



Please Vote NO on SB17-40

CORA Requests and Public Access to Government Databases

Sponsor: Kefalas, Pabon

CCI was part of a coalition that met last summer and fall on the issue of granting access to public records in their native format or in structured formats that can be more easily manipulated by records requestors. The resulting bill (SB 40) contains a number of safeguards for local governments, but there is still a growing concern amongst counties that by giving documents out in their native formats, a county might be inadvertently releasing sensitive personal information like social security numbers that could be used for purposes of identity theft. Ultimately, county commissioners feel that protecting our citizens' privacy outweighs the convenience of document requestors. No one contests that these documents are open records under current law and counties will continue to provide them upon request as either hard copies or in a pdf format in order to ensure citizens' privacy.

Moreover, many counties continue to be beset by CORA requests from out-of-state companies that are conducting data mining. These are instances where corporations use a CORA request to get access to data that will then be used to further private business interests. Attached is a letter that was sent to the county clerk and recorder in Kit Carson County by a company in California. These kinds of requests are becoming more commonplace, and SB 40 could make data mining that much easier and profitable.

While much-improved over the version that was introduced last session, SB 40 still lacks the safeguards that are necessary to protect our citizens from identity theft and stop data mining expeditions that are wasting taxpayer money.

CCI asks for your “NO” vote on SB17-40

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