

From: **David Swan** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Date: Sun, Nov 29, 2020 at 6:49 PM

Subject: Support for Electronic Meeting Changes

To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

I am a member of the public and it is important that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings, so that they can continue to work on my behalf. I am a representative on several organizations within the state and the opportunity to meet virtually makes attendance much easier for those who have difficulties with childcare and work conflicts with commuting to represent their groups' interest as never before. Our productivity is up as a result of virtual meetings and our employees are better off as a result.

I also encourage you to remove the state limit on individual electronic participation by members of a public body. The law is outdated and needs to change. If you choose to recommend a more modest change this year, such as the Subcommittee's recommendation, I ask you to remove the word "serious" in reference to a family member's medical condition that qualifies for an allowable reason for electronic participation. I believe that members of public bodies should be able to care for family members when needed.

I hope you agree that we all benefit from a government that better reflects our community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who have children, aging parents, or jobs that require travel. The inclusion of such members leads to better public policy for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Swan
dtswan17@gmail.com

Herndon, Virginia 20170