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June 10, 2025

Eric Thomas, Legislative Auditor
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
P.O. Box 40910
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Response to request for formal response to JLARC report: Public Records Exemption for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse, Stalking, or Harassment

Dear Eric Thomas:

Thank you for providing the Attorney General's Office (AGO) the opportunity to review and comment on this report. As requested, below is our formal response.

The AGO concurs with JLARC's first recommendation: "The Legislature should keep the survivor's exemption."

The AGO concurs with JLARC's second recommendation: "The Office of the Attorney General should provide more guidance and training to the public agencies on how to implement the exemption. In doing so, it should seek input from other organizations that advise public agencies about records and human resources."

Sincerely,

Nick Brown
Attorney General

NWB/tlt

cc: Ryan McCord, Audit Director, JLARC
Jill Satran, Research Analyst, JLARC
David Postman, Chief of Staff, AGO
Christina Beusch, Deputy Attorney General, AGO
Morgan Damerow, Assistant Attorney General for Local Government Public Records Consultation, AGO
Jennifer Steele, Public Records Counsel, AGO