



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1433</b>		DATE: <b>2/29/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" 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 ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/29/2024 11:56 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I am opposed to this Bill. the Bill calls for increasing the weight of the Illegal Drug. This wrong!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GRACE IVERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>grace.tedder97@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 9:08 AM</b>

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I ask the committee to not pass this bill. While it may seem intuitive that further criminalizing substances like fentanyl would lead to less drugs on the street and thus healthier and safer communities, historically we have seen the opposite to be true - the drugs just get more potent and dangerous. My concern is that by criminalizing smaller amounts of fentanyl, people would be less likely to call for help in the event of an overdose or other emergency for fear of higher criminal charges associated with smaller amounts of illicit drugs than before. I urge the committee to NOT pass HB1433 and instead work on legislation that we know is effective in making our communities safer, like increasing access to treatment and recovery resources.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAUREN GREEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Lauren.M.Mackay@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 4:58 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB1433. This bill seeks to address the danger of the illicit drug supply and make our communities safer and healthier, which is a goal that we all share. However, HB1433 tries to accomplish this through increased criminalization, which will have the opposite of its intended effect, as we have seen via decades of research and experience. Most notably, HB1433 could impact the current Good Samaritan Law, which protects individuals experiencing an overdose and those who call 911 for help. By significantly decreasing the amount of fentanyl that falls under first degree trafficking, more individuals would be implicated in manufacture or distribution of controlled substances (which are not protected under the Good Samaritan Law) rather than possession (which is protected). In general, increased criminalization will likely lead to more fear and an unwillingness to call for help, undermining years of work to build trust between communities and first responders, reduce body dumping, and prevent fatal overdose. I am also concerned that further criminalizing smaller amounts of fentanyl and its analogues would add additional burden to our already over-capacity policing and judicial systems, while worsening public safety and community health outcomes. Such a drastic change to the amounts of fentanyl required for various trafficking charges could result in a much larger workload for these systems, diverting attention away from other crucial community issues. Finally, harsher penalties against illicit substances have consistently led to a more deadly drug supply rather than the desired effect of driving down substance use or crime. For example, stricter criminalization of heroin pushed the illicit market to fentanyl, which is far more potent, meaning smaller, less easily detectable amounts could be transported and sold in order to avoid criminalization. This more potent substance led to a massive increase in overdose and overdose death. Further criminalizing fentanyl and its analogues is likely to have the same effect - like any market, the products will evolve alongside the legal environment, which will consistently set-back efforts of our law enforcement, criminal justice system, healthcare and social service providers. I urge you to vote no on HB1433.