

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S782 (WEINBERG)

The New Jersey Press Association (“NJPA”) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1857 under the laws of the State of New Jersey. It has a membership of 20 daily newspapers, over 160 weekly newspapers, over 50 digital news websites, as well as over 60 corporate and non-profit associate members. NJPA submits this position paper in support of S782.

Transparency in government is central to our democracy. NJPA is committed to advancing the interests of citizens of this State in insuring that transparency. Toward that goal, NJPA was actively involved for more than a decade in legislation that over a fourteen year period culminated in the adoption of the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. (“OPRA”) in 2001.

Time has identified, as it does for any piece of legislation, issues that were not contemplated or fully addressed at the time OPRA was drafted. S782 attempts to address many of those issues. NJPA believes that the Bill makes significant strides in effectuating OPRA’s express purpose of ready access to government records.

NJPA appreciates Senator Weinberg’s shared commitment to advancing transparency in government and applauds her effort to amend OPRA so as to maximize public access to government records in this State.

For those reasons, NJPA strongly supports S782.

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New Jersey Press Association

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