Matt Vanover  
Freedom of Information Office  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

September 18, 2014

Dear Mr. Vanover,

I am submitting this request for records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq. and the federal Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. §552, et seq.

REQUESTED RECORDS

Specifically, I am requesting copies of the following:

1. Any and all documents which detail the review process that the Illinois State Board of Education uses to assess the financial health and management of charter schools in Illinois.

2. Any and all documents which reflect the actual review, in the past five years, of the financial audits of charter schools in Illinois. Review documents could include checklists, spreadsheets, internal notes or communications, etc.

3. Any and all notifications to charter schools in Illinois that they are subject to revocation.

4. Any and all letters notifying charter authorizers in Illinois that the State Board of Education intends to remove that authorizer’s power to authorize or letters notifying authorizers that the Board has concerns regarding the finances or financial management of a charter school.
5. Copies of fraud audits conducted by the State Board of Education, or by independent auditors, at charter schools in Illinois,

6. Copies of documents reflecting fraud risk assessments being carried out at charter schools in Illinois, and

7. Copies of documents which reflect fraud risk programs which are in existence for assessing fraud risk at charter schools in Illinois.

8. Number of State Board of Education staff dedicated to performing or reviewing audits or fraud risk assessments, for the years 2004 to present.

REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. §552(a) (4) (A) (iii), The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of government and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by our organization and the general public in a significant way.

Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. §552(a) (4) (A) (iii). See, e.g., McClellan Ecological v. Carlucci, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987). Specifically, these records are likely to contribute to the public's understanding of the quality of oversight of institutions that receive federal funds for education. That is, if taxpayer funds are being used properly and efficiently.

The CPD is committed to representing the economic, social and professional interests of classroom teachers. We use a combination of research, litigation, and advocacy to advance our mission. The release of information garnered through this request is not in our financial interest. We will analyze the information responsive to this request, and will likely share its analysis with the public and our members, through memorandums, reports and/or press releases.

Under these circumstances, we satisfy fully the criteria for fee waiver. However, if our request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact me immediately upon making such a determination and let me know the amount.

CONCLUSION

We would appreciate your response to this request within 5 business days. If all the requested documents are not available within that time period, CPD asks that you provide it with all requested documents of portions of documents that are available within that time period.

If you have any question about this request or foresee problems in releasing fully
the requested records within the 5-day period, please call me within that time period. I can be reached at [redacted]

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

[Redacted]

Ann Swinburn

[Redacted]