Kentucky Press Association Coalition forms to help protect and promote openness

PUTTING TEETH IN ACT

ACCOUNTABILITY

Kentucky’s best hopes of having access to public records have been that the greatest danger to losing it are intervened, attorney Jon Fleischaker says.

The hope lies in challenging attempts to keep access and the danger is not challenging efforts in defeat, said Fleischaker, who represents the Kentucky Press Association.

Individuals or organizations that simply don’t want the public look- ing over their shoulder.”

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ty to the people it serves. “If I care if you’re a Republican or a Democrat, or an independent, it’s important that everyone knows what we know and what we don’t know,” he said. “It’s important that the government works for us.” Fleischaker said. “We don’t work for the government; we work for the people. The only one way for us to hold the government account-

able, and that is to know what they’re doing and why they’re doing it.” It’s accountability.

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Medical act used - and misuse - to shield data

Health privacy rules should not impede access to public records, the judge said.

The report was issued with the names, addresses and birth dates of the driver and these “involved persons” including the person who was killed, removed. When the paper appealed to the state attorney general’s office, Covington police and the State Attorney General’s office, Covington did not respond to the government’s request. On Aug. 24, Attorney General Greg Stumbo ruled that HIPAA did not apply to police department records.

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As denials to public information are successfully challenged, Fleischaker said he believes more people see the benefit of public access and making the operations of government transparent to the people it serves. “If I care if you’re a Republican or a Democrat, or an independent, it’s important that everyone knows what we know and what we don’t know,” he said. “It’s important that the government works for us.” Fleischaker said. “We don’t work for the government; we work for the people. The only one way for us to hold the government accountable, and that is to know what they’re doing and why they’re doing it.” It’s accountability.

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