



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 129</b>		DATE: <b>1/31/2023</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Veterans</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDSAY BEAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>312-450-6618</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>111 N WABASH AVE, SUITE 1010</b>			
CITY: <b>CHICAGO</b>		STATE: <b>IL</b>	ZIP: <b>60601</b>
EMAIL: <b>lbeaver@uniformlaws.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/30/2023 10:01 AM</b>

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

My name is Lindsay Beaver. I am Legislative Counsel at the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). Thank you for the opportunity to express support of HB 129, which would adopt the Uniform Deployed Parent Custody and Visitation Act (UDPCVA), a uniform act prepared and promulgated by the ULC in 2012. The ULC, one of the oldest state organizations designed to encourage interstate cooperation, was chartered in 1892 to promote uniformity in law through voluntary action of each state government. Since its inception, the ULC has drafted more than 300 uniform laws on numerous subjects and in various fields of law, which have been enacted over 6,000 times by state legislatures. Each promulgated act, including the UDPCVA, undergoes a multiyear drafting process involving a number of stakeholders. Missouri has 13,193 active duty servicemembers. When these servicemembers receive notice of a deployment, this can raise difficult child custody issues for families with young children. Issues that can profoundly affect children’s welfare and service members’ ability to serve our country efficiently. Reports of servicemembers struggling to balance military and parental duties have become commonplace. HB 129 seeks to help military families by alleviating unnecessary complexities and enhancing predictability. There are numerous reasons for Missouri to join the 16 other jurisdictions that have adopted the UDPCVA. Here are just a few ways in which the HB129 helps military families: HB 129 represents a balanced approach that protects the rights of the servicemember, the other parent, and—above all—the best interest of the children involved. It promotes fairness by ensuring that servicemembers face a similar standard regardless of where they currently reside or might move or be deployed to in the future. Uniformity of state law helps military families navigate a multi-jurisdictional issue more easily. While many states have enacted some legislation addressing parental deployment, these laws often differ greatly across jurisdictions, and this variance creates uncertainty because custody issues relating to the child of a servicemember will often involve two or more states. Deployment is often sudden and leaves families little time to address logistical issues. HB 129 streamlines processes by providing two methods for creating a temporary delegation of custodial responsibilities during deployment. It provides for a temporary agreement between the parents, but also procedures for obtaining a temporary court order following a hearing. This is helpful when, despite best efforts, parents may not be able to reach an agreement out of court on the expedited pre-deployment timeline. HB 129 sets out procedures for a limited period of transition after deployments for more than six months. This strikes a balance between the servicemembers interest in quickly resuming custody against the possibility that resuming custody may not be in the child’s best interest. The UDPCVA is an important step toward improving the lives of military families. It has been supported by stakeholders like the U.S. Defense Department and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. In February 2013, the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors approved it for consideration by the 50 states. Our servicemembers are risking their lives; they should not have to risk their families as

well. Thank you very much for allowing me to testify in support of HB 129. I am happy to address questions or provide additional information.



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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>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2023 11:51 PM</b>	
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**This Issue is already provided for in Federal Code. Do not Reinvent the Wheel with Parents Custody and Visitation already decided upon by the Courts.**