

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 1

---

Common Cause, et al. )  
 )  
v. ) 4:22-cv-109  
 )  
Cord Byrd )  
 )

---

TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO FILE  
PRESS AVAILABILITY  
WITH SENATE PRESIDENT WILTON SIMPSON  
March 9, 2022

---

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 812  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 232-0646

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 2

1 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Good evening. How  
2 are y'all today?

3 MALE REPORTER: Pretty good.

4 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Ready for questions.

5 MALE REPORTER: How are we doing with the  
6 SOMEBODY 950, the managed care overhaul bill that  
7 Senator Brodeur has. Is it going to be through here in  
8 the next couple of days or is it in trouble?

9 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I think that one's in  
10 trouble.

11 MALE REPORTER: What do you mean?

12 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Means we're probably  
13 not going to hear it.

14 FEMALE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Did you say  
15 you're probably not going to hear it?

16 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: This is 950, I  
17 believe? Or 1950?

18 MALE REPORTER: 1950.

19 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: 1950. I think 1950's  
20 in trouble.

21 MALE REPORTER: I have a question about  
22 the legal notices bill that was -- just had question in  
23 the --

24 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Mm-hmm.

25 MALE REPORTER: Given though that you're

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 3

1 not the Senate sponsor and that it was resurrected by a  
2 House -- by a rules committee and that the existing law  
3 has only been on the books for a few weeks, how can you  
4 make the case that it's a good policy decision, versus a  
5 shot at the newspapers that maybe print stuff you don't  
6 like sometimes?

7 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I think that Senator  
8 Brodeur is going to make a good case for it.

9 MALE REPORTER: But, like, you're the one  
10 that -- I assume you're the one that resurrected the  
11 bill or had a hand in resurrecting it. What's the  
12 policy argument for not seeing through the --

13 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I think the policy  
14 argument is, is that everything, as you know, we now  
15 have been, you know, having things online for many  
16 years. And if you want some additional transparency,  
17 going online will give you that transparency.

18 And if COVID taught us anything that  
19 there was some opportunities to have, you know, with  
20 supply-chain issues and other things, we would have had  
21 some blind spots within that supply chain for public  
22 legal notices. And so, when we go online, we don't have  
23 those blind spots. There will be an argument made --  
24 there was an argument made today. Obviously, tomorrow  
25 there will be a debate and there will be a vote.

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 4

1 MALE REPORTER: Did you have thoughts on  
2 some additional outside pressure on paycheck protection?  
3 And secondly, is that bill dead or should we look for it  
4 at all?

5 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: No. I think paycheck  
6 protection is -- is probably done for this year. And I  
7 don't have any -- as long as they spelled my name right,  
8 I'm happy.

9 MALE REPORTER: Is data privacy dead?

10 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I believe so.

11 MALE REPORTER: Did data privacy at  
12 all -- we're obviously going to go over on the budget.  
13 Did that at all play into budget negotiations, as far as  
14 how to try and get some votes over here or --

15 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: No. It was kind of  
16 amazing. Last year or this year, we had none of those  
17 games that we played with House. And I don't mean  
18 games. You know, historically, there's if I don't get  
19 certain things then we are going to -- there will be  
20 retribution in other bills or budget. And the Speaker  
21 has been a great partner in this process and we never --

22 MALE REPORTER: Are you saying that even  
23 tangentially policy bills or standalone bills weren't at  
24 all part of budget negotiations?

25 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Not at all.



3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 5

1 FEMALE REPORTER: Can you -- 2508 --

2 MALE REPORTER: -- property insurance  
3 reform. Is that dead in terms of dealing with the  
4 roofing fraud issue?

5 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I think that there's  
6 still negotiations going on with the two sponsors of the  
7 bills. And so, I believe there's still time for some of  
8 that to happen.

9 FEMALE REPORTER: As promised, you put  
10 your Lark funding into budget and I'm just curious if  
11 you had conversations with the governor? What -- what  
12 would make me think that this year may be different,  
13 because I'm not sure.

14 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Well, I think this  
15 year we did a, you know, a pro-life bill, the 15 week  
16 bill. And so, I hope that when we consider the idea  
17 that we are pro-life, how many lives that may be saved  
18 by Lark. And remember, it's the people that cannot  
19 afford it is what this money is for. And there are, you  
20 know, about half of our population may not can afford  
21 these devices. And so, you know, I think that that is  
22 certainly a tool that should be in the toolbox and I'm  
23 hoping the governor will be satisfied that maybe we did  
24 both this year. Maybe --

25 FEMALE REPORTER: Did you speak with the

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 6

1 governor, sir --

2 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I haven't  
3 specifically spoke about this yet, but it's something we  
4 certainly will do.

5 FEMALE REPORTER: Thank you.

6 MALE REPORTER: You had some concerns,  
7 you and both Speaker Sprowls felt that the gas tax  
8 throughout the session there is money that's going to go  
9 towards that. Can you walk me through the thought  
10 process on finally agreeing to go in the direction that  
11 the governor -- one of his priors, I guess?

12 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: What our original  
13 concern was is that we wanted to make sure that  
14 Floridians got the vast majority of the money that we  
15 would be doing through a tax-cut process. And the two  
16 months that are the least in tourism is October and May.

17 The budget will not go into effect until  
18 July. So the only other month that we could do that on  
19 was October. I think it's a great opportunity. We  
20 don't know if gas will be at 4.50 a gallon or \$8 a  
21 gallon by then, but it's certainly something that we  
22 believe that most Floridians would agree with and it's  
23 something that is important to all of us, not just the  
24 governor.

25 MALE REPORTER: You're hoping that

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 7

1 happens before the election, right?

2 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Yeah. That has  
3 nothing to do with -- that has nothing to do with the  
4 amount of tourists that will be in the state in October  
5 though.

6 MALE REPORTER: President Simpson, you  
7 guys past a lot of, within the budget and just today,  
8 policy wise of the stuff that the governor has advocated  
9 for. Why is he so smart policy wise and not so smart on  
10 redistricting?

11 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: I didn't say he  
12 wasn't smart on redistricting. You know, the Courts --

13 MALE REPORTER: He's going to veto your  
14 bill.

15 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Well, you know, the  
16 Courts will eventually sort that out or there will be a  
17 solution that will be had. And I think the governor and  
18 his team has done a great job on their priorities. But  
19 a lot of the times we all have the same priorities,  
20 right? We're all three generally in the same philosophy  
21 on all of these issues.

22 And so, I think sometimes there's credit  
23 given to -- you know, in the Senate this year, we did --  
24 and last year -- all of my priorities that I had were  
25 Senate bills, as they always are, and leadership, Senate



3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 8

1 Bill 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10, last year and this year. And I  
2 didn't get any of mine done.

3 But if you take a look at what the  
4 governor has proposed in the budget, very fiscally  
5 conservative and sound, if you look at the Florida  
6 economy and look at where we are relative to our peers,  
7 the other states, you know, we're creating about half  
8 the jobs every month in this state. We have the best  
9 universities and colleges.

10 There's a lot of things you can say,  
11 well, you didn't win on this thing or the governor  
12 didn't win on that. But the truth is, is our state is  
13 leaps and bounds ahead of the other states as it relates  
14 to the economy being open. And so, we're very proud of  
15 all of those things. We've got so many things to be  
16 proud of to say, well, we didn't get one or another  
17 thing in the budget or one or any other thing in policy  
18 is not a fair assessment of actually what happened.

19 MALE REPORTER: Do you anticipate --

20 FEMALE REPORTER: -- Mr. President, can  
21 you talk about your discussions with the governor as it  
22 relates to what you'd like to do with 2508? I  
23 understand that the governor and the Water Management  
24 District are not really happy about this date that you  
25 have in there for January 1, 2022, for having rules be



3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 9

1 fixed in that time. Where are you on resolving that.

2 And it's now been decoupled, so are you still pursuing  
3 risking having the governor veto it?

4 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Sure. I think this  
5 is a process -- it's a process. Everything we've talked  
6 about here, our committee processes are processes that  
7 they have to get to the floor, they're negotiations with  
8 the House. There's negotiations with the governor's  
9 office. I think that Bill will emerge as something that  
10 I hope the governor will sign.

11 FEMALE REPORTER: Thank you. And how  
12 about on the date? Is that something -- why do you  
13 think that is a defensible idea?

14 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: We have to negotiate  
15 through that. Thank you, guys.

16 (End of recording.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 10

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2

3 I, DIANE OTTO, do hereby certify that I have  
4 carefully transcribed from and compared the foregoing  
5 pages with the original digital audio recording from  
6 said proceeding and that this transcript is true and  
7 correct to the best of my ability.

8 Dated this day March 9, 2023.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20



21 (Electronically signed)

22 DIANE OTTO, CET, CER 1353

23

24

25

3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 1

<b>A</b>	<b>ability</b> 10:7 <b>additional</b> 3:16 4:2 <b>advocated</b> 7:8 <b>afford</b> 5:19,20 <b>agree</b> 6:22 <b>agreeing</b> 6:10 <b>ahead</b> 8:13 <b>al</b> 1:2 <b>amazing</b> 4:16 <b>amount</b> 7:4 <b>anticipate</b> 8:19 <b>argument</b> 3:12 3:14,23,24 <b>assessment</b> 8:18 <b>assume</b> 3:10 <b>audio</b> 1:11 10:5 <b>AVAILABIL...</b> 1:12	<b>certainly</b> 5:22 6:4,21 <b>certify</b> 10:3 <b>CET</b> 10:22 <b>chain</b> 3:21 <b>colleges</b> 8:9 <b>committee</b> 3:2 9:6 <b>Common</b> 1:2 <b>compared</b> 10:4 <b>concern</b> 6:13 <b>concerns</b> 6:6 <b>conservative</b> 8:5 <b>consider</b> 5:16 <b>conversations</b> 5:11 <b>Cord</b> 1:6 <b>correct</b> 10:7 <b>couple</b> 2:8 <b>Courts</b> 7:12,16 <b>COVID</b> 3:18 <b>creating</b> 8:7 <b>credit</b> 7:22 <b>curious</b> 5:10	<b>E</b>	<b>governor</b> 5:11,23 6:1,11,24 7:8 7:17 8:4,11,21 8:23 9:3,10 <b>governor's</b> 9:8 <b>great</b> 4:21 6:19 7:18 <b>GROUP</b> 1:23 <b>guess</b> 6:11 <b>guys</b> 7:7 9:15	<b>leadership</b> 7:25 <b>leaps</b> 8:13 <b>legal</b> 2:22 3:22 <b>lives</b> 5:17 <b>long</b> 4:7 <b>look</b> 4:3 8:3,5,6 <b>lot</b> 7:7,19 8:10
<b>B</b>	<b>believe</b> 2:17 4:10 5:7 6:22 <b>best</b> 8:8 10:7 <b>bill</b> 2:6,22 3:11 4:3 5:15,16 7:14 8:1 9:9 <b>bills</b> 4:20,23,23 5:7 7:25 <b>blind</b> 3:21,23 <b>books</b> 3:3 <b>bounds</b> 8:13 <b>Brodeur</b> 2:7 3:8 <b>budget</b> 4:12,13 4:20,24 5:10 6:17 7:7 8:4,17 <b>Byrd</b> 1:6	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>C</b> 10:1,1 <b>care</b> 2:6 <b>carefully</b> 10:4 <b>case</b> 3:4,8 <b>Cause</b> 1:2 <b>CER</b> 10:22 <b>certain</b> 4:19	<b>D.C</b> 1:24 <b>data</b> 4:9,11 <b>date</b> 8:24 9:12 <b>Dated</b> 10:8 <b>day</b> 10:8 <b>days</b> 2:8 <b>dead</b> 4:3,9 5:3 <b>dealing</b> 5:3 <b>debate</b> 3:25 <b>decision</b> 3:4 <b>decoupled</b> 9:2 <b>defensible</b> 9:13 <b>devices</b> 5:21 <b>DIANE</b> 10:3,22 <b>different</b> 5:12 <b>digital</b> 1:23 10:5 <b>direction</b> 6:10 <b>discussions</b> 8:21 <b>District</b> 8:24 <b>doing</b> 2:5 6:15	<b>F</b> 10:1 <b>fair</b> 8:18 <b>far</b> 4:13 <b>felt</b> 6:7 <b>FEMALE</b> 2:14 5:1,9,25 6:5 8:20 9:11 <b>FILE</b> 1:11 <b>finally</b> 6:10 <b>fiscally</b> 8:4 <b>fixed</b> 9:1 <b>floor</b> 9:7 <b>Florida</b> 8:5 <b>Floridians</b> 6:14 6:22 <b>foregoing</b> 10:4 <b>fraud</b> 5:4 <b>funding</b> 5:10	<b>I</b>	<b>MALE</b> 2:3,5,11 2:18,21,25 3:9 4:1,9,11,22 5:2 6:6,25 7:6,13 8:19 <b>managed</b> 2:6 <b>Management</b> 8:23 <b>March</b> 1:14 10:8 <b>mean</b> 2:11 4:17 <b>Means</b> 2:12 <b>mine</b> 8:2 <b>Mm-hmm</b> 2:24 <b>money</b> 5:19 6:8 6:14 <b>month</b> 6:18 8:8 <b>months</b> 6:16
		<b>G</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>N</b>
		<b>gallon</b> 6:20,21 <b>games</b> 4:17,18 <b>gas</b> 6:7,20 <b>generally</b> 7:20 <b>give</b> 3:17 <b>given</b> 2:25 7:23 <b>go</b> 3:22 4:12 6:8 6:10,17 <b>going</b> 2:7,13,15 3:8,17 4:12,19 5:6 6:8 7:13 <b>good</b> 2:1,3 3:4,8	<b>January</b> 8:25 <b>job</b> 7:18 <b>jobs</b> 8:8 <b>July</b> 6:18	<b>kind</b> 4:15 <b>know</b> 3:14,15,19 4:18 5:15,20,21 6:20 7:12,15,23 8:7	<b>N</b> 10:1 <b>name</b> 4:7 <b>negotiate</b> 9:14 <b>negotiations</b> 4:13 4:24 5:6 9:7,8 <b>never</b> 4:21 <b>newspapers</b> 3:5 <b>notices</b> 2:22 3:22 <b>NW</b> 1:24
		<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>O</b>
		<b>Lark</b> 5:10,18 <b>law</b> 3:2	<b>Lark</b> 5:10,18 <b>law</b> 3:2	<b>O</b> 10:1 <b>obviously</b> 3:24 4:12 <b>October</b> 6:16,19 7:4 <b>office</b> 9:9 <b>one's</b> 2:9	



3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 2

<p>online 3:15,17,22 open 8:14 opportunities 3:19 opportunity 6:19 original 6:12 10:5 OTTO 10:3,22 outside 4:2 overhaul 2:6</p> <hr/> <p><b>P</b></p> <p>pages 10:5 part 4:24 partner 4:21 paycheck 4:2,5 peers 8:6 people 5:18 philosophy 7:20 play 4:13 played 4:17 policy 3:4,12,13 4:23 7:8,9 8:17 population 5:20 President 1:13 2:1,4,9,12,16 2:19,24 3:7,13 4:5,10,15,25 5:5,14 6:2,12 7:2,6,11,15 8:20 9:4,14 PRESS 1:12 pressure 4:2 Pretty 2:3 print 3:5 priorities 7:18,19 7:24 priors 6:11 privacy 4:9,11 pro-life 5:15,17 probably 2:12,15 4:6 proceeding 10:6 process 4:21 6:10 6:15 9:5,5 processes 9:6,6 promised 5:9</p>	<p>property 5:2 proposed 8:4 protection 4:2,6 proud 8:14,16 public 3:21 pursuing 9:2 put 5:9</p> <hr/> <p><b>Q</b></p> <p>question 2:21,22 questions 2:4</p> <hr/> <p><b>R</b></p> <p>R 10:1 Ready 2:4 really 8:24 recording 9:16 10:5 redistricting 7:10 7:12 reform 5:3 relates 8:13,22 relative 8:6 remember 5:18 REPORTER 2:3 2:5,11,14,18,21 2:25 3:9 4:1,9 4:11,22 5:1,2,9 5:25 6:5,6,25 7:6,13 8:19,20 9:11 resolving 9:1 resurrected 3:1 3:10 resurrecting 3:11 retribution 4:20 right 4:7 7:1,20 risking 9:3 roofing 5:4 rules 3:2 8:25</p> <hr/> <p><b>S</b></p> <p>satisfied 5:23 saved 5:17 saying 4:22 secondly 4:3 seeing 3:12 Senate 1:13 3:1</p>	<p>7:23,25,25 Senator 2:7 3:7 session 6:8 shot 3:5 sign 9:10 signed 10:21 Simpson 1:13 2:1 2:4,9,12,16,19 2:24 3:7,13 4:5 4:10,15,25 5:5 5:14 6:2,12 7:2 7:6,11,15 9:4 9:14 sir 6:1 smart 7:9,9,12 solution 7:17 SOMEBODY 2:6 sorry 2:14 sort 7:16 sound 8:5 speak 5:25 Speaker 4:20 6:7 specifically 6:3 spelled 4:7 spoke 6:3 sponsor 3:1 sponsors 5:6 spots 3:21,23 Sprowls 6:7 standalone 4:23 state 7:4 8:8,12 states 8:7,13 Street 1:24 stuff 3:5 7:8 Suite 1:24 supply 3:21 supply-chain 3:20 sure 5:13 6:13 9:4</p> <hr/> <p><b>T</b></p> <p>T 10:1,1 take 8:3 talk 8:21 talked 9:5</p>	<p>tangentially 4:23 taught 3:18 tax 6:7 tax-cut 6:15 team 7:18 terms 5:3 Thank 6:5 9:11 9:15 thing 8:11,17,17 things 3:15,20 4:19 8:10,15,15 think 2:9,19 3:7 3:13 4:5 5:5,12 5:14,21 6:19 7:17,22 9:4,9 9:13 thought 6:9 thoughts 4:1 three 7:20 time 5:7 9:1 times 7:19 today 2:2 3:24 7:7 tomorrow 3:24 tool 5:22 toolbox 5:22 tourism 6:16 tourists 7:4 transcribed 10:4 transcript 10:6 TRANSCRIPT... 1:11 transparency 3:16,17 trouble 2:8,10,20 true 10:6 truth 8:12 try 4:14 two 5:6 6:15</p> <hr/> <p><b>U</b></p> <p>understand 8:23 universities 8:9</p> <hr/> <p><b>V</b></p> <p>v 1:4 vast 6:14</p>	<p>versus 3:4 veto 7:13 9:3 vote 3:25 votes 4:14</p> <hr/> <p><b>W</b></p> <p>walk 6:9 want 3:16 wanted 6:13 Washington 1:24 wasn't 7:12 Water 8:23 we're 2:12 4:12 7:20 8:7,14 we've 8:15 9:5 week 5:15 weeks 3:3 weren't 4:23 WILTON 1:13 win 8:11,12 wise 7:8,9</p> <hr/> <p><b>X</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Y</b></p> <p>y'all 2:2 Yeah 7:2 year 4:6,16,16 5:12,15,24 7:23 7:24 8:1,1 years 3:16</p> <hr/> <p><b>Z</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>0</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>1 8:25 10 8:1 1353 10:22 15 5:15 1730 1:24 1950 2:17,18,19 1950's 2:19</p> <hr/> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>2 8:1 20036 1:24</p>
---	--	---	---	---



3/9/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 3

202 1:25  
2022 1:14 8:25  
2023 10:8  
232-0646 1:25  
2508 5:1 8:22

---

3

---

---

4

---

4 8:1  
4.50 6:20  
4:22-cv-109 1:4

---

5

---

---

6

---

6 8:1

---

7

---

---

8

---

8 6:20 8:1  
812 1:24

---

9

---

9 1:14 10:8  
950 2:6,16