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STATE OF ARIZONA

October 15, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: State Attorneys General Support for the Epstein Files Transparency Act II (H.R. 9694 / S. 5005)

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As state attorneys general, we are committed to upholding the rule of law, protecting public safety, and securing justice for crime survivors. We write to express our strong support for the **Epstein Files Transparency Act II ("EFTA II")**. This crucial legislation addresses ongoing Department of Justice ("DOJ") disclosure and compliance failures and grants state law enforcement agencies and victims the explicit legal standing necessary to hold federal agencies accountable for transparency.

When Congress enacted the original Epstein Files Transparency Act ("EFTA I"), effective November 19, 2025, it intended to bring full transparency to the horrific crimes committed by Jeffrey Epstein and his co-conspirators, ensuring that survivors and the public could finally access the full historical and investigative record. The EFTA I required the U.S. Attorney General to "make publicly available" the Epstein files on or before December 19, 2025.[1]

[1] EFTA I, Pub. L. No. 119-38, § 2(a), 139 Stat. 656, 656 (2025).

Unfortunately, nearly a year after the law took effect, the DOJ has failed to fulfill its statutory duties.[2] The DOJ initially failed to comply with its statutory mandate to produce the Epstein files by December 19, 2025, releasing just a "thin slice"[3] on that date. Later disclosures came up short,[4] and millions of files remain withheld,[5] often due to claims of legal privilege.[6] Yet, the personally identifying information of dozens of victims has been disclosed despite the attempted safeguards of the EFTA I.[7] The EFTA I failed to provide any clear-cut avenue to address these flaws and has left many questioning whether the DOJ has complied with its statutory obligations.

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[2] "[EFTA I] required the production of the covered documents and the redaction log by December 19, 2025. The Attorney General conceded that he is in violation of [EFTA I]." *Phang v. Blanche*, No. 26-1417, slip op. at 46 (D.D.C. June 25, 2026).

[3] "The release seemed to be a thin slice of the total documents the Department of Justice is expected to have." *Justice Department Releases some of its Case Files on Jeffrey Epstein*, Associated Press (Dec. 19, 2025), https://apnews.com/live/donald-trump-news-updates-12-19-2025.

[4] "The Department of Justice's efforts to release all of its files related to Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's sex trafficking cases by the legal deadline fell short of expectations on Friday, resulting in complaints ranging from technological glitches to excessive redactions and missing documents." Ashley Oliver, *DOJ's Epstein Disclosure Draws Fire for Website Glitches, Missing Documents, Redactions*, Fox News (Dec. 19, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dojs-epstein-disclosure-draws-fire-website-glitches-missing-documents-redactions.

[5] "[EFTA I] required the Department to review over six million documents . . . ," Defendant's Response to Order to Show Cause at 2, *Phang v. Blanche*, No. 26-1417 (D.D.C. July 2, 2026); the DOJ has released "nearly 3.5 million pages," Press Release, DOJ, Department of Justice Publishes 3.5 Million Responsive Pages in Compliance with the Epstein Files Transparency Act (Jan. 30, 2026), https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-publishes-35-million-responsive-pages-compliance-epstein-files.

[6] "The Review Protocol is consistent with the Act and instructed attorneys to redact or withhold material [subject to privilege]." Letter from Todd Blanche, Deputy Att'y Gen., DOJ, to Congress (Dec. 19, 2025), at 2, https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1434851/dl?inline.

[7] Khadeeja Safdar & Brian Whitton, *Epstein Files Release Exposes Names of at Least 43 Victims, WSJ Review Finds*, Wall St. J. (Feb. 1, 2026), https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/epstein-files-release-exposes-names-of-at-least-43-victims-wsj-review-finds-ba4ff95e?mod=Searchresults&pos=15&page=1.

This lack of full compliance and disclosure directly impacts many of our states. State law enforcement and prosecutors require full access to unredacted investigative records, including all relevant FBI 302 reports, to thoroughly investigate and pursue matters within our jurisdictions. Furthermore, victims of these horrific crimes continue to be denied closure and control over their own records through federal bureaucratic delay.

The EFTA II provides essential corrections to ensure the original intent of Congress is enforced by:

- **Establishing an Explicit, Expedited Direct Right of Action in the Courts:** Granting state attorneys general, authorized state officials, victims, and members of Congress explicit legal standing to challenge and sue the U.S. Attorney General in federal court for unlawfully withholding, delaying, or heavily redacting Epstein-related records.
- **Protecting Survivor Access:** Guaranteeing victims the right to access unredacted records concerning themselves and the harms they suffered.
- **Eliminating Evasions:** Clearly barring the Department of Justice from invoking common law privileges—such as the deliberative process privilege—to evade the disclosure mandates enacted by Congress.
- **Enforcing Accountability:** Subjecting federal officials to existing federal penalties for failures to comply with the EFTA II, for example by knowingly concealing, destroying, or improperly withholding mandated files.

The pursuit of justice and public accountability transcends partisanship. The American public—and most importantly, the survivors who have carried the weight of this trauma for decades—deserve complete transparency and adherence to the law.

We urge Congress to swiftly pass the Epstein Files Transparency Act II to ensure that no federal agency is permitted to place itself above the law.

Respectfully,

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Arizona Attorney General

Aaron D. Ford
Nevada Attorney General

Raúl Torrez
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Rob Bonta
California Attorney General

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Kathleen Jennings
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Anthony G. Brown
Maryland Attorney General

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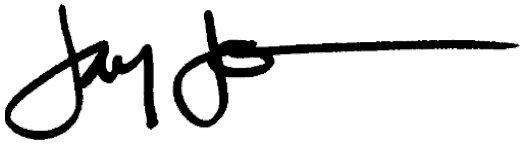
Andrea Joy Campbell
Massachusetts Attorney General

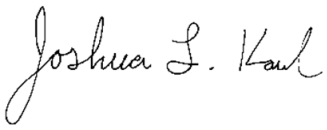
Dan Rayfield
Oregon Attorney General

Charity R. Clark
Vermont Attorney General

Nick Brown
Washington Attorney General



Jay Jones
Virginia Attorney General



Joshua Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General