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2000 Mallory Lane, Suite 103-538  
Franklin, Tennessee 37067

May 16, 2019

Representative Cameron Sexton  
Chairman of the Republican Caucus for the House of Representatives, State of Tennessee

Dear Chairman Sexton,

On behalf of our readers and all Tennesseans, I am requesting the meeting of the Tennessee House Republican Caucus scheduled for Monday, May 20 be open to the public and available for live audio and video broadcast.

Though the May 10 letter sent to you by State Rep. Jerry Sexton and 11 other members of the Tennessee Republican House Caucus asked that the meeting be closed to the public, it is clear, based on recent actions, that such a request for privacy will not be honored by some participants, and that the proceedings of the meeting will be made available to other media outlets in either a live or recorded format. Therefore, the only result of any decision to attempt to keep the meeting closed will be the leaking of the meeting results to some, but not all, media.

Here is evidence that previous private Caucus matters have been leaked to other media outlets:

- Reporters from *The Tennessean* were provided the call-in code for the House GOP Conference Call held earlier this month, without the disclosure by the members of the Caucus who leaked these details to other members of the Caucus that *The Tennessean* was listening in.
- The May 10 letter from State Rep. Jerry Sexton and 11 others requesting a meeting of the full Caucus was almost immediately leaked to the press, and has been published in full by at least one outlet, *The Tennessee Journal*, despite the clear disclaimer in the body of the letter that it was a private and confidential communication to GOP House Caucus members only, and not to be disseminated beyond the Caucus.

The proceedings of the May 20 House Republican Caucus meeting are almost certain to be made available to selected media outlets. The effect of your granting our request will be to guarantee that all media outlets will be able to have live access to those proceedings, not a select few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Michael Patrick Leahy*

Michael Patrick Leahy

CEO & Editor-in-chief