



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 2/22/2021	
COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention			
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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 12:04 PM
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I am in full Supoport of this Bill. I highly beleieve in data, transparency and mandatory reporting of facts to make our State a better place to live. Use of Force needs to be looked at, followed and reported accurately.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL	
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CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: cadelstein@jcrctl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2021 1:00 PM
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Testimony in Support of HB 998The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond.Jews also believe in the concept of B'tzelem Elohim, We are all created in the image of God. This includes police officers, community members, those suspected of committing a crime, and those guilty of a crime. The events across the country this past year, along with challenges in Missouri, have shown us the need to establish standards for law enforcement to treat all communities with dignity and limited use of force against minority communities. Jews have both positive and negative experiences with police and policing. We look to and count on the Police to help protect our places of worship from acts of anti-semitism and domestic terrorism. But for centuries we were the target of police violence—and not just in Czarist Russia or under the Crusades but in the United States as well. As recently as 1902 on New York's Lower East Side, police attacked the funeral procession of a prominent rabbi. We have experienced both sides of the coin, and our memory shapes our attitude towards present and future police practices.The "Police Use of Force Transparency Act of 2021" will help increase trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Having standardized reporting requirements and data will enable the public to see problematic trends within and across departments. It will also assist police departments in developing best practices and creating appropriate training and professional development.The JCRC knows it is challenging to be a police officer and believes common-sense efforts like House Bill 998 makes that job easier. Because this bill helps communities and law enforcement, we urge members of the committee to support this legislation. Cheryl Adelstein, Deputy Director, Jewish Community Relations Council 12 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146 - 314-442-3872 - cadelstein@jcrctl.org



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JARED MEYER		PHONE NUMBER: 630-329-5600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CICERO ACTION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK BRUNS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-0342	
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EMAIL: mark@brunslobby.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 9:00 PM
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The Missouri Fraternal Order of Police supports HB998.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MO DEL VILLAR		PHONE NUMBER: 816-929-6166	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE ASSOCIATE	
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February 22, 2021 House Committee on Crime Prevention Chairman Roberts HB 998 Dear Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today. On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and our approximately 15,000 supporters statewide, I would like to express our support for HB 998. HB 998, the Police Use of Force Transparency Act, specifies that our state law enforcement agencies must report their use of force incidents annually to be included in the FBI's National Use of Force Data Collection and have that data analyzed by our state's attorney general for trends and disparities. Use of force incidents are when an officer causes another individual to die or be harmed with serious bodily injury in the course of their interaction. Law enforcement must implement transformative reforms that build public trust and lead to humane, equitable, and constitutional policing in all communities. As part of this transformation, law enforcement must be transparent regarding its policies, practices, and technologies, provide appropriate data and comprehensive data on its practices and performance, and must be held accountable for violations of law, policy, and community trust. This legislation represents a basic reform to ensure transparency in the administration of justice and better policing for all Missourians. As the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, we stand firmly for equal protection under the law. Equal protection requires that all residents receive due process under the law. When the death of a resident occurs as a result of actions taken by state agents, it is imperative that the state be held to account for its decision to deprive an individual of life and liberty. HB 998 is needed to ensure that officer-involved deaths are accurately reported and analyzed. The frequency of use of force deaths is alarming. In St. Louis alone, a recent study from Arch City Defenders documented 132 individuals killed by police from 2009-2019 in only four counties of the St. Louis region. Their findings detail that the overwhelming majority of those killed were men, 72 percent of those killed were Black, and the youngest person killed was only 12 years old.[1] Behind each of these statistics, a family suffers and communities fracture. This tragedy is compounded by a lack of information both at the state and federal level. Federal requests for Missouri's data on officer-involved shootings have gone largely unanswered. In 2019, the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported that only 13 agencies in Missouri out of about 600 had submitted a report to the FBI's National Use-of-Force Data Collection effort. [2] That is only 6% of our state law enforcement agencies. This bill is a laudable answer to this call. A more recent report from the ACLU found that police officers had fatally shot 511 people nationwide in the first half of 2020, despite the anomaly of a global pandemic. The study confirmed that from 2015 to 2019, an average of 19.4 fatal police shootings occurred per week during the first half of the year, the exact same average number of fatal police shootings per week in 2020 despite stay and home orders and less opportunity for police/public interactions. The racial analysis of this national study highlighted significant disparities, echoing the trend seen in the local Arch City report. Nationally, approximately 46

percent of fatal police shootings kill white people, who account for roughly 60 percent of the U.S. population. Another 24 percent of fatal police shootings kill Black people, who account for about 13 percent of the U.S. population. [3]HB 998 mirrors common sense police reform efforts by this body to rebuild trust and communication between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This bill would require that reports of use of force by officers are not internal alone. It would require that the public get a report of what happened and it would mitigate institutional biases that occur when the police are asked to police themselves. This reform is modest, common sense, and urgently needed to protect due process for Missourians. I urge this committee to support this bill. I am available to answer any questions that you might have going forward. Thank you again for your consideration. Best, Mo Del Villar
Legislative Associate
American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri

[1] Death by the State: Police Killings and Jail Deaths in St. Louis, (Jan. 2021). ArchCity Defenders, Retrieved from https://www.archcitydefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACD-Death-By-The-State-Police-Killings-and-Jail-Deaths-in-STL.pdf?mc_cid=413b8156d7&mc_eid=ec907a7336. [2] Byers, C. & Renaud, J. (Dec. 1, 2019). National effort to track police shootings slow to catch on among Missouri departments. Retrieved from https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/national-effort-to-track-police-shootings-slow-to-catch-on/article_eafab391-6b38-5920-95cb-7b691adc8938.html. [3] The Other Epidemic: Fatal Police Shootings in the Time of COVID-19. (2020). ACLU. <https://www.aclu.org/report/other-epidemic-fatal-police-shootings-time-covid-19?redirect=policeshootingreport>.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: W. SCOTT SWAIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-8138	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN MERRITT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-7728	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: kevin@mosheriffs.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 10:57 AM

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While we can appreciate what we believe this bill is trying to accomplish, we do have concerns that lead us to oppose it in its current form. A major concern is the analysis of any trends and disparities in rates of use of force by all law enforcement agencies. The language does not specify the benchmark for determining a disparity. It does not provide a means for determining the reason that an identified disparity may exists. It also lacks a funding mechanism.