TV ad urges high court to allow cameras](#)

[WPTV, February 18, 2014]

[TV ad campaign calls for cameras in the Supreme Court](#)

[Daily Caller, February 18, 2014]

[Transparency Advocates Push for Cameras in Supreme Court in New TV Ad](#)

[DCist, February 19, 2014]

[OSTP asks agencies for 'bold, ambitious' open government initiatives](#)

[Federal News Radio, March 3, 2014]

[Allow Cameras in the Supreme Court](#)

[Lancaster Online, March 3, 2014]

[New Campaign Aims to Sway Camera Shy Supreme Court](#)

[CBC News, March 8, 2014]

[Expert: US Near 'Crisis' of Secrecy](#)

[Arizona Central, March 11, 2014]

[Government Agencies Failing on Freedom of Information](#)

[Personal Liberty Digest, March 13, 2014]

[Ahead of Sunshine Week, Leahy Chairs Annual SJC Government Transparency Hearing](#)

[Vermont Digger, March 12, 2014]

[Obama Administration Looks to Standardize Agencies' FOIA Regulations](#)

[Federal News Radio, March 12, 2014]

[Freedom of Information Act 'Terribly, Terribly Broken,' Expert Tells Senate Panel](#)

[Washington Examiner, March 12, 2014]

[Mixed Picture for This Sunshine Week](#) (Senator Leahy Op-Ed)

[The Hill, March 19, 2014]

[FOIA exemptions provide ample cover for bureaucrats hiding agency secrets, transparency advocates say](#)

[Washington Examiner, March 31, 2014]

[Agencies Make FOIA Gains, But Critics Say It's Not Enough](#)

[GCN, April 16, 2014]

[Online Rights Groups Call for Encryption Reform](#)

[The Hill, April 21, 2014]

[House Eyes NSA Reform Votes](#)

[The Hill, May 7, 2014]

[This Twitter-Loving Trekkie is the NSA's Worst Enemy](#)

[Foreign Policy, May 12, 2014]

[Anti-NSA Crusaders Are Getting New Friends in Congress—And That Terrifies Them](#)

[National Journal, May 15, 2014]

[Top NSA Officials Struggled Over Surge in FOIA Requests, Emails Show](#)

[The Guardian, Jason Leopold, May 28, 2014]

[Despite Obama Directive, Agencies Maintain Ad-Hoc Approach to Unclassified Information](#)

[Federal News Radio, Jared Serbu, May 30, 2014]

[Missing IRS Emails Highlight Struggle to Preserve Federal Records](#)

[Wall Street Journal, Gautham Nagesh, June 20, 2014]

[Lawmakers Unveil Changes to FOIA](#)

[Al Jazeera, Jason Leopold, June 24, 2014]

[About That Creepy Biometric Database, FBI, We'd Like to Know a Bit More](#)

[Reason, J.D. Tuccille, June 26, 2014]

[Senators Introduce Bipartisan FOIA Amendment](#)

[RCFP, Danielle Keeton-Olsen, June 25, 2014]

Editorial: [Freedom of Information Act Needs to Be Fixed](#)

[Glen Falls Post Star, July 2, 2014]

[IRS in 'Bunker Mentality' as Interest Groups, Media Join Congress in Seeking Information](#)

[McClatchy Washington Bureau, Miami Herald, Kevin G. Hall, July 8, 2014]

[Competing Interests Bound to Clash as State Reviews FOIA Exemptions](#)

[Watchdog.org Virginia Bureau, Kathryn Watson, July 9, 2014]

[Open Gov: Who's Late Out of the Gate?](#)

[Federal Computer Week, Colby Hochmuth, July 15, 2014]

[The Department of Homeland Security Needs Its Own Edward Snowden](#)

[The Daily Dot, Aaron Sankin, July 23, 2014]

[Effort to Amend US FOIA Law Moving Steadily Along](#)

[Freedom Info.org, Toby McIntosh, July 24, 2014]

[Who is Saying What About the Leahy Surveillance Bill](#)

[Lawfare, Jodie Liu, July 30, 2014]

[Our Opinion: A Good First Step](#)

[Brattleboro Reformer, August 1, 2014]

["Save That Email!" Mark Meadows Bill Says](#)

[Asheville Citizen-Times, Mark Barrett, September 22, 2014]

[Transparency Groups Press White House on FOIA Delays](#)

[Washington Free Beacon, CJ Ciaramella, September 29, 2014]

[Open Government Groups Ask President Obama for More Transparency](#)

[Watchdog.org, William Patrick, October 1, 2014]

[Open Government Groups Ask Obama for Transparency](#)

[The Daily Signal, William Patrick, October 3, 2014]

[Open Gov Groups Ask President Obama for More Transparency](#)

[Human Events, William Patrick, October 3, 2014]

[Obama's Murky Record on Transparency Reforms](#)

[Washington Examiner, Mark Tapscott, October 6, 2014]

[New Report: US Cannot Comply with International Torture Treaty without Transparency](#)

[Expose Facts, Marcy Wheeler, October 20, 2014]

[Legislation Seeks to Reform FOIA and Improve Access to Government Information](#)

[Free Speech Radio News, Ashley Westerman, October 31, 2014]

[Retiring Head of OGIS Hails FOIA Portal as Success](#)

[Fed Scoop, Whitney Blair Wyckoff, October 31, 2014]

[Primary Sources: How a New FOIA Bill Could Force More Government Transparency](#)

[Vice News, Jason Leopold, November 18, 2014]

[Senate Judiciary Approves Bill to Codify 'Presumption of Openness'](#)

[Federal News Radio, Jason Miller, November 20, 2014]

[FOIA Update Advances in Senate](#)

[Talk Radio News Service, November 21, 2014]

[Agencies Want to Know: Are You Still Interested?](#)

[RCFP, Adam Marshall, December 5, 2014]

[No More FOUO: Government Plans to Simplify Labeling of Sensitive Information](#)

[NextGov, Aliya Sternstein, December 5, 2014]

[Standoff Could Scuttle FOIA Bill](#)

[Politico, Josh Gerstein, December 7, 2014]

[Open Government Groups Look to Rockefeller](#)

[Charleston Daily, Joe Lebert, December 5, 2014]

[Rockefeller Under Fire for Blocking FOIA Bill](#)

[The Hill, Julian Hattem, December 5, 2014]

[John Kerry is Trying to Stall the Release of the CIA Torture Report](#)

[National Journal, Dustin Volz and Lauren Fox, December 5, 2014]

[Senator Rockefeller Puts Hold on FOIA Improvement Act](#)

[Defending Dissent, Sue Udry, December 8, 2014]

[Free Flow of Government Information? Yawn.](#)

[New York Times Public Editor, Margaret Sullivan, December 9, 2014]

[Congress Fails to Revise Government Records Law](#)

[Associated Press, Matthew Daly, December 13, 2014; Appears in Fox News, Federal News Radio, WANE.com,]

[Torture Report: CIA Interrogations Chief Was Involved in Latin America Torture Camps](#)

[London Telegraph, Peter Foster, December 11, 2014]

[Lawmakers Help Keep Wall Street's Secrets](#)

[International Business Times, Matthew Cunningham-Cook, December 11, 2014]

[FOIA Reform Dies While the Press Looked the Other Way](#)

[Columbia Journalism Review, Kelly J. O'Brien, December 12, 2014]

[Bipartisan Effort to Expand Access to Public Records Fails](#)

[The Guardian, Ed Pilkington, December 12, 2014]

[Wall Street Blocks the Light](#)

[New York Times, William D. Cohan, December 23, 2014]

Op-Ed Placement

[Time for answers and a debate on national security](#)

[The Hill, January 17, 2014]

[Bill may contain poison pills](#) (Susan Harley, Public Citizen)

[Battle Creek Enquirer, Burlington Free Press, Illinois Times, Lansing State Journal, Hungry Horse News, Spring Grove Herald, St. Cloud Times, The Tennessean January 10, 2014]

[Accountability in War—And Peace](#)

[Roll Call, January 10, 2014]

[A Fight for the Future of US FOIA](#) (Amy)

[Publish What You Fund, March 17, 2014]

[We Need Congress to Fix the FOIA](#) (Amy)

[The Hill, Columbia Daily Herald, Burlington Free Press, Iowa City Press Citizen, Hanford Sentinel, The Detroit News, Santa Monica Daily Press, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, Maryville Daily Times, Wisconsin Dells Events, Martinsville Reporter, Westerly Sun, North East Independent, New Castle Courier Times, Montgomery Advertiser, Bakersfield Californian, Charlottesville Daily Progress, Macomb Daily, Lassen County Times, Oakland Press, Beaumont Enterprise, Crookston Daily Times, St. Marys Daily Press, Smithfield Times, Beaver County Times, Columbia Herald, Monroe Evening News, Ashley News Observer, Park Rapids Enterprise, Thief River Falls Times, El Hispano, Taunton Daily Gazette, Sedona Red Rock News, Cleveland Call and Post, Caribbean Life, Atlanta Inquirer March 2014]

LTE: [Government Spying Causes Concern](#)

[USA Today, March 20, 2014]

[Our Government is Always Hiding Something](#)

[USA Today, March 29, 2014]

[Intelligence Committees Must Stop Trying to Conduct Oversight In The Dark](#)

[Huffington Post, April 4, 2014]

[Improving Chemical Safety: A Baby Step in the Right Direction](#)

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[Independence Day Birthday Greetings and Public Spotlight on FOIA at 48](#)

[Twin Cities Daily Planet, Mary Treacy, June 26, 2014]

[Improving FOIA](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer, Houston Chronicle Battle Creek Inquirer, Columbus Telegram, Deming Headlight, Floyd County Times, Harlan Daily, Bradford Journal Opinion, Deming Headlight, Petersburg Progress-Index, Corpus Christi Caller Times, Bryan County News, Jacksonville Journal-Courier, Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel, Montgomery Advertiser, Champaign News-Gazette, Wisconsin Dell Events, Iowa City Pres—Citizen, Culpeper Star-Exponent, Phoenix Reporter and Item, Best Southwest Focus on the News, Orangeburg Times and Democrat, Marshall Independent, Charlottesville Daily Progress, Ashley News Observer, Dillon Tribune, York Dispatch, Southwest News-Herald, Floyd County Times, Sedona Red Rock News, Houma Courier, La Follette Press, Thibodaux Daily Comet, Lake Wylie Pilot. Nate Jones of the National Security Archive, July 1, 2014]

[President Obama Can \(and Should\) Embrace the FOIA Improvement Act](#)

[Roll Call, Amy Bennett, July 2, 2014]

[LTE: Senate Should Reject Flawed Cybersecurity Bill](#)

[Washington Post, July 21, 2014]

[Litmus Test for Obama on Whistleblowers](#)

[The Hill, July 31, 2014]

[Transparency: A Means to Making Government Work Better](#)

[Roll Call, Gary Bass and Danielle Brian, August 11, 2014]

[Disappearing People and Disappearing the Evidence: The Deeper Significance of the SSCI Report](#)

[Just Security, Katherine Hawkins, August 15, 2014]

[What the CIA is Trying to Hide](#)

[The Hill, Katherine Hawkins, August 20, 2014; Also Mason City Globe Gazette, The Western News]

[Putting Freedom Back in FOIA](#)

[News Telegram, September 17, 2014; YDR, Western News, Billings Gazette, North Jersey.com, Washington Examiner, Columbia Daily Herald]

[Why We Need FOIA Reform Now](#)

[Roll Call, Anne Weismann, September 17, 2014]

[Kids in the Chemical Danger Zone](#)

[The Houston Chronicle, Katherine McFate, October 27, 2014]

[Veterans' Access Law Stresses Transparency](#)

[Roll Call, Patrice McDermott, November 12, 2014]

[Collaboration and Accountability: Monitoring the Implementation of the US Open Government Plan](#)

[Publish What You Fund, Abby Paulson, November 25, 2014]