



Resolution 2023-2:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF THE TRANSPARENCY AFFORDED BY THE ARKANSAS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; AND ENCOURAGING ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND IT.

Whereas, the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (AFOIA) was signed into law by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller as Act 93 of 1967; and

Whereas, the AFOIA is an invaluable tool for Arkansans to stay informed on the actions of elected officials and the use of their tax dollars; and

Whereas, the AFOIA has served as an example nationwide as one of the most transparent Freedom of Information Act laws in the United States; and

Whereas, the remarkable transparency afforded by the AFOIA has allowed Arkansans to hold public employees and elected officials accountable for ethical, legal, and fiscal violations for decades; and

Whereas, the AFOIA also contains legal ramifications for any public employees and elected officials who are found to be withholding information from the tax-paying public; and

Whereas, Governor Sarah Sanders has called a special session of the Arkansas Legislature to consider amending the AFOIA; and

Whereas, the proposed amendment would substantially weaken the AFOIA, thereby weakening public accountability of state employees and elected officials; and

Whereas, the proposed amendment would reduce the AFOIA from one of the most transparent Freedom of Information laws in the United States to one of the weakest; and

Whereas, there is evident bipartisan support for the AFOIA and the unrivaled governmental transparency it provides; and



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SALINE COUNTY

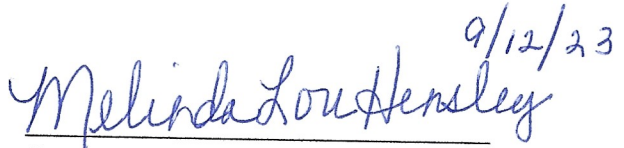
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SALINE COUNTY THAT:

SECTION I: We recognize and acknowledge the importance and value of the AFOIA in its present state, and affirm its necessity in effectively holding public employees and elected officials accountable.

SECTION II: We urge the Arkansas Legislature to reject the proposed amendment to the AFOIA and to continue to respect and uphold the strength it provides to Arkansans in the democratic process.


9/11/2023

Chair's Signature


9/12/23

Secretary's Signature