



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keep Columbia Free Endorses SB 764

Keep Columbia Free endorses Senate Bill 764, sponsored by Senator Kurt Schaefer, which seeks to amend Missouri's current sunshine law to provide better access to public records.

Most importantly, SB 764 prohibits public bodies from charging for time spent researching to determine if a document should be open or closed. The bill also extends the current law to include and open the records of any quasi-public governmental bodies that act on behalf of a public body and receive full or partial funding from a public body.

Keep Columbia Free believes that openness and transparency in government is one of the pillars of a free society. Keep Columbia Free believes that any organization acting on behalf of government and using public funds should be subject to Missouri's Sunshine Law. Keep Columbia Free believes that fees for records requests should be reasonable and within the financial reach of all citizens.

Our organization has been the victim of financial stonewalling at the hands of the City of Columbia on many occasions, being asked to pay hundreds of dollars for simple electronic copies of city emails. Many other organizations in Columbia have experienced the same treatment. Keep Columbia Free believes that government should be as transparent for the least among us as it is for those of means.