



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1073</b>		DATE: <b>4/11/2023</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</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>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF - STATE PUBLIC AD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/11/2023 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/11/2023 11:08 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY CHANT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR CHILDREN</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 E CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/11/2023 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RYAN CONWAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-751-2209</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>221 W. HIGH STREET</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>ryan.conway@dss.mo.gov</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/11/2023 11:39 AM</b>

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

Currently, the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), in accordance with §210.133 RSMo. We have found through research that the only other agencies that are similarly accredited are the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and the Illinois Department of Children's Services. We have additionally found that child welfare agencies in West Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana and Maryland have pursued or are pursuing such accreditation, however they're not currently accreditation. Accreditation through COA is estimated to cost \$231,000 over the course of four years, with 63% of those funds being from general revenue, and 37% being federal funds. Between SFY 2017 and 2022, the total cost of COA accreditation was \$245,931.50. One of the largest components of COA accreditation is the requirement that all case workers have at least a four-year college degree. In conversation with line-level case workers and first-level supervisions in numerous circuits across Missouri, we have been told that this degree requirement precludes the hiring of some retired law enforcement officers who have spent large chunks of their professional lives investigating crimes, particularly crimes against children. Of course, this does not preclude all retired police officers from joining Children's Division, however we've been told it happens too frequently not to mention. Thank you for your time; hopefully this testimony provided helpful context for your consideration of Rep. Deaton's HB 1073. Should you wish to discuss this any further, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the information listed on this form. Thank you!