May 22, 2017

The Honorable Michele Reagan
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1384 (school-sponsored media; student journalists)

Dear Secretary Reagan:

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1384.

I am a strong supporter of free speech and a free press. The First Amendment is vital to our American system of democracy, and I have a record of supporting legislation to protect these constitutional rights and opposing those that erode them.

I also believe student journalists play an important role, in part because they are the next generation of journalists who will hold our government and leaders accountable.

I worry, however, that this bill could create unintended consequences, especially on high school campuses where adult supervision and mentoring is most important.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Steve Yarbrough
The Honorable JD Mesnard
The Honorable Kimberly Yee