

**From:** [William T. Dean](#)  
**To:** [Dion, Shannon \(GOV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [James A. Cervera](#)  
**Subject:** SB1102  
**Date:** Friday, March 10, 2017 1:24:50 PM

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Ms Dion,

I would like to add my voice to those Virginia Police Chiefs opposing this legislation. As you are aware, the impetus of this legislation is likely to be from a case originating in Virginia Beach, which we were responsible for investigating. From the beginning of the case we were amenable to sharing the information (but not the file) with the family and these offerings were declined. A suit followed and was dismissed in the Circuit Court of Virginia Beach and upheld on appeal. Ultimately, a family representative reviewed the file with us and a resolution was reached with the family.

Legislation such as this is unnecessary when functionally the end is achieved in a more compassionate and personal way. Investigative files tell a story, but lack the compassion and concern that come with a personal meeting with the survivors of the victim. Such meetings reaffirm the fact that police officers are caring individuals, who understand the impact of loss and the lifelong impacts of these matters. If we are truly concerned about the wellbeing of those families and loved ones who survive suicide, and the trauma that accompanies these cases, then I submit distributions such as this (that will certainly be followed by uncontrolled secondary distributions that will likely be attributed to the police, the basis of our decision noted above) are counterproductive for the surviving families as well as the trust that the police work to achieve and maintain daily. I also have concerns regarding the impact of these disseminations when the case is classified as a suicide, and information developed at a later date reveals the death was the result of either an assisted suicide or homicide. While rare, we have experienced a situation such as this in Virginia Beach. Releasing the content of the investigative file in the period of time between our initial investigation and conclusion and the development of new information could have proven problematic.

Our current process are productive and compassionate. I urge that the discretion currently afforded to the police in these matters remain.

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