This week is Sunshine Week, and Congressman Pence has written an op-ed about the need for a federal media shield bill and ***Editor & Publisher*** is running it at the top of their page today.

The column concludes with this:

Compelling reporters to testify, and in particular, compelling them to reveal the identity of their confidential sources, is a detriment to the public interest. Without the promise of confidentiality, many important conduits of information about our government will be shut down. The dissemination of information by the media to the public on matters ranging from the operation of our government to events in our local communities is invaluable to the operation of our democracy.

Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia have various statutes that protect reporters from being compelled to testify or disclose sources and information in their courts. Thirteen states have protections for reporters as a result of judicial decisions. The Free Flow of Information Act would set national standards similar to those that are in effect in the states, ensuring that the American people have the facts that they need to make choices as an informed electorate.

Thomas Jefferson warned that, "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that limited without danger of losing it." This Congress would be wise to take those words to heart. Now is the time to heed the advice of Mr. Jefferson, and stitch this tear in the First Amendment freedom of the press.