



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 83</b>		DATE: <b>2/22/2023</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</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>2/22/2023 11:56 PM</b>

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

**I am in Support of this Bill. We have seven Capital Trails that are On-Going. Smaller Counties can not afford this expense.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIEL GREEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN KAYLOR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>WORD&amp;WAY; CHURCHNET</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>bkaylor@wordandway.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 3:40 PM</b>
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**This bill wrongly creates financial incentive to execute people.**



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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: <b>4428 ELLENWOOD AVE</b>			
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>2/22/2023 3:35 PM</b>	

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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. **HB 83** would create a taxpayer fund to reimburse counties for the costs of sequestering juries when a change of venue happens in first-degree murder cases only when the death penalty is sought. Empower Missouri and the Community Justice Coalition strongly believe that Missouri's public safety dollars should be invested in programs proven to keep communities safe, rather than spending taxpayer dollars to support increased usage of the death penalty. Instead of creating a fund to preserve the death penalty system, we urge the legislature to look at how it is applied. In Missouri, the death penalty is usually pursued in only a handful of counties, though all taxpayers share the expense. 40% of those currently on death row in our state are from two of Missouri's 114 counties (25% - St. Louis County and 15% - Boone County). The disparate and highly clustered use of the death penalty by certain counties raises serious questions of unequal and arbitrary application of the law. Each decision to seek the death penalty is made by a single county district attorney, but all state taxpayers bear the substantial financial costs of each death penalty case. The cost of sequestering a jury in a capital case is one of the many hidden costs of the death penalty system. More than a dozen states have tried to capture the cost of death penalty cases and found evidence that they are up to 10 times more expensive than other comparable cases.\* Instead of passing legislation for change of venue cases, Missouri should do a full audit of the death penalty system to fully understand all of the hidden costs of this government program, which spends millions of public safety dollars and is proven not to deter crime. Empower Missouri respectfully asks the committee to oppose HB 83. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. \*Wasteful and Inefficient: The alarming cost of the death penalty. Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty. 2020.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA MOFFITT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jessmoffitt17@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 12:19 PM</b>

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Please do not allocate money to a change of venue fund, allowing for Death Penalty prosecution. Instead of creating a fund to expand the death penalty system, please allot public safety dollars to programs that are proven to deter crime and provide rehabilitation. The death penalty doesn't make us safer, reinvesting in education, health care and housing does. The death penalty is applied arbitrarily and it is a waste of tax payer dollars, dollars that could go towards helping local communities and victims family's. The death penalty only creates more victims and cycles of trauma. Missouri has life with out parole, there is no need for a death penalty or death penalty fund, nor should tax payer money to be used to fund this.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHARON GEUEA JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-808-2156</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 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>2/22/2023 9:06 AM</b>

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No. We should be doing away with the death penalty entirely.**