

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2019

Senate Requirements for Disclosure of Holds

Dear Colleague:

On January 27, 2011, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to adopt Senate Resolution 28, which established a permanent standing order of the Senate ending secret holds and creating a requirement that Senators make a hold public within two session days of placing the hold. As authors of this standing order, we would like to bring its contents to the attention of all senators and remind our colleagues that this requirement is still in effect.

What is a Hold? – A hold is *any* notice communicated to a senator's party leader of that senator's intent to object to proceeding to legislation or a nomination.

What does the standing order of the Senate say? – The operative portion reads:

RECOGNITION OF NOTICE OF INTENT- The majority and minority leaders of the Senate or their designees shall recognize a notice of intent to object to a covered request of a Senator who is a member of their caucus if the Senator--

(A) submits the notice of intent to object in writing to the appropriate leader and grants in the notice of intent to object permission for the leader or designee to object in the Senator's name; and

(B) not later than 2 session days after submitting the notice of intent to object to the appropriate leader, submits a copy of the notice of intent to object to the Congressional Record and to the Legislative Clerk for inclusion in the applicable calendar section described in subsection (b).

What does this mean? – This means that the leaders shall only recognize holds that are submitted in writing explicitly giving the relevant leader permission to object in the senator's name. Also, the hold must be disclosed within two session days in the Congressional Record, plus it will be included in a special section of the Legislative or Executive Calendar until the hold is lifted. If you have any questions, please contact James Rice on Senator Grassley's staff or Becca Nathanson on Senator Wyden's staff.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator
President Pro Tempore



Ron Wyden
United States Senator