

Creation of the Review Board was the result of a long and thorough process of bipartisan Congressional inquiry, debate, and compromise. Driven by acute public interest, the Congress considered a wide variety of approaches to the problem of restoring public confidence in government institutions. The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, signed into law by President Bush in October 1992, defined a process for the release of assassination-related material and created the Review Board to oversee and coordinate the process. The result was a unique and unprecedented approach to the important issue of the public's right to know about the activities of its government.

*The Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) was conceived of as an alternative to ineffective and insufficient past efforts to clarify widely held troubling questions about the assassination of President Kennedy and the motives and actions of the US institutions and personnel. Demand for the complete opening of all records relevant to these questions has clogged agency Freedom of Information offices and is a symptom of a widespread lack of confidence in what our government does and says. As a result of this demand, and in an effort to create a responsible, cost-effective, and efficient system for the release of these records, the Congress passed The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records*