



# DAVID CRAIG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**December 9, 2015**

## **Rep. Craig Decries G.A.B. Unlawful Withholding of Records**

**Madison, Wis.** – Today, Representative David Craig (R-Town of Vernon), expressed dismay that the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) continues to evade a request for open records under state law to uncover the amount of tax dollars expended by the G.A.B. on the “John Doe II” investigation. As part of the John Doe reform bill passed and signed earlier this session, State law now requires that upon request, records reflecting the costs of an investigation and proceedings must be provided and if no such document exists, the recipient of the request shall produce a summary amount of the costs and provide it to the requestor.

Rep. Craig submitted a request for cost information to the G.A.B. and Milwaukee County District Attorney John T. Chisholm on November 20, 2015. To date, only the G.A.B. has responded, writing on November 20, 2015 that the request was “partially denied and partially fulfilled” because the G.A.B. stated, “the Board does not conduct John Doe investigations.” Director Kevin Kennedy then included information released as a result of civil litigation that was entirely unresponsive to Craig’s request. Unfortunately, Director Kennedy reiterated the absurd assertion on December 7, 2015 that the G.A.B. does not conduct John Doe investigations despite writing in a letter dated September 17, 2015, “That secure email account was used by Mr. Falk for official purposes to communicate with law enforcement personnel and other *G.A.B. staff members who were admitted to a John Doe investigation.*” (Emphasis added). Rep. Craig reacted to the G.A.B.’s latest attempt to circumvent the law by saying:

*“It is appalling that a state government agency would so willfully violate our valid state records request. Unfortunately, it is unsurprising behavior from the G.A.B. that has become all too familiar. Citizens deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent and for the G.A.B. to continue hiding behind statements demonstrated false in numerous media reports and their own assertions affirms why legislation overhauling the Board was so necessary. I am now forced to consider alternative means of obtaining this information that should clearly already have been released under the law.*”

Supporting documents attached.

Rep. Craig represents the 83<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District which is comprised of portions of Waukesha, Walworth, Racine and Milwaukee Counties.

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