



Department  
of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, Director

April 7, 2020

**Sent Via Email to:** [melanie@thepublicsquare.com](mailto:melanie@thepublicsquare.com)

American Policy Roundtable  
Attn: Melanie Elsey  
P.O. Box 360470  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136-0008

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Elsey:

Through this letter I acknowledge the Ohio Department of Health's receipt of your public records request dated April 2, 2020. While I have not yet had an opportunity to consider your request carefully, your request has been assigned to me for review and processing.

In your request you asked the Department to estimate the date by which it will provide you with the records you have requested. Unfortunately, I cannot provide you with a realistic estimate at this time. As you may be aware, a state of emergency was declared by Governor DeWine on March 9, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic currently threatening Ohio. The declaration was followed by a "Director's Order to Stay At Home," and an "Amended Director's Order to Stay At Home," both of which were issued by Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health. As a result of these orders, state staff have been assigned to work from home until at least May 1, 2020. As you might imagine, this may result in a delay in the processing of your request. Further, the Ohio General Assembly passed Am. Sub. H.B. 197, which became law on March 27, 2020. Section 11(B) of the Act had the effect of extending the deadline by which the Department of Health must respond to all of the public records requests it receives under section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. The new deadline is now 90 days after the state of emergency declared by Governor DeWine is lifted, or December 1, 2020, whichever date occurs first. The Department has no intention of waiting that long to respond to your request. However, because the Department's priority is addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, the very best I can do at this time is promise to provide you with any records you are entitled to receive as quickly as possible.

Please contact me by email at [mike.laubert@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:mike.laubert@odh.ohio.gov) if you have any questions about this letter, or the status of your records request.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Laubert  
Senior Legal Counsel