



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Passes HB 1720 to Protect Minors' Identities and Strengthen Public Safety

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In a resounding display of bipartisan support, the Missouri House of Representatives has successfully passed House Bill 1720, a groundbreaking legislative measure aimed at safeguarding the identities of minors.

Sponsored by Rep. Bill Falkner, HB 1720 addresses the closure of specific records under Missouri's Sunshine Law. The bill grants the authority to close records containing individually identifiable information of minors aged 17 and under, held by public governmental bodies such as cities, towns, villages, or park boards. An exception to this closure is made when the records are requested by the Division of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

"The passage of HB 1720 is a crucial step toward enhancing public safety, particularly in safeguarding the identities of our children," Rep. Falkner, R-St. Joseph, remarked. "By closing certain documents containing individually identifiable information about minors, we are taking a proactive approach to protect their privacy."

House Speaker Dean Plocher echoed those sentiments, stating, "Our duty as legislators is to enact measures that prioritize the safety and well-being of our youngest citizens. HB 1720 exemplifies our commitment to creating a secure environment for Missouri's children by closing records that could compromise their identities."

The legislative measure passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 141-5, underscoring the broad support for this critical initiative. Members of the House recognized the importance of shielding minors from potential harm and identity compromise. HB 1720 now moves forward, reflecting the dedication of Rep. Bill Falkner and Missouri lawmakers to enact policies that safeguard the welfare of Missouri's youth.

Representative Bill Falkner, a Republican, represents part of Buchanan County (District 10) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2018 and

*re-elected in 2020 and 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Falkner's office at 573-751-9755 or by email at **Bill.Falkner@House.Mo.Gov**.*

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