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Affiliations appear only for purposes of identification.

By email

November 20, 2025

The Honorable Jennifer González-Colón
La Fortaleza
P.O. Box 9020082
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0082

Re: Opposition to SB 63

Dear Governor González-Colón:

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press writes in strong opposition to Senate Bill 63, which would erode Puerto Rico's longstanding tradition of and commitment to transparency and access to government information.

The bill would amend the Transparency and Expedited Procedure for Access to Public Information Act and contains several troubling revisions that are antithetical to the stated policy objectives animating that law, chiefly that public records remain easily accessible through a swift and transparent request process.¹

Were it signed into law, SB 63 would lengthen the window for agency response time and add additional notification steps, requiring that requests be sent to the head agency and to leadership in the corresponding branches, for the request to be valid. The legislation would also change the existing practice of providing information in the format requested. If the measure is signed into law, agencies would no longer be required to produce a document not already in existence at the time of request nor will they be required to attempt to provide the document in the format requested if the information is not currently in that state.² These changes to existing law would significantly diminish government transparency in Puerto Rico and weaken public accountability.

Specifically, these changes would hamper both journalists' and the general public's ability to access public records swiftly and economically, which is the express goal in current law. Puerto Rico chose to make transparency and access to government records a fundamental human right, and these changes would be inconsistent with that objective.

¹ See P.R. Laws Ann. tit 3 § 9913.

² Compare P.R. Laws Ann. tit 3 § 9917 with S.B. 63, 20th Gen. Assemb., 2nd Conf. Sess. (P.R. 2025).

Considering the troubling anti-transparency provisions in the bill – coupled with its rushed passage through the legislature without adequate deliberation – the Reporters Committee respectfully urges you to reject SB 63. The measure is not consistent with Puerto Rico’s laudable history of promoting public access to information and, through that access, an informed electorate.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Reporters Committee’s Vice President of Policy Gabe Rottman (grottman@rcfp.org) or Fellow Kennedy Woodard (kwoodard@rcfp.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Reporters Committee
for Freedom of the Press