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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
SPEAKER

December 19, 2025

Bryan Zarou
Vice President, Policy
Better Government Association
223 West Jackson Boulevard
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60606

RE: Online Archive of House Floor & Committee Proceedings

Dear Mr. Zarou,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to and meet with the Office of the Speaker to discuss how we can make State government and democracy more transparent and accessible to all. On behalf of Better Government Association Policy ("BGA-Policy"), you asked that the Illinois House of Representatives consider updating its portion of the Illinois General Assembly's website to include free archives of all House committee and floor proceedings.

It is my determination that this is not only a reasonable request but also a transformative one. Since becoming Speaker of the House, I have committed to making the Illinois House of Representatives and the work we do for the people of this great State more transparent and accessible than ever before. Therefore, I am directing my Chief of Staff, Chief Counsel, and the Clerk of the House to engage with the necessary legislative support agencies to accomplish this meaningful goal.

Thank you again for bringing this matter forward and for all the work BGA-Policy does to shine a light on government.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emanuel P. Welch".

Emanuel "Chris" Welch
State Representative, 7th District
Speaker of the Illinois House

cc: The Honorable John Hollman, Clerk of the House (sent via email)
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President (sent via email)