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## Our View: Limiting public access isn't good public policy

### The Bulletin

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Norwich, Conn. — There is a proposal quietly working its way through the General Assembly that could, if enacted, further restrict the public's right to know how its government operates. The measure, supported by Democrats who hold majorities in both chambers of the Legislature, would redefine the open meetings requirement under the state's Freedom of Information statute so that elected officials holding "leadership" positions would be required to hold open meetings for the purpose of "reaching a consensus" on issues. Under current law, decisions must be made in public session for discussions in executive session, but no votes can be taken. The new proposal would effectively eliminate that requirement and require officials to negotiate deals among themselves, without any public input or oversight.

The measure was approved by every Democratic member of the House of Representatives Administration and Elections Committee, and now moves to the Senate. This is not good government, nor is it good public policy. It is yet another example of a disturbing trend by the General Assembly that has evolved in the past two years to limit and restrict public access to government. It is an attack on the principles and the spirit of the state's Freedom of Information Law and an insult to citizens who are deserving and entitled to know how their government operates, not less.

Public debate is the foundation on which good government is built. *That's our opinion. We'd like to hear yours. Email us your comments at [letters@norwichbulletin.com](mailto:letters@norwichbulletin.com)*

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