Congressman Pence has been a leader in fighting for a free and independent press and earlier this year **re-introduced his media shield bill** which would protect the public's right to know by protecting journalists and their confidential sources.

This story in today's *Detroit Metro Times* about David Ashenfelter illustrates precisely why Congressman Pence's legislation is so critical:

David Ashenfelter, who covers federal court for the Detroit Free Press, has been ordered three times to testify in a deposition about the confidential sources who provided him with information for a 2004 article.

U.S. District Judge Robert Cleland has rejected Ashenfelter's arguments for federal privilege against testifying, saying the appellate court made it clear in the Stone case that it doesn't recognize one.

Cleland also has denied Ashenfelter's claim that testifying would violate the reporter's Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. Ashenfelter says revealing who gave him what information could subject him to prosecution under, among other laws, the Espionage Act.'

Cleland last week for the third time ruled Ashenfelter must sit for a deposition and answer questions about his sources for the 2004 article in which he used unnamed U.S. Department of Justice sources who revealed to him an internal investigation into then-Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino.