

House Government and Veterans Affairs
February 6, 2025
By: Shelly Schwab, Ransom County Recorder

RE: HB1306 – Relating to Open Records and Fees

Chairman Schauer and Committee Members

For the record, I am Shelly Schwab, Ransom County Recorder. I am writing today in opposition of HB1306 and would appreciate a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

I oppose HB1306 for the following reasons:

- My County is small and myself and my Deputy work in the office. Our main duty is Recording, and we recently added applicant agents for passports, applications for marriage licenses and perform marriage ceremonies to our duties. We continue to back index our old documents to get that information onto the NDRIN site which makes our documents available to the public for a nominal fee if they chose to purchase. My office will be hard pressed to give 40 hours, free of charge, to do research for anyone. I have no problem doing the first hour free of charge and \$25 for each additional hour.
- With the NDRIN site in place for the purpose of public searching, it's counterproductive to now send it back to our individual offices to do research for these entities who very well will abuse this resource available to them. We know it will be abused because there are entities out there now that try to get Recorders to do their job. Some of the entities' job is to do this research for which they are getting paid with this bill Recorder's won't get paid but will be taking precious time out of our work day to do someone else's research before we get our work done that we are being paid to do. County offices are short staffed and this will only add more strain to the daily work load.

For these reasons I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB1306.

Thank you for your time and consideration.