



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1276		DATE: 4/7/2021	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLISON GREGORY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-619-5528	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FOSTER ADOPT CONNECT		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 509 S. CAVALIER			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65802
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 11:35 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill. This Bill makes sense and protects the Youth in Seeking Support and Needed Services away from their home.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CRAIG STEVENSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-397-1274	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1 CAMPBELL PLAZA SUITE 101			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GWEN O'BRIEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-505-4867	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SYNERGY SERVICES, INC.		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION	
ADDRESS: 400 E 6TH STREET			
CITY: PARKVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64152
EMAIL: gobrien@synergyservices.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 11:00 AM	
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Synergy Services, Inc is in full support of HB 1276. Synergy operates a crisis shelter for homeless and unaccompanied youth and also provides multiple supportive outreach services for youth in the Kansas City community. It is imperative that we eliminate barriers for youth seeking support, shelter, and services in order to meet their basic needs. We work hard to encourage help seeking behaviors in vulnerable youth and this modification to reporting requirements creates a positive avenue for our staff to work with vulnerable and unaccompanied minors who are seeking safety and shelter. Youth shelters in Missouri work directly with local school district Homeless Liaisons and Coordinators as well as other multidisciplinary community partners, including Children's Division, to ensure that unaccompanied youth are safe, supported, and receiving all of the necessary services and interventions. There is nothing in the bill that eliminates the requirement of Mandated Reporters to report child abuse/neglect information if and when it is disclosed, discovered, or suspected. We respectfully request your careful consideration and vote in favor of HB 1276.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA FUNK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COALITION OF CHILDREN's AGENCIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL T KORTE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-355-2084	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE CHAIR	
ADDRESS: 4468 TIMBER LN			
CITY: FULTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65251
EMAIL: pkorte@paloaltou.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 9:45 PM	

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Chairwoman Coleman and Members of the Committee:The Missouri Psychological Association wishes to express our support for HB 1276 which modifies mandated reporting for unaccompanied and homeless youth. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness estimates over 4,000 unaccompanied homeless students in the state of Missouri with over 600 of those students going unsheltered at night. Members of racial and sexual minorities, and those who become pregnant, are at an increased risk of being homeless. Homeless youth report a variety of barriers and challenges to obtaining services, including fear of law enforcement and social service agencies. We recognize that eliminating the mandatory reporting of unaccompanied and homeless youth may increase these individuals' utilization of services. This bill provides additional protection to providers willing to serve unaccompanied and homeless youth who access services that could ultimately lift them out of homelessness. Furthermore, access to these services could decrease exposure to further traumatic experiences, such as physical abuse and sexual assault, and improve medical care and long-term health outcomes. We support the protection of these providers who provide these vital services to Missouri's unaccompanied and homeless youth.