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**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COLE COUNTY, MISSOURI**

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Protecting the personal information of state employees, many of whom are my constituents, is a top priority for both myself and the governor, and I want to thank him for forwarding the concerns of a data breach of the DESE website on to the Missouri State Highway for review. Any report of a potential data breach should be fully investigated, and I would like to thank the Highway Patrol for conducting a thorough and complete investigation into these claims.

There is an argument to be made that there was a violation of law. However, upon a review of the case file, the issues at the heart of the investigation have been resolved through non-legal means. As such, it is not in the best interest of Cole County citizens to utilize the significant resources and taxpayer dollars that would be necessary to pursue misdemeanor criminal charges in this case. The investigation is now closed, and the Cole County Prosecutor's Office will have no further comment on the matter.

I wish to make clear that this office maintains a zero-tolerance policy for the unauthorized taking and using of the personal information of any person, and violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Any person who believes his or her personal information has been compromised is encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency.