



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 301		DATE: 1/30/2023	
COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: COALITION OF SURETY BOND AGENTS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 156			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 150995			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: freedomprinciplestl@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 11:32 AM	

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

On behalf of the members and supporters of the Freedom Principle MO, I am writing you in support of Representative Lane Roberts (Dist. 161) bill, HB 301 "Public Safety." The specific portion of the bill we are referring to and supporting is the section for Special Prosecutor (Section 56.601. This provision allows the Governor to appoint a special prosecutor in the City of St. Louis. We are supporting this bill because the crime in St. Louis City is out of control, and it is because of the incompetence and corruption to prosecute criminals by St. Louis City Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner. The Freedom Principle MO has twice sent Governor Parson a letter requesting to invoke Missouri Statutes 27.030 and/or 106.250 in May and September 2022 to appoint the Attorney General or someone from the Attorney General's office to prosecute felonies and to oversee and assist in prosecutions. Twice our letters have been ignored. It is unfortunate that this bill must become necessary, but every week there is some revelation about the ineptness or corruption of the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's office. The latest revelation is a lawsuit by a former prosecutor against Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner and her lead staff person for racism which was reported in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and The Gateway Pundit. We are not surprised by this allegation as Ms. Gardner has had more than 100 percent turnover in her office when it comes to staffing and this carousel continues because of her incompetence. The Freedom Principle MO has been meeting and continues to meet with legislators to see what can be done to remove Ms. Gardner from office or at least give the Governor more power to step in and hold rogue prosecutors who refuse to uphold their oath of office accountable for their actions. The St. Louis City Police Department is doing everything it can to bring murderers to trial, but Kim Gardner's incompetence and her contempt for the police are allowing these criminals to go free and back to committing more crimes. HB 301 is ultimately needed because St. Louis City residents deserve justice. Since Kim Gardner was elected as St. Louis City Circuit Attorney in 2017 more than 1,243 people have been murdered and yet her prosecution rate is the lowest in the nation at 51 percent. The national average is 71 percent. In November 2022, KSDK News reported that evidence from more than 7,000 drug cases could be destroyed or eliminated because of the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's incompetence in bringing cases to court. This means more criminals will not be charged with felony drug crimes. The Freedom Principle MO applauds Representative Roberts for seeing this problem and taking the bold step in protecting St. Louis City residents. I have provided multiple news stories below dating back to 2020 as evidence of the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's incompetence and corruptness in the execution of her duties. The Freedom Principle MO is doing everything we can to support the residents of St. Louis City and its police. We need your help in this fight and HB 301 will be one of the most effective tools in protecting the residents of St. Louis City. September 2022 - Fox 2 News in St. Louis reported St. Louis City Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner dismissed more than 24,000 low-level cases. Many of these low-level cases are not victimless crimes. Some of these cases included hit-and-

run cases where an innocent citizen was either struck or killed by one of these criminals.
<https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/st-louis-municipal-court-dismisses-24000-low-level-cases-amid-backlog/> May 5, 2022 – Seven people who served on the special grand jury for the Eric Greiten’s case issued a letter to the Missouri Supreme Court to take “Stronger” action against Ms. Gardner. Specifically, these grand jurists state, “Our work exposed us to activity and behaviors in the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney’s office that we considered disturbing and unethical. What we observed was not inadvertent nor inconsequential but was calculated deceit and/or outright incompetence; neither of which is acceptable behavior for a person holding this public office.”
https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/grand-jurors-call-st-louis-circuit-attorneys-conduct-reprehensible/article_8753aa18-b665-5386-92e7-c8d53f2cbb4c.html#tracking-source=most-popular-homepage April 20, 2022 – KMOX Radio issues a report stating, “Kim Gardner’s office has a pattern of withholding discovery in criminal cases including murder.” This report also reported that a murder of a Souldard bar owner resulted in a mistrial because Ms. Gardner had a second-year law student from SLU sitting second chair at the prosecutor’s table.
<https://www.audacy.com/kmox/news/local/pattern-circuit-attorney-kim-gardner-withholding-evidence> April 13, 2022 – A judge dismisses murder and robbery charges against two women because the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s office had not turned over records in the case despite court orders to do so.
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2022-04-13/murder-charges-dismissed-against-2-women-in-st-louis> April 12, 2022 – Three murder suspects were acquitted of charges connected to killings of two St. Louis teens. St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner’s office failed to disclose evidence to the defense attorney. According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, “St. Louis Circuit Judge Jason Sengheiser ruled that investigators did not examine the phones of three people, including Clanton and Scales, and a ‘potentially exculpatory’ Facebook message that could have helped the defense.” https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/three-acquitted-of-charges-connected-to-killings-of-two-st-louis-teens/article_a60a95b5-78ea-5511-91a3-97f9e2a18767.html July 25, 2021 – Multiple murder cases were dropped after the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s office fails to appear in court. According to Fox 2 News, the prosecutor never showed up for court hearings in May, June, and again on July 14 because the assigned prosecutor was on maternity leave and the Circuit Attorney’s office failed to replace her. <https://fox2now.com/news/you-paid-for-it/judge-drops-murder-charges-after-no-show-of-prosecutor-from-st-louis-circuit-attorneys-office/> January 25, 2020 – A judge ruled St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, “Purposely violated the Sunshine Law,” and ordered the Circuit Attorney to search and produce open public records responsive to Just The News Editor John Solomon within 30 days. In addition, the judge fined Ms. Gardner \$5,000 for violating the open records law and criticized her office for “reckless, dilatory and intentional refusal to timely file a responsive pleading.” <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/missouri-court-st-louis-circuit-attorney-handling-open-records-lawsuit/63-fd61ea94-df5d-4035-961a-2e774e3e566e>



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COREY GREJTAK-HEAPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: coreyrgh@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 10:48 AM	
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I am specifically in support of 208.151. Providing MO Healthnet benefits at release is the rational, ethical thing to do. My only caveat is that the six-month timeline may be too short in certain situations. However, six months of health coverage would be extremely helpful to ensure those released with chronic illness have access to continuing medical care in lieu of deterioration due to lack of access to medication and care. The additional postnatal care in 208.151 is very appreciated to support the care of people who give birth and their babies. I am also in full support of 217.830 as obtaining documents would be an incredible asset and assist people upon release to have the tools to receive services. During my career in a program that requires documentation for enrollment, I have seen too many people in deep need of services unable to receive them because they didn't have the documents needed. However, I have deep concerns about the circumstances in which people held in detention do not receive their documents. It would be very helpful if anyone who enters the institution automatically opts in to receive a copy of their birth certificate and the process begins unless the individual has the documents on them. Please consider this as an intake activity to ensure people released have a critical tool upon release. If possible, it would be fantastic if two copies could be retrieved and one stays at a designated location that is accessible to the released person for one year after release. Often documents end up in backpacks that are stolen when people are unhoused so the easier it can be accessed, the better the odds the person has to enter services after incarceration. Regarding 571.070, I am not in support of the proposed changes. Specifically, I'm concerned by the lack of language that restricts people with protective orders against them to have firearms. Using the Bureau of Justice Statistics LEARCAT Rates on Demand tool, I looked to see the incident rate for Missouri in 2021 of violent crime and looked at the differences in rates by relationship between the offender and victim. The violent crime rate occurring between intimate partners was 407.1 per 100,000. Violent crime between friends or acquaintances was 260.4 in 100,000. Violent crime between family members (not spouses) was 168.2 in 100,000. Comparing these numbers to the violent crime between strangers at 116.9 in 100,000, it is clear that domestic violence is more frequently identified in Missouri than random violence in 2021. I could not locate data on the number of protective orders in Missouri, however, it would seem likely that people who obtain orders of protection likely have a close relationship with the person they are seeking protection from. Thus, additional safeguards need to be in place for individuals who have had protective orders against them in a specified number of years. I cannot speak to the other sections of the bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6006	
REPRESENTING: MO TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, MO RETAILERS ASSOCIATION, MO GROCERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1336			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HELEN THERESA GELHOT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hgelhot1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 12:42 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JANE DUEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-265-5072
REPRESENTING: ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, SLPOA, MOFOP		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
		ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY ASHCROFT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KARA CORCHES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY		TITLE: VP OF GOVT. AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 428 E. CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL: mallory@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 10:49 PM	

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Date: January 26, 2023 To: Chairman Roberts and Members, Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committee From: Mallory Rusch, Executive Director and Gwen Smith, Criminal Justice Policy Manager, Empower Missouri RE: HB 301

As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration.

HB 301 is a comprehensive criminal justice bill that addresses public safety in Missouri on various fronts. Increasing public safety is a top priority for many across our state, and HB 301 offers some innovative solutions that we fully support. It also includes a provision that would ultimately lengthen prison sentences for some offenses, and we are in the process of investigating the long-term potential effects of that provision more thoroughly.

HB 301 includes two key provisions for people returning from incarceration in the Department of Corrections. The re-entry period after someone returns from prison is a critical time fraught with many obstacles, including obtaining employment (sometimes for the first time, given that many individuals are incarcerated at a very young age), securing stable housing that meets any parole conditions, and generally readjusting to life on the outside. The ability to secure a job and housing is contingent on having the necessary vital paper documentation, including a state-issued identification card and birth certificate. Many Missouri residents returning home from prison do not have these documents prior to release and must scramble to get the documents in the first weeks after their release before they can start other necessary steps. Ensuring that all those leaving DOC custody have these documents is a huge step forward for Missouri. We echo our community partners with the "Show Me a Fresh Start" campaign in calling for the addition of payment for out-of-state birth certificates, as many Missouri residents were born elsewhere.

Access to healthcare is also a major concern for people coming home from prison. HB 301 would extend MOHealthNet services to those returning from prison for the first six months, providing a critical stopgap in healthcare for a time that many are without coverage. For individuals living in poverty prior to their incarceration, the healthcare they received while in DOC custody might have been their most consistent medical treatment to date. This is especially true for those with mental health conditions, who might be stabilized on medication at the time of their release, and for whom a lapse in medication upon release can be dangerously unstabilizing. The harsh environment and living conditions of prison can exacerbate pre-existing physical or mental health conditions for many, making post-release coverage even more important. Supporting individuals during the reentry process improves outcomes for both the individuals and

their families, while also reducing the likelihood that someone will return to prison and increasing public safety. HB 301 also contains a provision that would change the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm, making it legal for someone with a non-violent felony to be in possession of a firearm (currently, it is illegal for someone with any felony conviction to be in possession of a firearm). The loss of second amendment rights is one example of the many collateral consequences that a criminal record can carry, and is a top concern for many directly impacted community members who want to be able to legally protect themselves and their families. The provision of HB 301 that we are investigating in greater detail would add to the list of felony offenses subject to mandatory minimum prison terms for individuals with a prior DOC commitment. Decades of state and federal crime control policies have been based on the belief that harsh sentencing laws will deter people from committing crimes, but the evidence tells us otherwise. Twenty years ago, the U.S. incarcerated just over 1 million people. Today, with more than two million people behind bars, and state budgets depleted by the huge costs of prison, the social issues and public safety concerns that mass incarceration attempted to address are still as prevalent as ever. A growing body of research shows that there is no link between incarceration rates and reduction in violent crime, and the staggering costs are unsustainable. We know that for each \$1 spent on corrections, incarceration generates an additional \$10 in social costs that are often put directly on families, children and community members who have committed no crime. Simply put, increasing prison terms is not necessarily an evidence-based way to deter crime, and those resources could be better spent supporting community-based alternatives to incarceration. Currently, the minimum sentencing provisions for prison terms for those with a prior DOC commitment only apply to 84 felony offenses. This list of offenses is primarily composed of violent and sexual crimes but also includes several property crimes such as arson, stealing, and burglary. These 84 offenses currently subject to minimum sentencing provisions reflect those that pose the greatest risk to community safety. The proposed legislation would add approximately 300 additional felony offenses to this sentencing structure, including many poverty-related crimes such as passing a bad check, forgery, prostitution, perjury in a public assistance application, and child non-support arrears. The exclusion of drug-related offenses in HB 301 recognizes the reality that substance abuse is a physical and mental illness. Community-based treatment is the most impactful way to address addiction, rather than lengthy prison sentences. However, many of the proposed additions to the minimum sentencing provisions are offenses that may be a direct result of an individual's addiction to substances, including the examples shared above. Crimes of addiction should be addressed at the source, rather than punished and the underlying problems perpetuated by a traumatic period of incarceration, and HB 301 acknowledges this fact. We're very grateful for this. The same should be true for crimes of poverty, which are relatively low-level offenses that individuals commit in order to survive daily life and provide for their families. Rather than increasing sentencing penalties for these offenses, we should increase direct support for low-income families, and highlight community-based sentencing alternatives for those charges with poverty related offenses.

According to the Annual Offender Report FY21 put out by the Dept. of Corrections, approximately 15-20% of new admissions to Missouri prisons in the fiscal year 2021 were incarcerated on charges that would be added to the minimum sentencing structure by HB 301. Eight of the forty most frequently sentenced offenses in Missouri DOC are not currently subject to minimum term requirements but would be included in the proposed changes in HB 301, including tampering with a motor vehicle, forgery, and non-support. These charges already carry average sentence lengths of 5 years, 6 years, and 3.5 years respectively. Increasing the minimum terms to be served for these offenses will increase Missouri's prison population without making communities any safer. We respectfully encourage the committee to reconsider the blanket addition of nearly all felony offenses to the mandatory minimum sentencing structure. Instead, we ask you to further consult with law enforcement to determine which offenses, if any, that are not currently included in the sentence structure truly serve the interest of public safety through increased prison terms. The supports provided for those returning home from prison in HB 301 are a positive step forward for Missouri and will lead to reduced recidivism and increased community safety. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY ELLEN HOFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: meh0905@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2023 10:15 AM
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As a resident of St. Louis, Kim Gardner is failing miserably. We need a special prosecutor!!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WESTEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 8:03 PM
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I support this bill in it's original form. Please pass it out of committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN MYERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: susanmyers@socket.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 4:12 PM
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I wish to express my support for the portion of HB301 that changes the 'UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM' (Section 571.070) provision to apply only to individuals who have been convicted of a violent felony. Nonviolent felons should not have to give up their ability to protect themselves and their families for life. Also, I would very much like to see those who commit violent crimes in STL be held accountable, prosecuted and incarcerated; rather than slapped on the hand, released, and repeat.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AJ ROBINSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wealhtheow@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2023 5:03 PM
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This bill disenfranchises the people of St. Louis in our rights to democratically elect our local prosecutor. Now, more than ever, it is necessary that the government recognize democratic principles and the rights of the people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 11:40 PM

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Retired Chief Roberts, your Bill has some Good-Points and some Bad-Points. Why are you, who lives in Joplin, some 400-Miles away from the City of Saint Louis sticking your Nose into their Government and attempting to take away "Local-Control" of a Constitutional Charter City? Why? Allow the Voters to take action! Why you stepping on other Elected Officials of the Missouri House and the Missouri Senate that Represent the City of Saint Louis. This makes no sense, but to "Show-Boat" and flex your arms. Your Bill needs to refined, broken down into single subjects for Support!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 11:51 PM
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I am still a Hard NO on this Bill. There are seven (7) Sections of Changes that are not Concrete and Open-Ended. There NEEDS to be a Separation of ALL Seven (7) Sections as some Changes are good and some Sections have tons of questions. This Bill is NOT ready for "Prime-Time" and needs so much intense and In-depth Debate, Discussions and Refining. There are several State and Federal Constitutional Issues on the line with this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES PURNELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: charlespurnell@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 2:09 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHELSEA MERTA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: chelsea@lotuslawllc.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2023 8:04 PM

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

St. Louis regained local control of its police force in 2013, after 152 years of the state of Missouri controlling the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. St. Louis initially lost control of its police department when a pro-slavery governor revoked said control, to prevent the city from defending itself from invading Confederates. While the state held control of SLMPD, crime did not decrease. Crime was much higher under the state's control than it has been since the City regained control and began to implement policies that work for our community. By SLMPD's statistics, crime is declining in the City of St. Louis. Here's a Wikipedia article with an easy-to-read chart with citations to relevant data: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_St._Louis#Trends I think this is an important point to make because the facts - which don't care about your feelings - undermine the legitimacy of this bill. But for some reason, the State of Missouri wants to disrupt this positive news of decreasing crime. I would also note that when St. Louis DID have higher rates of crime, the state legislature didn't try to raise these concerns under the mayorships of Francis G. Slay, a white man, and Lyda Krewson, a white woman. There were no attempts to usurp control of the City's democratically-elected prosecuting attorneys under their leadership, even though Circuit Attorney Gardner won her seat in 2016 and held it for the last 3 years of Slay's administration, and all four years of Krewson's. Now that Gardner has won a second term and our mayor is a Black woman, the Missouri Legislature suddenly has concerns about a falsely-perceived "crime problem." Again -- all data shows that crime is declining in the City of St. Louis. Whether you like it or not, statistics show a downward trend in violent crimes and murders during Gardner's time in office. Your feigned concerns for "crime" in the City are unfounded. Baseless. Meritless. Fake news. On a related note, this law as written could not possibly survive judicial scrutiny, by targeting only one county in the entire state. This is wholly inappropriate and outside the bounds of whatever you think is legal. It's not. Frankly, I think the sponsor of this bill should be personally and individually liable for all financial expenses incurred by the state in defending such a blatantly unconstitutional bill. What you have proposed targets and disenfranchises St. Louis City voters, who overwhelmingly chose to keep Gardner in office for at least two terms. Appointing an unelected attorney who would hold the same prosecutorial powers as the elected Circuit Attorney is a clear circumvention of voters' rights and would only serve as an avenue for the disgraceful office of the Attorney General to further abuse St. Louis City residents. Our City overwhelmingly rejected the last one on Election Day, and I do not doubt that we'll reject Eric Schmitt 2.0 when he's up for election. So, what reason could the Missouri Legislature have, to take control over just *one* democratically-elected circuit attorney's office? It is racism - plain and simple. I think that Representative Roberts distrusts Black elected leaders who do not hold the same political views as him, and he sees an opportunity to control a majority-Black city that happens to be the second-largest in the state. His transparent attempts to interfere with the local politics of St. Louis stem from racism - and nothing else. How do I say this so confidently? Look at the numbers. Springfield goes back and forth with St. Louis annually

as the "most dangerous city" in Missouri based on per capita crime data - but this legislature isn't making moves to usurp control of Greene County or Springfield Police Department. This legislature would never support the state taking over the Bolivar Police Department, the Poplar Bluff Police Department, or the Nixa Police Department, so why is this any different? It's because our City knows racism when we see it, and we will name it and call it out and challenge it head-on. How is this proposed legislation NOT racist? Logically speaking, if HB 301 didn't originate from white supremacy, it would cover every prosecuting attorney's office in this State, not just St. Louis. This legislation is racist until proven otherwise.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 301		DATE: 1/30/2023	
COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER HINCKLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-589-6385	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CIRCUIT ATTORNEY's OFFICE		TITLE: CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 1114 MARKET ST., ROOM 401			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessmoffitt17@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:11 PM
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A Special Prosecutor is not need nor should they be appointed by the Governor. Funding should be provided to the prosecutors office so that they can hire enough staff to cover their case load effectively. The money that you could be using for this Special Prosecutor would be better served funding the already established Prosecutors office. A Special Prosecutor for this matter would be a waste of funding. If you are going to appoint a Special Prosecutor it should be for Innocence and Integrity Review - Missouri has so many cases of Innocence and not enough is done to investigate and remedy this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KENYA BRUMFIELD-YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Kenya.BrumfieldYoung@slu.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 7:19 PM

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

Greetings, Members Of The Public Safety Committee, I am Kenya Brumfield-Young, a Criminology and Criminal Justice professor at St. Louis, Missouri. My testimony on this matter in no way reflects the opinions of St. Louis University or its partners. I provide this testimony regarding HB 301. This bill allows the Governor to appoint a special prosecutor to the City of St. Louis for a renewable term of five years based on statistical need. That said, this bill lacks the framework that defines the specific data required for such an appointment, rendering the requirements overly vague. In addition, as this bill is titled "Public Safety," I believe that this bill deprives residents outside of St. Louis of the same specialized public safety measures, thereby violating the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment by not providing all residents of the state of Missouri, the equal access to the statutory public safety that this bill suggests. This bill also nullifies the will of the voters of St. Louis. The Circuit Attorney of St. Louis, Missouri, is an elected official selected by the voting rules as permissible in the State of Missouri. This bill proposes that the Governor override the authority of the voters rather than allowing the voters a mechanism to recall or otherwise exercise the power of the constituency. With these provisions in place, I cannot, in good faith, recommend that this bill move forward and respectfully request that these provisions either be removed or the bill voted "do not pass." Respectfully Submitted Professor Kenya Brumfield-Young Kenya.BrumfieldYoung@slu.edu



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 301		DATE: 1/30/2023
COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 11:28 AM

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

The people of St. Louis have twice elected Kim Gardner to her job as City prosecutor. For the Republicans in the Missouri Legislature, the so-called party of small government and local control, to propose the the Governor has the ability to appoint his own Special Prosecutor in the City of St. Louis is racist hypocrisy. How does Representative Roberts, out in Joplin, think he knows ANYTHING about what the people of St. Louis want or need. If the people of St. Louis didn't want Gardner as prosecutor, she would be voted out. I thought that's how our representative government is supposed to work, right? This is ridiculous culture war legislation proposed by people out of touch with the reality of St. Louis residents. To me, it's clear this is partisan revenge against progressive movements in St. Louis. Let St. Louisans govern St. Louis. Oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LOCKE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-0614	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS		TITLE: COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	
ADDRESS: 270 MADELINES PARK CIR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: locke.thompson@prosecutors.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 7:23 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Crime Prevention and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1137	
REPRESENTING: PRO CHOICE MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: maggie@prochoicemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 1:34 PM	

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Chairman, Vice-Chair, members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in opposition to HB 301. This bill is state-sponsored retaliation against the people and families of the City of St. Louis— of which the bill sponsor, who does not represent the City of St. Louis, happens to disagree politically. St. Louisans elect their own public officials in accordance with their own values. Family wellbeing is directly tied to the ability to effectively participate in the democratic process. This body should respect the people of St. Louis' democratic process and VOTE NO on this bill. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 11:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The people of St. Louis have twice elected Kim Gardner to her job as City prosecutor. For the Republicans in the Missouri Legislature, the so-called party of small government and local control, to propose the the Governor has the ability to appoint his own Special Prosecutor in the City of St. Louis is racist hypocrisy. How does Representative Roberts, out in Joplin, think he knows ANYTHING about what the people of St. Louis want or need. If the people of St. Louis didn't want Gardner as prosecutor, she would be voted out. I thought that's how our representative government is supposed to work, right? This is ridiculous culture war legislation proposed by people out of touch with the reality of St. Louis residents. To me, it's clear this is partisan revenge against progressive movements in St. Louis. Let St. Louisans govern St. Louis. Oppose this bill.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY F HIRSCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Hirschjam@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 7:16 PM	
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I am opposed specifically to the part of the bill relating to an appointment by the governor of a special prosecutor for the City of St. Louis Prosecutors Office. This concept is state government overreach not to mention a sizeable expense for the state of Missouri for the salaries of this Special Prosecutor, 15 attorneys and support staff, i.e. investigators. Why would any Missouri taxpayer not living in St. Louis want to pay for an entire staff in the St. Louis P.A.'s office to essentially take control of the City's P.A.'s office. That's the overreach! Eliminate this issue from HB 301. I have nothing to say about the Medicaid, MoNet, and rules for law enforcement training parts of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NICHOLAS WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nawebb@duck.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2023 8:26 PM
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Please stop trying to sabotage St. Louis, your ways weren't working here, and we want a prosecutor who thinks someone should be proven guilty in order to be found guilty. Our homicide rate's gone down for the past two years. You would make us less safe if you go through with your plans. If elections only matter when conservatives win, then how can you say we have rule of law?



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAUL LEYKAMP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: leykamp.paul@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 8:32 AM
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Just let STL be STL...



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REDDITT HUDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hudsonr@stlouiscao.org		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 10:13 PM
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Will submit in person. Opposed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RHIANNA MATHIAS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Rhianna.mathias@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2023 9:45 PM
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As a St. Louis City resident and voter, this disenfranchises me and my fellow neighbors! It is our right and we deserve to elect our own officials. I strongly oppose this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2023 10:49 AM

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While I support the provision of health care for formerly incarcerated individuals, I cannot support the rest of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN BERNSKOETTER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2822	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 E. HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GREGORY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 816-832-7546	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COALITION OF RECOVERY SUPPORT PROVIDERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1305 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD, SUITE D			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CARTER DOCHLER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-356-4109	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 4254 VISTA AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: jdochler@mffh.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2023 11:56 AM	

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

The Missouri Foundation for Health is an independent, nonprofit foundation whose mission is to eliminate underlying causes of health inequities, transform systems, and enable Missourians to thrive. Like you, we want Missouri to be a healthy place to live and work. The Foundation serves all Missourians although its primary focus is on 84 counties across Missouri and the city of St. Louis. We envision a Missouri in which systems and structures promote health and well-being for all, where all people have affordable and high-quality health insurance. Therefore, we are submitting information-only testimony regarding one part of House Bill 301, Section 208.151(28), which provides that, subject to approval of a state plan amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, any person who has been released from the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) within the previous six months and who does not have access to health insurance through a job or other avenues shall be eligible to receive MO HealthNet benefits for six months. Based on multiple studies, ensuring recently released inmates have access to Medicaid may have a positive impact on the individual and Missouri. On Jan. 16th, the National Conference on State Legislatures released a brief titled, "Connecting Recently Released Prisoners to Healthcare – How to Leverage Medicaid." It reports the following data:

- Recently released prisoners are more likely to experience and die from infectious diseases, chronic health conditions, substance use disorders, behavioral health disorders and severe mental illness.
- They continue to have higher risks of death and disease than the general population following release from incarceration.
- Connecting recently incarcerated individuals with healthcare coverage, specifically Medicaid, may reduce recidivism and improve the health and outcomes of this population.
- States that have adopted policies to connect recently released inmates with Medicaid coverage have seen evidence that individuals are more likely to access healthcare services. Please review the entire document: <https://www.ncsl.org/civil-and-criminal-justice/connecting-recently-released-prisoners-to-health-carehow-to-leverage-medicaid>
- In addition, medical journals report the following:
 - Poor health and poor health coverage have been major challenges for former prisoners trying to reintegrate into the community and find work.
 - States should consider policy changes to ease prisoners' transitions. One policy change is to connect former inmates to healthcare coverage which increases access to needed health services, decreases admissions to hospitals and emergency rooms, and reduces recidivism.