



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SJR 38</b>		DATE: <b>3/29/2022</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2022 11:28 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I am Highly Opposed to this State Constitution Amendment. STOP Raising OUR Taxes! Let Kansas City Pay for their Own Public Safety Needs and Expenses.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MALLORY RUSCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-306-8945</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 100, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>mallory@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/28/2022 5:12 PM</b>
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On behalf of our staff, board, and the Criminal Justice Coalition convened by Empower Missouri, I am here today to oppose SB 678 and SJR 38. As an anti-poverty organization, we hold a strong belief that crime is often a symptom of poverty. Some people break the law in a desperate attempt to provide for their families. Others live in communities, both urban and rural, where there is an abiding sense of hopelessness. The disinvestment and poverty in these communities is often overwhelming. In Jackson County, 15% of residents live below the federal poverty line (FPL) (\$12,800 for one person; \$26,500 for a family of four) and nearly 40% live below 200% of the FPL (\$25,600 for one person; \$53,000 for a family of four). Communities ravished by poverty can become breeding grounds for drug use and other illicit activities. We can choose to address these issues through policing alone, or we can seek to address the root cause of the issue, working to ensure that every Missourian has an equal opportunity to thrive. Reallocating dollars from law enforcement to programs aimed at decreasing poverty and preventing crime is smart policy. It is important to remember that this was the impetus for the situation that prompted this legislation— that Kansas City’s leadership wanted to attempt to allocate a small percentage of the police budget to crime prevention efforts. This effort has been painted as “defunding the police” or even “abolishing police.” It is important to note that simply isn’t true, and conflating trying new anti-poverty, crime prevention policies with anti-police sentiment is dangerous. It creates unnecessary conflict and animosity. We can share respect for the police and also believe that police hold too many roles in our society. Where poverty rages, there are many homeless people. We shouldn’t have police interacting with homeless individuals unless they are a direct threat to public safety. Where poverty rages, there are many struggling with mental health and addiction. We shouldn’t be policing those individuals; we should be providing them with case management and treatment. This type of social service intervention will reduce crime— and tasking other people who are specifically trained in this type of intervention shouldn’t be an insult to police. Decreases in poverty will mean decreases in crime. Decreases in homelessness will mean decreases in crime. Increases in mental health services and addiction treatment will mean decreases in crime. We can both respect the efforts of law enforcement and also want to try different approaches to preventing crime across our state. We should allow every city in Missouri to make its own decisions about how it spends locally generated revenue, and how it addresses both poverty and crime.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CITY OF KANSAS CITY AND KANSAS CITY CHAMBER</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2022 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2022 5:09 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**This is big government overreach that wrests local control from municipalities.**