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Media coalition applauds Senate approval of FOIA reforms, Calls on House and Senate to work out differences

The media coalition The Sunshine in Government Initiative (SGI) today applauds the approval by unanimous consent of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016.

Both the House and Senate have unanimously approved writing the presumption of openness into law, allowing the FOIA ombudsman to speak with an independent voice, modernizing technology and making other improvements to FOIA. “The House and Senate should quickly work through their differences and send the bill to the President,” said Rick Blum, the coalition’s director. “The public deserves a stronger and more efficient FOIA before the Act turns 50 in a few months.” The original FOIA was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 4, 1966.

We want to congratulate and thank the sponsors of S. 337, including Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Ia.), Ranking Minority Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), John Cornyn (R-Tex.), and Christopher Coons (D-Del).

More information about the FOIA reform legislation is available at our “Fix FOIA by 50” website: sunshineingovernment.org/wordpress/fix-foia-by-50/

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