

Vaughn Declaration

Whereas, Senator Patrick Leahy began championing the cause of open government soon after arriving in the Senate more than thirty-four years ago.

Whereas, he served as a Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution during the 97th Congress and introduced his first bill to reform the Freedom of Information Act (S. 1467) in 1981.

Whereas, he quickly became, in the words of the Reagan Administration, "the leading spokesman for the views of . . . public interest and media groups" on FOIA reform legislation in the early 1980s, and he then co-authored the 1986 FOIA Amendments.

Whereas, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Technology and the Law, he was the driving force behind the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, as reflected in President Clinton's signing statement remark that it "represents the culmination of several years of leadership by Senator Patrick Leahy to bring this important law up to date."

Whereas, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee beginning in 2001 he has continued to champion the cause of open government and transparency through the FOIA Amendments of 2007 and further bipartisan consideration of what could yet become the FOIA Amendments of 2009 or 2010.

Whereas, he also has been a strong proponent of vigorous congressional oversight of the FOIA's administration and of the Executive Branch's full and proper implementation of FOIA amendment legislation.

Therefore, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont is singularly deserving of this recognition as recipient of the 2009 *Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award*.

It is hereby declared under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.