



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 218		DATE: 2/10/2021	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHY S RAUCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: crauch1949@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2021 7:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a member of Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), I am testifying in support of HB 218. We are a faith-based organization and believe that justice is important for all of us, particularly our children, especially our children of color who come into contact with the criminal justice system more often because of their color. Children don't have the understanding necessary to realize that they need representation when faced with an accusation. Often children will agree to anything just to go home, especially if an authority figure encourages them to talk to them openly. They may be coerced to say anything whether it is the truth or not. Children should be protected from these tactics and having representation is the best way to protect them. Children may not realize their decisions can have long lasting effects on their future schooling, employment , and housing. For all of these reasons we are in support of HB 218.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 3145037277	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 308 E. HIGH ST. STE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: christine@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2021 9:21 AM

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February 10, 2021To: Rep. David Evans, Chairman, and Members of the House Judiciary CommitteeFrom: Christine Woody, MSW, Senior Policy Coordinator
Empower MissouriRe: Our support for HB 218Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our work, we organize a statewide coalition called the Smart Sentencing Coalition. This Coalition guides our work on law enforcement, corrections, and re-entry policies. The Coalition is made up of individuals and organizations who are working for a smarter criminal justice system--one that decreases recidivism, decreases the reliance of incarceration, and decreases racial disparities all while ensuring our community is safe. A first step in accomplishing many of the above goals would be to pass HB 218. We thank Rep. Burnett for sponsoring this bill and taking this step. Age matters in interrogations. Children's brains are not formed enough to fully understand and compute what is happening during an interrogation. Without adult counsel present, many will choose a short term reward over long term consequences. Research shows that children are much more susceptible to coercion within an interrogation. For example, a report written by law professors, Steven Drizin and Richard Leo, showed that teenagers make false confessions at exponentially higher rates than adults. Light was shown on this practice during Ava Duvernay's powerful miniseries, When They See Us, which documents the coercive interrogations and the wrongful conviction of the Central Park Five, five New York boys wrongfully convicted of a brutal attack in Central Park in 1989. HB 218 specifically lays out what conditions must be met to allow a child to waive their right to counsel. It also lays out instances that waiving their right to counsel is not allowed. We are expecting that with the passage of HB 218, there will be less coercion of youth and lower rates of false confession during interrogations. Empower Missouri and the Smart Sentencing Coalition are asking you to please vote Do Pass on HB 218. Sincerely, Christine Woody, MSW Empower Missouri and the Smart Sentencing Coalition



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2021 3:10 PM

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I am in Opposition to this Bill.If a Child is being Charged with a Crime, I feel that they should automatically qualify to have Counsel immediately.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY FOX		PHONE NUMBER: 573-777-4977	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER's OFFICE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1000 WEST NIFONG			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2021 12:00 AM	
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