



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 28, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney regarding the implementation of certain provisions in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Improvement Act of 2016. I am responding on his behalf.

Concurrent with the signing of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, a Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal was announced as a framework for tracking progress on key requirements of the Act, including the development of a request portal. The Federal Government Priority Goals, more commonly known as CAP Goals, were established by Congress in the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 to help drive progress on cross-cutting issues. The CAP Goal provided a governance structure for OMB, in partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ), for driving progress on the development of the portal.

OMB utilized the transfer authority provided by Congress to support implementation of CAP Goals to transfer \$1.3 million to DOJ's Office of Information Policy to support the initial phase of portal development. This phase includes an anticipated launch of a portal this calendar year that will have the basic functionality required by the Act, as well as researching the scope and technical requirements that will comprise the standards for interoperability. This work will also help inform discussions on identifying a dedicated funding source to operate and maintain the portal in the long-term.

In addition to its work on developing the portal, OMB remains committed to working with NARA and DOJ to improve FOIA processes, including reviewing the FOIA Advisory Committee's recommendation to revise OMB's fee guidance. OMB will consider the areas of guidance that the FOIA Advisory Committee identified as requiring clarification, due to technological developments, as well as statutory changes, since the guidance was last issued.

Thank you again for your letter. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact OMB's Legislative Affairs office at (202) 395-4790.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Slemrod
Associate Director for Legislative Affairs