



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION

Democratic Governors Association
1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
T: 202.772.5600 | F: 202.772.5602
democraticgovernors.org

Marshall Cohen
Democratic Governors Association
1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington DC 20005

October 6, 2021

Office of the South Dakota Governor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Public Records Officer,

On behalf of the Democratic Governors Association and under the South Dakota Public Records Act, I request copies of the following items concerning South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem's intervention in state regulatory processes to help her family members. As reported by the Associated Press, after Noem's daughter's application to be a certified real estate appraiser was denied by the state Department of Labor and Regulation, Noem summoned the appraiser program's head into her office to meet with Noem's daughter directly. Months later, the appraiser license was approved and the program head was pushed out of her job.

This reporting follows on the heels of reports earlier in Noem's tenure that she had hired another one of her daughters as a policy advisor and then boosted her salary nearly 50% over a year, even as other state employees saw their salaries grow by only 2.5%.

Given this reporting, South Dakotans deserve to have a comprehensive accounting of special favors Noem used to pad her family members' pockets. For that reason, we request,

- All emails and letters sent or received by any employee or representative of the South Dakota Office of the Governor concerning Kassidy Peters' certified real estate appraiser application, including – but not limited to – records concerning Peters' real estate application with the Department of Labor and Regulation's Appraiser Certification Program; the initial denial of Peters' application; the July 2020 meeting with Noem, Peters, and Department of Labor and Regulation officials; the eventual approval of Peters' application, and the forced retirement of Sherry Bren, the Appraiser Certification Program director. This request covers July 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020.
- All emails and letters sent or received by any employee or representative of the South Dakota Office of the Governor mentioning "Kassidy"; "Peters"; "Sherry"; or "Bren." This request covers July 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020.
- All resumes in the possession of the South Dakota Office of the Governor for Kennedy Noem, a former policy analyst in the Office, as well as all employment application materials submitted by Kennedy Noem to the Office for all positions Noem held in the Office, including – but not limited to – those as transition team member, and policy analyst. This request covers December 1, 2018 through February 1, 2019.
- All records in the possession of the South Dakota Office of the Governor concerning any changes in proposed or actual salary levels for former employee Kennedy Noem, including – but not limited to – any documents proposing or justifying any such increases. This request covers December 1, 2018 through January 1, 2020.



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If portions of a record are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, I ask that you release the entire document with any necessary redactions. If all or any part of this request is denied or redacted, please release the portions not exempt from disclosure, cite the specific exemption which you believe justifies your redactions or refusal to release the information and inform me of your agency's administrative appeal procedures available under the law.

I authorize you to accrue up to \$50 in fees during the completion of this request. If costs exceed \$50, please contact me before proceeding further.

Best Regards,

Marshall Cohen
Political Director
Democratic Governors Association



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October 6, 2021

South Dakota Appraiser Certification Program
308 South Pierre Street
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Public Records Officer,

On behalf of the Democratic Governors Association and under the South Dakota Public Records Act, I request copies of the following items concerning South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem's intervention in state regulatory processes to help her family members. As reported by the Associated Press, after Noem's daughter's application to be a certified real estate appraiser was denied by the state Department of Labor and Regulation, Noem summoned the appraiser program's head into her office to meet with Noem's daughter directly. Months later, the appraiser license was approved and the program head was pushed out of her job.

Given this reporting, South Dakotans deserve to have a comprehensive accounting of special favors Noem used to pad her family members' pockets. For that reason, we request,

- All emails and letters exchanged between any employee or representative of the South Dakota Appraiser Certification Program and any employee or representative of the South Dakota Office of the Governor concerning Kassidy Peters' certified real estate appraiser application, including – but not limited to – records concerning Peters' real estate appraiser application with the Appraiser Certification Program; the initial denial of Peters' application; the July 2020 meeting with Noem, Peters, and Department of Labor and Regulation officials; the eventual approval of Peters' application, and the forced retirement of Sherry Bren, the Appraiser Certification Program director.

All emails and letters sent or received by any employee or representative of the South Dakota Appraiser Certification Program mentioning "Kassidy" or "Peters."

This request covers July 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020

If portions of a record are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, I ask that you release the entire document with any necessary redactions. If all or any part of this request is denied or redacted, please release the portions not exempt from disclosure, cite the specific exemption which you believe justifies your redactions or refusal to release the information and inform me of your agency's administrative appeal procedures available under the law.

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October 6, 2021

Division of Insurance
South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
124 South Euclid Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Public Records Officer,

On behalf of the Democratic Governors Association and under the South Dakota Public Records Act, and as a result of recent reporting on Governor Kristi Noem's use of her official powers to help her family members, I request copies of the following items concerning any interactions between Noem's office and the Division of Insurance concerning her husband's insurance company. South Dakotans deserve to have a comprehensive accounting of special favors Noem used to pad her family members' pockets. For that reason, we request,

- All emails and letters exchanged between employee or representative of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation's Division of Insurance and any employee or representative of the South Dakota Office of the Governor concerning Bryon Noem or Noem Insurance Inc.

This request covers January 1, 2019 through the Present.

If portions of a record are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, I ask that you release the entire document with any necessary redactions. If all or any part of this request is denied or redacted, please release the portions not exempt from disclosure, cite the specific exemption which you believe justifies your redactions or refusal to release the information and inform me of your agency's administrative appeal procedures available under the law.

I authorize you to accrue up to \$50 in fees during the completion of this request. If costs exceed \$50, please contact me before proceeding further.

Best Regards,

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