



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 480</b>		DATE: <b>4/20/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMARA HARPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>amaraharper21@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/19/2021 1:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Good morning, my name is Amara Harper and I am a senior at Kirkwood High School and one of three editors in chiefs for my high school newspaper, The Kirkwood Call. My responsibilities as Editor in Chief consist of helping run the class along with my other two editors, editing copy and finalizing designs and covers for each of our issues. I have been on staff for three years now and one of the pillars of our publication is allowing our staff the freedom to write on any topic they find important for our student body and community to learn about. We are lucky enough to have an administration that allows us to do just that. Our staff as a whole has a positive and productive relationship with our principal, Michael Havener and he continues year after year to trust us enough to write and publish articles that inform and educate our student body and Kirkwood community. Our principal will often even come into our class every few weeks to answer any questions we may have. Just as much as he is transparent with us, we are transparent with him and what we are printing, often giving him a fair notice if a bigger topic will be covered in our newest issue. The ability to be able to publish content that we want without having any prior review has allowed us to become widely recognized as a top tier journalism program within our own community, but also within other communities across the state. We often have various publications reach out to us for guidance and examples on how we run such a successful publication. We at TKC would not be able to provide this support without the privileges we have. Our publication finds this is especially important during major events that take place not only in our community but also in our country. For example, this summer, with the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, we chose to dedicate our back to school issue to the important topics addressed in the Black Lives Matter movement. In some cases, this issue as a whole or even individual stories that were included, such as a column by one of our staffers' explaining their experience as a black student in our district, would not have been allowed to be published. However, as an editorial board we made the judgment call that these stories and first-hand experiences were essential to this issue and therefore must be published. The support we received from not only our community members but also our administration was overwhelmingly positive — we were praised for our fast and important coverage on the various topics. With the New Voices Act, other student publications would get to have the same opportunities and privileges that we have. They would be allowed to cover the topics that are vital in their community and, by connection, thrive as student journalists. Thank you for your time.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
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EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/20/2021 2:10 AM</b>

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**I am in Support of this Bill. We Need First Amendment Right and Free Speech in School District Media Classes, Organization and Informational Sources.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK MAASSEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-449-4167</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>802 LOCUST STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/20/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MITCH EDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>edenmit@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/19/2021 10:11 AM</b>
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I teach journalism at Kirkwood High School in Kirkwood, MO. I am also an Executive board member for the National Scholastic Press Association. I fully support the Cronkite New Voices Act. I have driven to Jeff City the past five years to testify in support of this legislation. Unfortunately, I cannot attend this hearing. I am asking you to support this bill to show kids you believe in them. Right now student journalists have less freedom to publish an article than their peers do to wear something on their shirt. Our state is home to the top J School in the country yet we are still following a Supreme Court ruling (Hazelwood) handed down more than 30 years ago. It is archaic, and it is time to support the First Amendment. New Voices does NOT protect libel, defamation or other forms of poor journalism. And of the states that have anti-Hazelwood legislation (including the 14 who have passed New Voices) we have more than 100 combined years in which no student or school has ever been threatened with legal action. This isn't a democrat or republican issue. It is a First Amendment. Please help see this through the finish line in year six. Thank you for listening.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>OTTO FAJEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3202</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI NEA</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1810 EAST ELM STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>otto.fajen@mnea.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/19/2021 8:27 PM</b>

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Missouri NEA Testimony on HB 480 to the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee April 20, 2021 The Association appreciates the opportunity to present written testimony regarding HB 480. The Association supports the bill as filed. The Association believes that basic student rights include free inquiry and expression. The bill would grant greater freedom for student journalists. The bill also includes essential anti-retaliation provisions to protect student communications sponsors and other staff from possible retaliation by boards or administration for granting students greater editorial latitude as provided by the bill. On behalf of the Association, I thank you for the opportunity to offer our testimony on this bill. Otto Fajen MNEA Legislative Director