

Testimony regarding the Right to Know Law

Presented to the Senate State Government Committee

October 21, 2013

Good Morning Chairman Smucker, Chairman Smith and members of the committee. The Department expends considerable time and resources in responding to requests made by inmates pursuant to the Right to Know Law ("RTKL"). The RTKL process is a much more burdensome and inefficient means of processing inmate requests than the alternative processes already in place within our Department.

In the last five years the number of total RTKL requests received by the Department has significantly increased. Moreover, the percentage of those requests that are from inmates has also dramatically increased. In addition, the overwhelming majority of the appeals to the Office of Open Records ("OOR") that the Department receives are from inmates.

RTKL Requests Received by the PA DOC

Year	Total Requests	Inmate Requests	Percentage Inmate Requests from Total
2009	970	547	56%
2010	1107	760	69%
2011	1249	847	68%
2012	1925	1527	79%
2013*	647	510	79%

*(through 4-22-13)