

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

June 10, 2015

Office of Legal Affairs
Maildrop # 9115, Town Point
Suite 3400
Kennesaw State University
3391 Town Point Drive NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Re: Georgia Open Records Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

The Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act, § 50.18.70, *et seq.* This request includes records of any kind, regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs.

Specifically, CfA requests copies of all correspondence, electronic or otherwise, between Jennifer Lewis Priestley, a professor of Statistics and Data Science at Kennesaw State University, and the following individuals, organizations, and email addresses:

- (1) Hilary Miller
- (2) Victor Stango
- (3) The Consumer Credit Research Foundation
- (4) The Community Financial Services Association of America
- (5) Dollar Financial Group
- (6) Any email address ending in cfsaa.com
- (7) Any email address ending in dfcglobalcorp.com
- (8) Any email address ending in @miller.net
- (9) Any email address ending in @ucdavis.edu
- (10) Any email address ending in @creditresearch.org

By way of background, Professor Priestley conducted a study concerning payday loan rollovers that was the subject of a press release issued by Kennesaw State University on December 9, 2014. Professor Priestley received a \$30,000 grant from the Consumer Credit Research Foundation to conduct the study, more than double the next largest grant she received in 2014. The Consumer Credit Research Foundation is funded by financial institutions, which include payday lenders. Its funding of this project raises serious questions about the objectivity of Professor Priestley’s study and the extent to which it was tainted by industry-financed bias.

Custodian of Records

June 10, 2015

Page Two

I am aware the requested records also were the subject of a prior request in which the Consumer Credit Research Foundation took the position all of the responsive documents, which consisted exclusively of emails, were exempt. Please note CfA's request does not seek any documents constituting research, § 50.18.72(a)(35), or additional research within the scope of § 50.18.72(a)(36) of the Georgia Open Records Act. Moreover, the subject of this request concerns a published study. Accordingly, the requested records are not properly subject to withholding. *Id.*

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to educate the public about the true financial interests behind purportedly academic studies claiming payday loans do not pose a financial harm to borrowers. CfA therefore asks for a waiver of any fees otherwise charged for searching and copying the requested records. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

The Georgia Open Records Act requires you to respond to this request within three business days. If you are unable to meet this statutorily required time period or foresee any problems in releasing fully the requested records, please contact me at (202) 780-5750. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each specific exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. If possible, please email the records to me at aweismann@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Anne Weismann, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Weismann
Executive Director