



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 549</b>		DATE: <b>3/23/2023</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</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. "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>3/23/2023 3:25 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I am in Support of this Bill and Making the Public Informed by Creating a State Registry. The public and Community have a Right-To-Know!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GWEN SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-324-9656</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>gwen@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/23/2023 6:12 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

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. We are providing testimony today regarding HB 549, sponsored by Representative Roberts. HB 549 would create a registry for individuals on supervision (probation or parole) who have been convicted of first or second degree murder. As discussed in today's hearing, it is the intent of the bill sponsor that those who were found not guilty of such offense by reason of mental disease or defect not be added to this registry. However, the current bill language does not reflect this. Empower Missouri strongly believes that it would not be in the best interest of public safety to publish the names of a population that is already subject to victimization- those with serious mental health disorders. Research shows\* that people with severe mental illnesses are over 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population. Theft and financial exploitation of those with severe mental health concerns is also a major concern. A searchable public database creates the opportunity for this vulnerable population to be an easy target, and at risk for an even higher chance of being victimized. Empower Missouri respectfully asks the committee to amend the current wording of HB 83 to address this concern, and ensure that those found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect not be included in any proposed registry. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. \* MentalHealth.gov. "Mental Health Myths and Facts." Mentalhealth.gov, 28 Feb. 2022, www.mentalhealth.gov/basics/mental-health-myths-facts



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL WESTEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/21/2023 10:27 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I oppose this bill. Our justice system is too flawed to justify a bill like this one. If passed, this bill would cause further damages to those who are wrongly convicted and later proved innocent.**