

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2025

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. Joseph Hawley Vincoli
220 Epping Road
Clemmons, NC 27012-9008

Dear Mr. Vincoli,

Thank you for contacting my office in regard to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests from federal agencies.

It is my understanding that both North Carolina General Assembly Members and United States Members of Congress have assisted you with this issue.

According to available records, you have been studying this matter since you were an employee in 2006 at Wake Forest Baptist Health, as part of the Carolinas Medical Center, now Atrium Health. During the course of your research, it appears you have submitted at least nine separate FOIA requests. After you contacted my office for help in October 2023, my office has worked consistently and diligently to ensure your questions have been addressed timely. With the assistance of my office, you have received replies to several of those applications.

You recently emailed to express frustration with the level of service received from my office. As a federal legislator, I am privileged to make inquiries with government agencies on behalf of my constituents, but I am prohibited by law from dictating the outcome of those cases. While I do understand your concerns, new or subsequent FOIA requests are processed in the order they are received. Also, my office does not control the timeline for agencies to provide answers. The length of duration often depends on the number of queries pending, type of information requested, time for research, then preparation of a response – including redaction of information prohibited from release.

In June 2024, you should have received an 800-page response from Palmetto GBA. Also, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General has provided the enclosed September 2013 Investigative Memorandum and October 2024 FOIA Request Response. The reasons for any lack of disclosure were provided in those replies. For example, Palmetto GBA explained in their most recent letter that they were unable to locate records responsive to your questions. Their office also provided contact information to submit an appeal if you so choose. According to officials at Palmetto GBA, any further FOIA requests will only be handled directly by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Given your increasing dissatisfaction, it does not appear my office can provide a favorable answer to you. Therefore, you may contact Senator Thom Tillis at (704) 509-9087 or Representative Addison McDowell at (336) 333-5005 with any future requests related to this matter.

If you are seeking assistance in preparation for legal remedy, I would strongly encourage you to contact an attorney to assist you with discovery and case arguments.

Should you need assistance in regard to any other matters involving the federal government, please contact my Advance office at 336-941-4470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Budd". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a cursive "Budd".

Ted Budd
United States Senator

TB/dh

Enclosure