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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Department of Justice and Coalition Urge Congress to Pass Epstein Files Transparency Act II

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice joined a coalition of attorneys general today in sending a letter to congressional leadership urging swift passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act II (EFTA II), legislation that would give state attorneys general and survivors the power to enforce the transparency Congress already demanded.

“The U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) should have comprehensively produced documents following the passage of the first Epstein Files Transparency Act,” said AG Kaul. “Because that appears not to have happened, Congress should pass the Epstein Files Transparency Act II to prevent USDOJ from standing in the way of the disclosure required by federal law.”

The letter, addressed to Speaker Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, supports H.R. 9694 and its Senate companion, S. 5005.

Congress passed the original Epstein Files Transparency Act (EFTA I), which took effect November 19, 2025 (Public Law 119-38), to give survivors and the public access to the full investigative record of Jeffrey Epstein's crimes. The law required the U.S. Department of Justice to make the files publicly available by December 19, 2025. Nearly a year later, the Department has not met that obligation. In *Phang v. Blanche*, a federal court in the District of Columbia noted that the Attorney General conceded he is in violation of the Act.

According to the letter, DOJ released only a limited portion of the files on the December 19, 2025 deadline, and later disclosures also fell short. Millions of documents remain withheld, often on the basis of legal privilege. At the same time, a Wall Street Journal review found that the personal information of at least 43 victims was exposed in the files that were released, despite the protections written into EFTA I.

What EFTA II Would Do

- **Create an expedited right of action.** State attorneys general, authorized state officials, victims, and members of Congress would have explicit standing to sue the U.S. Attorney General in federal court for unlawfully withholding, delaying, or heavily redacting Epstein-related records.
- **Protect survivor access.** Victims would be guaranteed the right to access unredacted records about themselves and the harms they suffered.
- **Eliminate evasions.** DOJ would be barred from invoking common law privileges, such as the deliberative process privilege, to avoid the disclosure requirements Congress enacted.
- **Enforce accountability.** Federal officials who knowingly conceal, destroy, or improperly withhold mandated files would be subject to existing federal penalties.

The letter also notes that the pursuit of justice and public accountability transcends partisanship, and urges Congress to act so that no federal agency places itself above the law.

Joining Wisconsin DOJ in sending the letter are the attorneys general from Arizona, California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington.

[A copy of the letter is available.](#)