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Secretary of State Jim Condos Commends Passage and Signing of Media Shield Law (S.96)

Montpelier – Today S.96, the Media Shield Bill, was signed into law by Governor Phil Scott.

Secretary of State Jim Condos has issued the following statement, praising passage and signing of the law.

“I have long maintained that the media is an important tool of transparency in government, acting as a watchdog for the public. Not only that, it is important to realize that our media **IS** the public, and deserves the same access to information, alongside appropriate protections for sources and process, that truly allow them to operate effectively as a free press.

Without protections that prohibit the disclosure of news sources, whistleblowers will not feel comfortable bringing important information to journalists or media outlets. The signing of S.96 into law ensures that our Vermont journalists and media sources can continue to serve the public as watchdogs, acting as a tool to help ensure transparency and accountability in government.

Freedom of the press is crucial to our democracy, and the signing of S.96 is another step forward in protecting this institution.”

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