



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>2/5/2024 11:22 PM</b>

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

**I am in Support of this Bill and the Intention to allow Free Practice of Religion on Education Campuses, as afforded in both the Federal and the State Constitution.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BYRON KEELIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-402-0655</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 15095</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63110</b>
EMAIL: <b>freedomprinciplestl@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 6:34 AM</b>	

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The Freedom Principle MO supports this bill. We know many college campuses, allegedly say they are tolerant, but only tolerant if you think the same thing as their professors or administration. Many conservative voices are silenced on college campuses because they are intimidated by progressive organizations or denied the ability to form clubs on campuses. This bill would protect conservative organizations by prohibiting the administration and/or student association organizations from denying them the ability to organize. The only problem we have with this bill is that this bill is only for public institutions. We believe and strongly recommend this bill apply to all institutions of higher education. We believe that if a private or public university receives any type of government funding (loans, grants, and/or other tax breaks), they are prohibited from banning any club from organizing based on their religious and/or political beliefs. An example of this intolerance is against the St. Louis University College Republicans. They tried to hold an on-campus event that featured a conservative speaker, but at the last minute, the Student Government Association and the SLU administration told the club they had to move the event off campus. The second example of this intolerance is also with the St. Louis University College Republicans. They tried to form a Young American Foundation Chapter on campus but were denied, and we believe still being denied, the ability to organize an official chapter on campus because the Student Government Association turned down their request due to the progressive student organizations that comprise the student government called them a "hate group." We believe if SLU receives any state funding, they should be required to accept all non-discriminatory policy that includes political and religious speech or lose the funding.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CURTIS COLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-353-8367</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES, USA</b>		TITLE: <b>CAMPUS ACCESS SPECIALIST</b>	
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CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65801</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEE MILLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-258-3346</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>HARRISONVILLE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b> ZIP: <b>64702</b>
EMAIL: <b>deempr2662@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2024 9:34 PM</b>
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**It will prohibit conservative organizations from being blocked on college campuses. This should apply to any university that receives state taxpayer funds.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREGORY JAO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>greg.jao@intervarsity.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2024 8:24 PM</b>

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

February 4, 2024 Dear Chair Richey and members of the House Special Committee on Government Accountability, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA supports over 1000 student-led chapters on over 750 campuses across the country. In Missouri, we sponsor 24 student- and faculty-led chapters on 14 campuses. InterVarsity welcomes all students to participate in our activities and to join our groups as members. All that we ask is that the leaders of our diverse groups—fifty-four percent of whom are students of color or international students—embrace our faith in Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, increasing numbers of universities are interpreting otherwise good non-discrimination policies in ways which prohibit religious groups from using religious criteria in leadership selection (e.g., prohibiting Christian student groups from requiring their leaders to be Christian or banning Muslim student groups because they require their leaders to be Muslim.) Missouri students should be protected from this kind of behavior. Therefore, we support HB 1518 (the “Bill”) because religious student organization need protection from this kind of administrative overreach by universities and colleges. The problem is national and growing. Recently, three of our chapters which serve the University of Iowa faced derecognition because they require their leaders to be Christians. InterVarsity is not the only religious group that has been targeted. In July 2018, when the University of Iowa officially deregistered InterVarsity, it also deregistered other student groups, including the Sikh Awareness Club, the Chinese Student Christian Fellowship, the Imam Mahdi Organization, Geneva Campus Ministry, and the Latter-day Saint Student Association. And on February 1, 2019, the university admitted in federal court that it has placed 32 religious groups—and only religious groups—on a type of probationary status pending the resolution of ongoing litigation. To be clear, InterVarsity supports good non-discrimination policies and believes that they should be used to protect against invidious discrimination. But those otherwise good policies are being misinterpreted in ways which selectively prohibit religious groups from using religious criteria in leadership selection. It makes no sense to prohibit Christian student groups from requiring their leaders to be Christian or ban Muslim student groups because they require their leaders to be Muslim. Non-discrimination requirements should protect rather than penalize religious groups that want to retain their distinct religious character. Unfortunately, this problem is not limited to our InterVarsity chapter at the University of Iowa. InterVarsity recently faced similar problems nationwide, including at Michigan’s Wayne State University (where we have filed a similar lawsuit after the university abruptly derecognized a 75-year old chapter), University of New Mexico, University of Montana, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Northern Colorado University. Why religious student groups need religious student leaders InterVarsity values a tolerant, inclusive, welcoming campus environment; therefore, our groups welcome all students to be active participants and members. In fact, nearly 26% of InterVarsity’s active participants do not identify as Christians. It’s partially for this reason that religious student groups require clear religious-based criteria for leadership. 1. Religious-based leadership criteria help religious student groups remain

faithful to their original religious tradition, purpose, and goals even as large numbers of non-adherents participate in the group. 2.

Every religious tradition lays down specific requirements for their religious leaders. The Bill protects the right of students to select their religious leaders in a manner that is consistent with their faith, which reflects the best First Amendment jurisprudence and the highest aspirations of a tolerant and diverse campus environment.3.

Religious leadership requirements describe the necessary skills and conditions for student religious leaders to accomplish their religious leadership responsibilities. They insure that religious meetings—bible studies, prayer meetings, mentoring new converts, worship times—are led by people who embrace that religion.

These leadership requirements are akin to the skill requirements commonplace in intercollegiate athletics or in music and drama departments. The Bill under consideration protects religious student groups from discrimination claims in the same way that Title IX protects gender-based athletic teams.

The Bill strengthens current non-discrimination policies. Some with political motives will mischaracterize this bill as a “right to discriminate” bill. We disagree. This bill ensures that university non-discrimination policies achieve their purpose of creating a robust diversity of viewpoints and student groups, including religious student groups.1.

Religious student groups make their most distinct and valuable contribution to campus life when they remain true to their religious purposes. This requires leadership that embraces and embodies specific religious purposes. Religious student groups should be permitted to create leadership teams who can lead worship, prayer, and scripture study with integrity.2.

The bill protects students from state-sponsored overreach. The state of Missouri should not entangle itself in the internal organization of religious groups, and state-sponsored actors like a public university should not be permitted to determine how religious groups interpret and apply their religious teachings (including how they select their religious leaders). True separation of church and state means that Missouri should not pick pastors, rabbis, imams or other religious leaders.3.

Universities that value inclusion should welcome religious communities that authentically represent their religious traditions. They should use non-discrimination policies to encourage, not inhibit, these groups.4. The Bill requires universities to apply their non-discrimination policies equitably, giving religious groups (which require leaders to hold conforming religious beliefs) the same deference they offer to fraternities and sororities (which make membership decisions along gender lines), intercollegiate athletics or performing arts groups (which make membership decisions based, in part, on gender and able-bodied status), and non-religious advocacy groups (which can limit leadership to members who reflect the group’s creed or mission.) 5.

To the extent that Missouri universities and colleges already act in accordance with this bill, it affirms their current practice, imposes no financial cost, and creates no new administrative burden. Without the protections of the Bill, students in Missouri will find it increasingly difficult to find a safe, authentic, and welcoming religious community on campus. This will hurt all students, and we believe that it will particularly impact the retention of ethnic minority students who rely on supportive religious communities on campus. I urge you and your committee to approve the Bill and send it to the full House for a vote.

Also, I respectfully request that this letter be included in the record for this Committee’s hearing on HB 1518. Gregory L. Jao Senior Assistant to the President InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GUILLERMO VILLA TRUEBA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-7239</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>600 CLARK AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>villatruebag@mocatholic.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 11:02 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY CADY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-799-3277</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 94</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOHN WEBB</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mailto:jw53@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2024 11:15 PM</b>
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– I support this bill because it will prohibit conservative organizations from being blocked on college campuses, however, it should include private universities. This should apply to any university that receives state taxpayer funds. This would prohibit any university from banning any organization from forming on campus based on their religious and political beliefs.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KIRK HILZINGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kahilzinger@charter.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 8:52 AM</b>
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I am on the St. Louis City GOP Central Committee and we regularly have the SLU Republicans into join us during our meetings. They tell us what SLU has been doing to undermine them and push them away. What baffles me is that SLU is a Catholic based university and they are very much in support of things I would not think Catholics would support, like gender-transformations on minors and abortion. The SLU Republicans have had big name speakers they invited to their campus and the University forced them to move the event offsite at the last minute.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LANCE KINZER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-461-1227</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>1ST AMENDMENT PARTNERSHIP</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1730 M STREET NW</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20036</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA PANNETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>ARMORVINE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LORI D KEPNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>928-600-7433</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CRU</b>		TITLE: <b>SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL</b>	
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CITY: <b>ORLANDO</b>		STATE: <b>FL</b>	ZIP: <b>32832</b>
EMAIL: <b>lori.kepner@cru.org</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2024 6:58 PM</b>

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

Dear Chairman Richey and Members of the Committee: Cru (previously named Campus Crusade for Christ) supports HB 1518. As a senior legal counsel for Cru, I write today to offer Cru’s perspective as an organization with many religious student chapters all over the country. In Missouri alone, Cru has had thousands of students involved in our chapters at public universities and colleges over the years, providing support and bringing depth to their college experience. Cru has long respected the campus environment as a place where students can have robust discussion and hear and dialogue about diverse opinions and perspectives on life and learning. Religious groups contribute to campus life at universities in important ways. They help meet students’ spiritual needs, provide needed emotional support, and regularly participate in service activities on campus and in the community. Cru supports nondiscrimination policies and welcomes any student to participate in and become a member of its chapters. Yet, for religious groups to authentically pursue their purposes, they must be allowed to be religious by ensuring that their leaders can authentically teach and live out the faiths they represent. We appreciate that this bill focuses on protecting leadership selection. Every organization expects its leaders to agree with and pursue its goals, and its leaders are tasked with carrying out the organization’s mission. Leadership qualifications are often especially important for religious groups. For many religious adherents, religious understanding and the ability to teach religious tenets and practices involves more than intellect and knowledge; it also involves religious belief and experience. Prohibiting religious leadership criteria that is intended to preserve the religious mission of the religious student organization therefore leads to fundamental unfairness, and results in discrimination against religious groups, rather than preventing it. No group should be forced to choose between following its faith and losing student organization status or compromising the integrity of its religious identity in order to remain on campus. Diversity is beautiful and essential on the college campus, including ideological and religious diversity. HB 1518 will help to preserve diversity on Missouri campuses by allowing religious groups to be religious, thereby contributing to dialogue, tolerance, and understanding of perspectives different from one’s own. The principles underlying HB 1518 are also consistent with Supreme Court precedent. The Supreme Court has long recognized the importance of religious groups not being treated differently because they are religious. See, e.g., *Widmar v. Vincent*, 454 U.S. 263 (1981); *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia*, 515 U.S. 819 (1995); *Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217 (2000); *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer*, 137 S. Ct. 2012, 2019-2021 (2017). The Supreme Court made clear in both *Trinity Lutheran*, 137 S.Ct. at 2021, and in *Espinoza v. Montana Dep’t of Revenue*, 140 S. Ct. 2246 (2020), that government policies and laws may not “impose special disabilities on the basis of religious status.” *Espinoza*, 140 S.Ct. at 2254. The *Espinoza* court further clarified that the government may not disqualify “otherwise eligible recipients from a public benefit

solely because of their religious character.” *Id.* The benefits of being officially recognized as a student organization on a public university are significant. It is in the government’s interest to ensure that religious groups are given the same opportunities given to other student organizations. In fact, it is particularly important to preserve the internal religious autonomy of religious groups so that the government is not entangling itself in religious affairs. *Our Lady of Guadalupe Sch. v. Morrissey-Berru*, 140 S. Ct. 2049, 2060 (2020); see also *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church & Sch. v. EEOC*, 132 S. Ct. 694 (2012). The Eighth Circuit stated that it is clearly established law that it violates First Amendment law when a public university derecognizes religious student groups because they have religious leadership requirements, while treating other groups differently. *InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA v. University of Iowa*, 5 F.4th 855 (8th Cir. 2021). The University of Iowa had deregistered almost every religious group on their campus, including Sikh, Muslim, Protestant, and more, simply due to their requirement that their leaders agree with their religious beliefs. Other circuit courts have also emphasized the importance of First Amendment rights for religious student groups. For example, just last year the Ninth Circuit, in *Fellowship of Christian Athletes, et al. v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education*, 84 F.4th 664, 672 (9th Cir. 2023) (En Banc), found that a school district did not apply its policy fairly to religious groups, noting that it specifically penalized a group based on its religious beliefs. A district court in the Sixth Circuit also recently found that Wayne State University applied its policy inconsistently and acted unconstitutionally when it derecognized a religious group because of its leadership standards. *InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA v. Bd. of Governors of Wayne State Univ.*, 534 F. Supp. 3d 785 (E.D. Mich. 2021). In addition, both the Second and the Seventh Circuits have long upheld the right of religious student groups to have religious leadership requirements. See, e.g., *Christian Legal Society v. Walker*, 453 F.3d 853 (7th Cir. 2006); *Hsu v. Roslyn Union Free Sch. Dist.*, 85 F.3d 839, 856–62 (2d Cir. 1996). Nevertheless, challenges continue for religious students all over the country who are just seeking authentic communities of faith where they can find belonging and practice their religious traditions. Student faith communities provide significant help for many students to find emotional and mental health and pursue life balance, so it is beneficial for colleges to support the presence of healthy student organizations. Yet students in many religious organizations all over the country continue to have personal stories of their organizations being treated differently. These challenges rarely result in formal court proceedings, but are extremely disruptive to students’ college experiences. Cru Chapters have faced such challenges, both along the coasts and in the heartland of this nation. Cru has found that when universities target religious groups and treat them as suspicious because they expect leaders to agree with their beliefs, it greatly harms those student associations, causing them to lose momentum, the credibility that an official status brings, and the opportunity to serve the campus’ needs. It can be difficult to recover and often takes years to rebuild. In addition, when resolution does occur, it can feel ambiguous because students often don’t know if they have achieved a temporary or a permanent fix. Students may then have anxiety each time they seek to register their group, wondering if their common sense desire to have spiritually qualified leaders will be flagged or seen as problematic next time. Cru faced a challenge in 2016 at Southeast Missouri State University, when the Student Government passed a new nondiscrimination policy that applied to all leadership selection, but provided an exception for the Greek System as to gender. This meant that most groups could require agreement with their purposes and beliefs, but religious groups could not do so because their purposes and beliefs were framed around religion, a protected category. Although the policy uniquely disadvantaged religious student organizations, the Student Government rejected an amendment that would have addressed this unequal treatment of religious groups. After several religious groups communicated their concern to the university, they were granted “temporary University recognition” for the fall of 2016. The Student Government did eventually resolve the problem, but the long and confusing process was disruptive to students’ ability to focus on being caring and supportive communities, the very thing that most students are looking for in religious student organizations. Cru believes that the leadership selection principle at the heart of HB 1518 is important for all religious faiths. Diverse religious groups are in agreement that protecting religious groups is crucial to preserve religious diversity and expression—including many Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Catholic groups, among others. See, e.g., Slugh, Howard, “Religious Groups Led by Co-Religionists—It Shouldn’t Be Controversial,” *National Review*, Nov 23, 2018. See also Letter of Support for the Equal Campus Access Act of 2023, March 13, 2023, available here (signed by 34 diverse organizations in favor of a proposed federal bill). State legislation upholding student speech and association rights will help to ensure that religious student organizations are treated fairly at Missouri schools. Please act to protect religious students in Missouri, preserving their ability to form and find authentic faith-based communities where they can belong, live out their various faiths, and contribute to the rich diversity of viewpoints on the college campus. Sincerely, /s/ Lori D. Kepner Ms. Lori D. Kepner Legal Counsel Cru—General Counsel’s Office Lori.Kepner@cru.org



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL</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>2/5/2024 1:03 PM</b>
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**I SUPPORT HB 1518 as originally drafted. This bill is needed to protect the 1st Amendment rights (freedom of speech) of students and student groups on campuses of Missouri colleges and universities.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>		
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL</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>2/5/2024 8:15 PM</b>
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**I SUPPORT HB 1518 as originally drafted.**





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WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVE MCFARLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>703-894-1087</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LAW &amp; RELIGIOUS FREEDOM</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8001 BRADDOCK RD., STE. 302</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>VA</b>	ZIP: <b>22151</b>
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**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

To: Missouri House Special Committee on Government Authority  
 From: Steve McFarland, Director, Christian Legal Society's Center for Law & Religious Freedom  
 Date: February 1, 2024  
 Re: Hearing on HB 1518 to protect religious student associations at Missouri's public institutions of higher education  
 Christian Legal Society supports HB 1518, which will provide much needed protection for the ability of religious students to meet on college/university campuses. By passing HB 1518, the Legislature will conserve taxpayer dollars by preventing costly litigation that has resulted in other states when public universities adopted policies to exclude religious student groups because the groups require their leaders to share their core religious beliefs. This problem has arisen on many college campuses nationwide and, in 2016, at a public university in Missouri. Attached to the written statement sent to committee members are actual letters from university officials or student government representatives to religious groups threatening to exclude religious groups from campus because of the religious groups' requirement that their leaders agree with the groups' religious beliefs. (Attachments B, C, D, E, G, I, and K). These letters exemplify the problem that HB 1518 will prevent in Missouri. I respectfully request that this testimony (plus attachments that have been sent to each committee member) be included in the record for the hearing on HB 1518 before the House Committee on Higher Education scheduled for February 5, 2024. As this letter will explain:

- HB 1518 is a commonsense measure to protect religious students who wish to meet on Missouri college campuses.
- HB 1518 allows Missouri public universities to maintain whatever policies they choose so long as their policies permit religious student organizations to choose their leaders according to their religious beliefs.
- HB 1518 conserves scarce tax dollars by preventing costly litigation against colleges that adopt policies that exclude religious groups.
- HB 1518 would add Missouri to the expanding list of 16 states – Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia – that have enacted similar protections for religious or belief-based student groups. (Attachment AA lists the key provisions of these states' laws.)

I. For Four Decades, Christian Legal Society Has Defended Religious Student Organizations' Access to College Campuses. Christian Legal Society ("CLS") is a national association of Christian attorneys, law students, and law professors. CLS has attorney chapters located in cities throughout the U.S., including St. Louis and Kansas City. CLS has student chapters at law schools nationwide, including at the University of Missouri - Kansas City, University of Missouri - Columbia, and Washington University. CLS law student chapters typically are small groups of students who meet for weekly prayer, Bible study, and worship at a time and place convenient to the students. All students are welcome at CLS meetings. As Christian churches have done for nearly two millennia, CLS requires its leaders to agree with a statement of faith, signifying agreement with the

traditional Christian beliefs that define CLS. CLS has long believed that pluralism, essential to a free society, prospers only when the First Amendment rights of all Americans are protected regardless of the current popularity of their speech or religious beliefs. For that reason, CLS was instrumental in the passage of the federal Equal Access Act of 1984, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071 et seq., that protects the right of all students, including religious student groups and LGBT student groups, to meet for “religious, political, philosophical or other” speech on public secondary school campuses. Christian Legal Society’s religious liberty advocacy arm, the Center for Law & Religious Freedom, has worked for over forty years to secure equal access for religious student groups in the public education context, including higher education. Its staff has testified twice before the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives on the issue of protecting religious student organizations on college campuses.

**II. Religious Student Associations Need the Protection that HB 1518 Will Provide.** HB 1518 is a commonsense measure intended to protect religious student associations’ meetings on college campuses by prohibiting public college administrators from denying them meeting space because a religious student association requires its leaders or members to:

- adhere to the association’s sincerely held religious beliefs;
- comply with the association’s sincere religious practice requirements;
- comply with the association’s sincere religious standards of conduct; or
- be committed to furthering the association’s religious mission.

Of course, it is common sense – and basic religious freedom – for a religious association to expect its leaders to agree with the association’s religious beliefs, practices, standards of conduct, and mission. It should be common ground that government officials, including college administrators, should not interfere with religious associations’ religious beliefs, practices, standards of conduct, or mission. Unfortunately, this is a recurrent problem on many college campuses across the country, from California to Idaho, from Oklahoma to Ohio. HB 1518 would prevent such problems from recurring in Missouri by protecting Missouri students’ basic religious freedom. In so doing, Missouri would join a growing list of states that have adopted similar protections for religious student associations.

**A.** In its landmark decision in *Widmar v. Vincent*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the University of Missouri - Kansas City could not condition campus access on religious groups’ promise not to engage in religious speech. In the late 1970s, some university administrators began to claim that the Establishment Clause would be violated if religious student groups were allowed to meet in empty classrooms to discuss their religious beliefs on the same basis as other student groups were allowed to meet to discuss their political, social, or philosophical beliefs. The administrators claimed that merely providing heat and light in these unused classrooms gave impermissible financial support to the students’ religious beliefs, even though free heat and light were provided to all student groups. The administrators also claimed that college students were “impressionable” and would believe that the university endorsed religious student groups’ beliefs, despite the fact that hundreds of student groups with diverse and contradictory ideological beliefs were allowed to meet. In the landmark case of *Widmar v. Vincent*, the Supreme Court rejected these arguments by the University of Missouri - Kansas City. In an 8-1 ruling, the Court held that UMKC violated the religious student associations’ speech and association rights by “discriminat[ing] against student groups and speakers based on their desire to use a generally open forum to engage in religious worship and discussion. These are forms of speech and association protected by the First Amendment.” In other words, religious student groups have a First Amendment right to meet on public university campuses for religious speech and association. The Court then held that the federal and state establishment clauses were not violated by allowing religious student associations access to public college campuses. The Court ruled that college students understand that simply allowing a student group to meet on campus does not mean that the University endorses or promotes the students’ religious speech, teaching, worship, or beliefs. As the Court observed in a subsequent equal access case that protected high school students’ religious meetings, “the proposition that schools do not endorse everything they fail to censor is not complicated.” The Supreme Court has reaffirmed *Widmar*’s reasoning in numerous cases. In each case, the Court ruled that an educational institution did not endorse a religious association’s beliefs simply because it provided the religious association with meeting space. Access does not equal endorsement.

**B.** Discrimination against religious student groups continues. After the Supreme Court made clear that the Establishment Clause could not justify exclusion of religious student groups, some university administrators began to claim that university nondiscrimination policies were violated if the religious student groups required their leaders to agree with their religious beliefs. These administrators began to threaten religious student groups with exclusion from campus if they required their leaders to agree with the groups’ religious beliefs. It is common sense and basic religious freedom – not discrimination – for religious groups to expect their leaders to share the groups’ religious beliefs. Nondiscrimination policies serve valuable and important purposes. Ironically, one of the most important purposes of a college’s nondiscrimination policy is to protect religious students on campus. Something has gone seriously wrong when college administrators use nondiscrimination policies to punish religious student groups for being religious. Exclusion of religious student groups actually undermines the

purpose of a nondiscrimination policy and the good it serves. Such misuse of nondiscrimination policies is unnecessary. Nondiscrimination policies and students' religious freedom are eminently compatible, as shown by the many universities with nondiscrimination policies that explicitly recognize the right of religious groups to require that their leaders share the groups' religious beliefs. Unfortunately, some universities have chosen to misuse their nondiscrimination policies to exclude religious student associations from campus. Alternatively, some universities have excluded religious student associations by claiming to have what they call "all-comers" policies, which purport to prohibit all student associations from requiring their leaders to agree with the associations' political, philosophical, religious, or other beliefs. However, a true "all-comers" policy rarely, if ever, actually exists. By way of example, in the 2015-2016 academic year, Indiana University announced that it intended to change its policy. Under the new policy, the university specifically stated that a religious student group "would not be permitted to forbid someone of a different religion, or someone non-religious, from running for a leadership position within the [religious group]." Only after months of criticism from alumni and political leaders, as well as the threat of litigation, did Indiana University revert to its prior policy of allowing religious student groups to choose their leaders according to their religious beliefs. Also in the 2015-2016 academic year, a religious student organization at Southeast Missouri State University had its recognition revoked by the student government because it refused to insert a newly required nondiscrimination statement into its constitution. The group tried to persuade the student government to allow religious groups to have religious leadership requirements; however, the student government voted against adding language to its bylaws to protect religious groups' right to have religious leadership requirements. After this vote, additional religious groups communicated to the administration that they would not remove their religious leadership requirements from their constitutions. After several months, the administration sent the religious organizations letters stating that the student government had voted to "abandon their non-discrimination statement and to replace it with the University's non-discrimination statement." However, university policies still lack written protection for the right of religious groups to have religious leadership requirements. In 2021, student governments at the University of Idaho and the University of Virginia similarly tried to penalize religious student groups because they required their leaders to agree with their religious beliefs. Because the Idaho and Virginia legislatures had the foresight to pass laws to protect religious student groups on public university campuses, the university administrators expeditiously reversed the student governments' discriminatory actions against the religious student organizations in both instances. The universities not only avoided needless litigation, but also sent religious students (and their parents) the reassuring message that they were welcome on their campuses. HB 1518 would allow Missouri's public universities and colleges to have whatever policies they wish. HB 1518 would only require that whatever policy a college chooses to have must respect religious student groups' right to choose their leaders according to their religious beliefs. HB 1518 would thereby protect Missouri public colleges/universities, and the taxpayers that fund them, from costly litigation. Equally importantly, HB 1518 would protect religious students from discrimination on Missouri campuses and secure their basic freedoms of speech and religion. C. HB 1518 would avoid the problems that other states have experienced and that some states have addressed through similar legislation.<sup>1</sup> California State University excluded religious student associations with religious leadership requirements from its 23 campuses, including religious groups that had met on its campuses for over forty years. The California State University comprises 23 campuses with 437,000 students. In 2014, Cal State denied recognition to several religious student associations, including Chi Alpha, InterVarsity, and Cru. For example, the student president of a religious student association that had met on the Cal State Northridge campus for forty years received a letter that read: This correspondence is to inform you that effective immediately, your student organization, Rejoyce in Jesus Campus Fellowship, will no longer be recognized by California State University, Northridge. The letter then listed seven basic benefits that the religious student association had lost because it required its student leaders to agree with its religious beliefs, including: (1) free access to a room on campus for its meetings; (2) the ability to recruit new student members through club fairs; and (3) access to a university-issued email account or website. As the letter explained, "[g]roups of students not recognized by the university . . . will be charged the off-campus rate and will not be eligible to receive two free meetings per week in [university] rooms." As a result, some religious student groups faced paying thousands of dollars for room reservations and insurance coverage that were otherwise free to other student groups. The problem arose because Cal State re-interpreted its nondiscrimination policy to prohibit religious student groups from having religious leadership requirements. But in announcing that religious student groups could not have religious leadership requirements, Cal State explicitly and unfairly allowed fraternities and sororities to continue to engage in sex discrimination in selecting their leaders and members. <sup>2</sup> The Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation similar to HB 1518 after Vanderbilt University excluded fourteen Catholic and evangelical Christian organizations from campus, including a Christian group because it required its leaders to have a "personal commitment to Jesus

Christ.” In 2011, Vanderbilt University administrators informed the CLS student chapter at Vanderbilt Law School that the mere expectation that its leaders would lead its Bible studies, prayer, and worship was “religious discrimination.” CLS’s requirement that its leaders agree with its core religious beliefs was also deemed to be “religious discrimination.” Vanderbilt told another Christian student group that it could remain a recognized student organization only if it deleted five words from its constitution: that its leaders have a “personal commitment to Jesus Christ.” The students left campus rather than recant their commitment to Jesus Christ. Catholic and evangelical Christian students patiently explained to the Vanderbilt administration that nondiscrimination policies should protect, not exclude, religious organizations from campus. But in April 2012, Vanderbilt denied recognition to fourteen Christian organizations. While religious organizations could not keep their religious leadership requirements, Vanderbilt permitted fraternities and sororities to engage in sex discrimination in selecting leaders and members. After Vanderbilt adopted its new policy, the University of Tennessee reportedly claimed to have a similar policy. In response, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted T.C.A. § 49-7-156 to protect the right of a religious student association on a public college campus to “require[] that only persons professing the faith of the group and comporting themselves in conformity with it qualify to serve as members or leaders.” 3. The Kansas Legislature passed legislation similar to HB 1518 in order to protect religious student associations at Kansas public universities. In 2016, the Kansas Legislature enacted K.S.A. §§ 60-5311 – 60-5313 in order to ensure that Kansas taxpayers’ money would not be spent on unnecessary litigation resulting from its public universities misinterpreting existing policies – or adopting future policies – to exclude religious groups from campus because they had religious leadership requirements. In 2004, the CLS student chapter at Washburn School of Law had allowed an individual student to lead a Bible study. But it became clear that the student did not hold CLS’s traditional Christian beliefs. CLS told the student he was welcome to attend future CLS Bible studies, but that he would not be allowed to lead them. Even though the student admitted that he disagreed with CLS’s religious beliefs, he filed a “religious discrimination” complaint with the Washburn Student Bar Association, which threatened to penalize CLS for its refusal to allow a student who disagreed with its religious beliefs to lead its Bible study. Only after CLS filed a federal lawsuit did the Student Bar Association reverse course. 4. The Oklahoma Legislature passed legislation similar to HB 1518 in order to protect religious student associations at Oklahoma public universities. In 2011, the University of Oklahoma Student Association sent a memorandum to all registered student organizations that would prohibit religious student associations’ religious leadership and membership criteria. After unwelcome publicity, the university disavowed the student government’s memorandum. In 2014, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted language similar to HB 1518. The “Exercise of Religion by Higher Education Students Act,” 70 Okl. St. Ann. § 2119, protects students’ religious expression at Oklahoma universities and colleges. It protects religious student organizations from exclusion from state college campuses because of their religious expression or because they require their leaders to agree with the organizations’ core religious beliefs. 5. The Idaho Legislature passed legislation similar to HB 1518 after Boise State University threatened religious student associations with exclusion. In 2008, the Boise State University student government threatened to exclude several religious organizations from campus, claiming that their religious leadership requirements were discriminatory. The BSU student government informed one religious group that its requirement that its leaders “be in good moral standing, exhibiting a lifestyle that is worthy of a Christian as outlined in the Bible” violated the student government’s policy. The student government also found that the group’s citation in its constitution of Matthew 18:15-17 violated the policy. The student government informed a religious group that “not allowing members to serve as officers due to their religious beliefs” conflicted with BSU’s policy. In response to a threatened lawsuit, BSU agreed to allow religious organizations to maintain religious leadership criteria. In 2012, however, BSU informed the religious organizations that it intended to adopt a new policy, which would exclude religious organizations with religious leadership requirements. In response, the Idaho Legislature enacted Idaho Code § 33-107D to prohibit colleges from “tak[ing] any action or enforc[ing] any policy that would deny a religious student group any benefit available to any other student group based on the religious student group’s requirement that its leaders adhere to its sincerely held religious beliefs or standards of conduct.” In 2021, the University of Idaho College of Law student government delayed recognizing the CLS student organization because of its religious leadership requirements. After CLS’s counsel wrote a letter to the University administration noting the Idaho law, the University administration granted recognition to the CLS students as an official student organization. 6. The Ohio Legislature passed legislation like HB 1518 after The Ohio State University threatened to exclude religious student associations if they required their leaders to share the associations’ religious beliefs. In 2003-2004, the CLS student chapter at the OSU College of Law was threatened with exclusion because of its religious beliefs. After months of trying to reason with OSU administrators, a lawsuit was filed, which was dismissed after OSU revised its policy “to allow student organizations formed to foster or affirm sincerely held religious beliefs to adopt a nondiscrimination statement consistent with those beliefs in lieu of adopting the

University's nondiscrimination policy." Religious groups then met without problem from 2005-2010. In 2010, however, OSU asked the student government whether it should change its policy to no longer allow religious groups to have religious leadership and membership requirements. The undergraduate and graduate student governments voted to remove protection for religious student groups. In response, in 2011, the Ohio Legislature prohibited public universities from "tak[ing] any action or enforc[ing] any policy that would deny a religious student group any benefit available to any other student group based on the religious student group's requirement that its leaders or members adhere to its sincerely held religious beliefs or standards of conduct." Ohio Rev. Code § 3345.023. 7.

The Arizona Legislature passed legislation to protect religious student associations and students' religious expression. In 2011, Arizona enacted A.R.S. § 15-1863, which protects religious student associations' choice of their leaders and members. In 2004, Arizona State University College of Law had threatened to deny recognition to a CLS student chapter because it limited leadership and voting membership to students who shared its religious beliefs. A lawsuit was dismissed when the University agreed to allow religious student groups to have religious leadership and membership requirements. 8.

The Virginia General Assembly, North Carolina General Assembly, Kentucky Legislature, Louisiana State Legislature, and Arkansas General Assembly also have passed legislation to protect religious student associations' religious freedom. To protect religious student organizations that had sometimes been threatened with exclusion from various University of North Carolina campuses, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted N.C.G.S.A. §§ 115D-20.1 & 116-40.12. The law prohibits colleges from denying recognition to a student organization because it "determine[s] that only persons professing the faith or mission of the group, and comporting themselves in conformity with, are qualified to serve as leaders of the organization." N.C.G.S.A. § 116-40.12. The Virginia General Assembly passed a similar law in 2013 (Va. Code Ann. § 23-9.2:12), as did the Kentucky Legislature in 2017 (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 164.348 (4)), the Louisiana State Legislature in 2018 (LSA-R.S. 17:3399.33), and the Arkansas General Assembly in February 2019 (A.C.A. § 6-60-1006). D. HB 1518 aligns with federal and state nondiscrimination laws that typically protect religious organizations' ability to choose their leadership on the basis of religious belief. No federal or state law, regulation, or court ruling requires a college to adopt a policy that prohibits religious groups from having religious criteria for their leaders and members. To the contrary, federal and state nondiscrimination laws typically protect religious organizations' ability to choose their leaders on the basis of their religious beliefs. The leading example, of course, is the federal Title VII, which explicitly provides that religious associations' use of religious criteria in their employment decisions does not violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its prohibition on religious discrimination in employment. In three separate provisions, Title VII exempts religious associations from its general prohibition on religious discrimination in employment. 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-1(a) (does not apply to religious associations "with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on" of the associations' activities); 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(e)(2) (educational institution may "employ employees of a particular religion" if it is controlled by a religious association or if its curriculum "is directed toward the propagation of a particular religion"); 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(e)(1) (any employer may hire on the basis of religion "in those certain instances where religion ... is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of that particular business or enterprise."). In 1987, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Title VII's exemption against an Establishment Clause challenge. Concurring in the opinion with Justice Marshall, Justice Brennan insisted that "religious organizations have an interest in autonomy in ordering their internal affairs, so that they may be free to ... select their own leaders, define their own doctrines, resolve their own disputes, and run their own institutions." In 2012, in *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sch. v. EEOC*, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the federal government's argument that federal nondiscrimination laws could be used to trump religious associations' leadership decisions. The Court acknowledged that nondiscrimination laws are "undoubtedly important. But so too is the interest of religious groups in choosing who will preach their beliefs, teach their faith, and carry out their mission." In their concurrence, Justice Alito and Justice Kagan stressed that "[r]eligious groups are the archetype of associations formed for expressive purposes, and their fundamental rights surely include the freedom to choose who is qualified to serve as a voice for their faith." E. HB 1518 will conserve taxpayers' dollars by preempting costly lawsuits. HB 1518 would help Missouri's colleges avoid costly litigation for which the taxpayers and students foot the bill. HB 1518 would protect colleges from adopting policies that are highly problematic. Such policies expose colleges – and state taxpayers – to costly lawsuits. As seen in Section C, sometimes the impetus for policies that harm religious groups comes from student government rather than university administrators. HB 1518 would provide administrators with a substantive reason for resisting student government's potential harassment of, and discrimination against, religious student associations. Judge Kenneth Ripple of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has explained why misinterpretation of nondiscrimination policies places a particular burden on religious groups: For many groups, the intrusive burden established by this requirement can be

assuaged partially by defining the group or membership to include those who, although they do not share the dominant, immutable characteristic, otherwise sympathize with the group's views. Most groups dedicated to forwarding the rights of a "protected" group are able to couch their membership requirements in terms of shared beliefs, as opposed to shared status. Religious students, however, do not have this luxury—their shared beliefs coincide with their shared status. They cannot otherwise define themselves and not run afoul of the nondiscrimination policy.... The Catholic Newman Center cannot restrict its leadership—those who organize and lead weekly worship services—to members in good standing of the Catholic Church without violating the policy. Groups whose main purpose is to engage in the exercise of religious freedoms do not possess the same means of accommodating the heavy hand of the State. The net result of this selective policy is therefore to marginalize in the life of the institution those activities, practices and discourses that are religiously based. While those who espouse other causes may control their membership and come together for mutual support, others, including those exercising one of our most fundamental liberties—the right to free exercise of one's religion—cannot, at least on equal terms. Conclusion HB 1518 is needed to ensure that religious students continue to be welcome and respected on Missouri campuses. If university students are taught that the government can dictate to religious groups what religious beliefs their leaders may or may not hold, religious freedom will be diminished not just for the religious students on campus, but eventually for all Missourians whose religious freedom will be at risk if their fellow citizens hold such an impoverished understanding of this most basic human right.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
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<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>XITONG BAI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
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The Rev. Aaron M. Rogers Testimony in Opposition to HB 1518 My name is Rev. Aaron Rogers. I reside in Florissant, MO and am the priest of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Ferguson, MO. I am also the father of a graduating senior who has hopes to enter college this fall. My younger daughter is poised to follow her sister into college just a few years afterwards. I write to advocate for them and for all students and parents in my community who want college to be healthy, safe and meaningful experience in the lives of their children. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group’s political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. I DO NOT want my tax dollars to fund discrimination. I DO NOT want my tax dollars to prevent my children—or any children-- from fully participating in student leadership and college life. I DO NOT want my tax dollars to further embolden divisive barriers in public life. As a Christian, I want my children to grow up in a state where they learn Christians values from our example and NOT from tyrannical organizations buttressed with tax money. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri’s Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers’ money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
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**Stop trying to discriminate against students.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY HAMMERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-494-5410</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE POLICY ADVOCATE</b>
ADDRESS: <b>295 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>akuo.hammerman@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 4:03 PM</b>

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I am Amy Kuo Hammerman. I volunteer as State Policy Advocate with the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis, a nonprofit organization representing 5,000 members and supporters from across the state. We are guided by Jewish values to improve the lives of women, children, and families through direct services, education, advocacy, and philanthropy, while safeguarding individual and civil rights. I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 1518 because it will legislate permission by organizations using public funds and facilities to discriminate based on essential human traits, such as religion, race, sex, sexuality, and gender identity. Our public institutions, particularly of higher education, must be open to all. To allow organizations to exclude people based on constitutionally-protected characteristics violates the very nature of our republic. I urge you to vote NO on HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN KAYLOR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>WORD&amp;WAY</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>2/5/2024 11:09 AM</b>
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**All student groups should be treated equally and subject to the same rules to receive the benefits of being an official student group. This bill would give special rights to some. The status quo is better as it treats all student groups the same and better protects the rights of students.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>		
TESTIFYING: <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>DANY LACIO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dany@promoonline.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:48 PM</b>

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Rep Hudson mentioned that our founding fathers wanted this. Unlike Representative Hudson I have a degree in history and it is repeatedly mentioned that the founding fathers wanted a separation of church and state. That was the entire reason why they came from "across the pond" to govern themselves and with that John Locke and Rogers Williams established a separation of church and state, it was formalized in a 1905 law providing for the separation of church and state, that is, the separation of religion from political power. This model of a secularist state protects the religious institutions from state interference, but with public religious expression to some extent frowned upon. We established this so government couldn't tell churches what to do which means that churches shouldn't be telling others what they should and should not to. This also dismisses any religion that isn't Christianity. The Republican keeps saying how they are the party of limited government. How is this not a complete government overreach. The discrimination some of the supporters they mentioned is what LGBTQ+ and people of color deal with every single day in this country. Clearly the GOP have an agenda to rid anyone who isn't white, straight, and Christian. That itself the Bible says is wrong.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>		
TESTIFYING: <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>DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dems22blue@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 5:29 PM</b>

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I urge you to oppose this bill. The bill sponsor indicated that "pluralism" is the goal of this bill, however the underlying ideology of this bill indicates it is anything but. It is trying to avoid taxpayer money from being spent on lawsuits but I'm not sure it will; the sponsor's fiscal note is not sure either.. Even if this is put into law, nothing is stopping lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of this law because it is codifying discrimination. It discounts the needs of students who are at a time in their lives when they are searching and evolving their opinions. This bill assumes that al organizations are static in their beliefs and uninterested in change. I was often the only woman in some spaces in college in the 1980s. I was not welcomed with open arms but they couldn't prohibit my attendance. This bill would change. Organizations become better with a diverse opinions. If organizations do not want folks in leadership then they can vote against them. It seems sad that organizations don't have faith in their members and feel a need to rig the system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-600-6018</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MOEEP-A</b>		TITLE: <b>PAL TEAM LEADER</b>
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1352</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. CHARLES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63303</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>DR. SUSAN SHELBY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>ELLEN LEAR ROSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lear.rose@slu.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 8:08 AM</b>	
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Hello, my name is Lear Rose, and I am a current college student at St Louis University. I am deeply concerned about HB 1518 passing into law, which would allow College organizations to discriminate on the basis of political orientation, race, disability status, sexual identity, gender identity, and religious orientation. Not only does this bill interfere with the operation of student clubs and the promotion of diversity and inclusion on college campuses, but it also sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to the introduction of hate speech on college campuses like SLU. Government and University standards play a vital role in desegregating college organizations such as Greek Life, which historically have discriminated on racial and class lines. this bill would Grant college students the license to discriminate and open the door for less accepting and ultimately less safe campuses for everyone involved. As a college student, I urge you to vote no and allow universities to run themselves without government interference.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>GENEVIEVE STEIDTMANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>genevieve@g-ink.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2024 9:25 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HIRSH M. JOSHI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>608-256-8900</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION ACTION FUND</b>		TITLE: <b>PATRICK O'REILEY LEGAL FELLOW</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 750</b>			
CITY: <b>MADISON</b>		STATE: <b>WI</b>	ZIP: <b>53701</b>
EMAIL: <b>hjoshi@ffrf.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:45 AM</b>	

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

Dear Chair Richey and members of the Special Committee: I am writing on behalf of the FFRF Action Fund (FFRF AF) to voice opposition to House Bill 1518. FFRF AF is an affiliate of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a national nonprofit organization with more than 40,000 members across the country, including nearly 500 members in Missouri. We work to ensure that our laws remain secular in order to protect the constitutional separation between state and church. Here we are again. Senate Bill 1518 allows for “belief-based associations” to discriminate against protected classes on the public’s dime. For the last few years, Representative Hudson has brought this bill, and it fails to become law every time. Missourians have witnessed this bill for now the eighth year in a row. See HCS HB 642 (2017), HB 2074 (2018), HB 837 (2019), HB 1926 (2020), SB 332 (2021), HB 1724 (2022), and HB 136 (2023). So, we take the opportunity to pre-empt Representative Hudson and other proponents’ predicted testimony. HB 1518 Does Not Vindicate Any Free Speech Right: HB 1518 does not vindicate any actual First Amendment rights, nor does it respect religious pluralism. Instead, it deludes readers into celebrating generic platitudes of freedom while covering its true goal—state-funded discrimination. Proponents will likely testify that this bill is connected to the First Amendment’s guarantee of Freedom of Association. This is untrue, as the Supreme Court has previously ruled. *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, 561 U.S. 661 (2010). Thus, any idea that HB 1518 protects the Freedom of Speech or Association is wishful and illusory. Representative Hudson might broadly point to recent Eighth Circuit case law supporting this bill. See *Intervarsity Christian Fellowship/U.S. v. Univ. of Iowa*, 5 F.4th 855 (8th Cir. 2021). But these cases are about the University of Iowa’s selective enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions, not the facial validity of “all comers” policies. *Id.* at 859. (“Employees of the University of Iowa targeted religious student organizations for discriminatory enforcement of its Human Rights Policy. After the district court ordered it to stop selectively enforcing the policy against one religious group, the University deregistered another—InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship.”) (emphasis added). See also *Business Leaders In Christ v. Univ. of Iowa*, 360 F.Supp.3d 885, 900 (S.D. Iowa 2019) (“But the University does not apply the Human Rights Policy in a viewpoint-neutral manner. It applies the policy selectively, and it allows exceptions to the policy for groups that further the University’s educational mission and the purposes of the forum.”) (emphasis added). In fact, the Eighth Circuit cases support the validity of “all comers” policies. *Intervarsity Christian Fellowship/U.S. v. Univ. of Iowa*, 5 F.4th at 865 (“Of course, the University has a compelling interest in preventing discrimination. But it served that compelling interest by picking and choosing what kind of discrimination was okay...If the University honestly wanted a campus free of discrimination, it could have adopted an “all-comers” policy like the one in *Martinez*.”). So, if any proponent of HB 1518 vaguely cites Eighth Circuit case law, a well-informed audience should sharply

rebut that such case law is, in fact, irrelevant. Those cases were decided on selective enforcement. Assuming that HB 1518 "Saves Money" is Speculation: Proponents may iterate arguments that HB 1518 will save the state money. They will point to their fiscal report and the number of zeroes therein. As the fiscal report states, the predicted amount of money to be spent on defending suits under HB 1518 is "unknown." So, litigation costs may increase or decrease as a result of HB 1518. We cannot know because we do not know the base litigation costs without HB 1518. So, it only makes sense that any bill of this nature will "save money," because we do not know what Missouri is spending anyways. It also remains unclear what exactly constitutes a "belief-based association." While religious and political organizations are easy enough, legal questions over the exact definition of "ideological organizations" remain. But any organization can be "ideological." Does the baseball fan club believe that baseball is the best sport? Do Tigers For Tigers, whose mission revolves around wild tiger rescue, believe that tigers are endangered? Would reforestation organization members have enough beliefs in common to be considered ideological? Do any of these constitute a "belief-based association," with the power to discriminate freely? HB 1518 has no answer. This will likely lead to confusion and then an increase in litigation. There is no Widespread "Infiltration" Problem Requiring Legislation: Representative Hudson and other proponents will likely discuss the potential for "infiltration": Outsiders coming to power to thwart a group's true mission. Those proponents will not cite actual examples of this happening, nor will they cite a real-world problem—just a theoretical one. Groups can easily prevent "infiltration" by having dues or generally restricting voting to members who regularly attend events. Legislation in the theoretical instead of the actual rings all too familiar as of late. Some legislators rely on unevicenced claims of sexual assault to justify anti-trans bathroom bills or unsupported claims of 'reverse racism' to justify critical race theory bans. Now, Missouri is content with pointing to "ifs" and "thens" rather than concrete instances of misconduct. There used to be a time, not long ago, where legislators responded to actual problems. For some legislators, that is no longer the case. HB 1518 Does Not Respect Religious Pluralism: Given Missouri's less-than-savory history of religious discrimination, (See Missouri Executive Order 44 ("The Missouri Mormon Extermination Order" lasting from 1838 to 1976)) the prospect that it wants to turn a new page is exciting. But religious pluralism is not achieved in one bill or year and "whenever you defeat 'one form of . . . discrimination,' another 'springs up in its place.'" 303 Creative v. Elenis, 600 U.S. \_\_\_ \*53 (2023) (Sotomayor, J., dissenting) (quoting Shelby Cnty. v. Holder, 570 U. S. 529, 560 (2013) (Ginsburg, J., dissenting)). Today, Missouri drives transgender citizens, LGBTQ youth, and abortion seekers to different states for their most intimate endeavors. Nevermind those people's religious liberty. So, here is a prediction of how the hearing will go based on how these hearings have gone over the years. First proponents—almost exclusively Christian groups—will rise and discuss the rights of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, etc., to exclude those of other faiths and conflicting backgrounds from their student groups. To be clear, there will not actually be anyone from those religious groups who speak. Their rights will just be contemplated by someone else. Then, in opposition, a diverse array of believers, church-state separation watchdogs, LGBTQ+ students, and racial justice advocacy organizations will tell you the impact and indignities they will suffer if excluded from certain campus activities. They will tell you actual stories of discrimination; real, lived experiences. They will tell you the shocking nature of HB 1518. Christian groups detailing the rights of other groups under the guise of "religious pluralism" accomplishes the opposite: It allows Christian groups the opportunity to explain another group's beliefs—including stereotypes. True, public university rules may not prohibit students from uttering words or beliefs simply because they are distasteful. Monica Obradovic, Mizzou Will Not Punish Student Over Viral Racist Comment: Meg Miller went viral for saying "If they would have killed 4 more n\*\*\*\*rs we would have had the whole week off" in a private Snapchat photo to her friend, RiverfrontTimes, Jan. 11, 2023, <https://www.riverfronttimes.com/news/mizzou-will-not-to-punish-student-over-viral-racist-comment-39258907>. However, those organizations may not act on those views against the grain of generally applicable, viewpoint-neutral rules—and maintain registered status. Discrimination is conduct, and thus not protected by the Free Speech Clause. HB 1518 is Overbroad: Should the pleas of minorities—religious, racial, or other—be unpersuasive, the committee should, at the very least, adopt language that limits section two's scope. As a matter of statutory interpretation, HB 1518 deceives readers into a false sense of reasonableness. After all, having only "leaders" abide by certain oaths or classes seems less extreme than having all students take oaths or be of a certain class. But HB 1518's attempt to define "leaders" ultimately picks a broad enough definition to include almost any voting member. So, if an organization carefully tailors its constitution, it can ensure the effect of a "No Gays allowed" or "Whites only" policy. And public universities would be forced to recognize and fund its events. That is jarring. The language should instead apply only to "officers" and be exclusive rather than broad. Section two should at least allow universities to pick a set number or specified positions which are exempt from "all comers" policies—at the organization's election. For instance, "only the President, Vice President, and Treasurer" makes more sense as statutory language than the current version. Conclusion: Public university students retain freedom of conscience without HB 1518. For

example, Mizzou Students for Life can freely retain spiritual objections to abortion all they wish. They are permitted to, for instance, bar a person who has had an abortion from being president. However, in the face of an “all comers” policy, they cannot categorically ban all women from their organization or leadership roles and maintain registered status—no matter how sincerely held their beliefs are. Instead, Mizzou Students for Life’s recourse would be to vote for candidates who better align with their views. Ideally, students should vote against—not ban—fellow students from office. Those organizations that wish to have discriminatory leadership criteria are free to gather outside the university context, on their own time and money—like any religious body. Passing HB 1518 will “cheat[] both sides, robbing the winners of an honest victory, and the losers of the peace that comes from a fair defeat. We owe[] both of them better.” U.S. v. Windsor, 570 U.S. 744, 802 (2013) (Scalia, J., dissenting). The best policy is to allow students to vote their conscience. That is called democracy. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I urge you to vote no on HB 1518. Any questions about the First Amendment or life at a public university in Missouri can be directed to me. Sincerely, Hirsh M. Joshi Patrick O’Reiley  
Legal Fellow Freedom From Religion Foundation



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFF SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-323-0915</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>ACLU OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>5380 MAGNOLIA</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL: <b>jeffsmith2006@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:26 PM</b>

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

Special Committee on Government Accountability Chairman Doug Richey Re: HB 1518 February 5, 2024 Dear Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and our approximately 15,000 members statewide, I would like to express our strong opposition to HB 1518. Public colleges and universities must strive to ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students. Historically, the exclusion of women and marginalized students from officially recognized student organizations has served as a powerful vehicle for perpetuating discrimination at schools nationwide. HB 1518 would enable student organizations that implement discriminatory membership practices to become recipients of taxpayer funds and other benefits. Under the First Amendment, students at public universities have the right to form private clubs and associations, even if they deny membership based on race, sex, religion, disability, or any other characteristic. However, if a student organization perpetuates discriminatory membership practices, they do not have the right to be funded by student activity fees that are contributed to by all students. Participation in student organizations is a significant way for students to gain meaningful leadership opportunities, networking contacts, and other social and academic benefits. Therefore, discriminatory exclusion from these organizations can contribute to student harm, and unequal access, in numerous ways. Schools have a responsibility to promote a safe environment for all students and should not be forced to recognize discriminatory organizations that harm students. For these reasons, the ACLU of Missouri is adamantly opposed to this bill, and we urge you to vote no on HB 1518. Sincerely, Jeff Smith



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JERE HOCHMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Jhstlny@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2024 10:21 AM</b>
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**OPPOSE.** The message you are sending is "discrimination is ok!" **NO.** IT is not necessary: **FREEDOM OF SPEECH** and **EXPRESSION ARE OK.** And, if they cross a line of federally defined discrimination, there are means of addressing it - OCR and others. College groups can **ALREADY** "seek appropriate relief in a judicial or administrative proceeding against a public institution of higher learning." **WHY SPECIAL or DECLARATION** for self-proclaimed groups that discriminate? Your bill protects the campus chapter of "KKK" - the "Proud boys" - and others. IF you want the right to speech and protest on campus - **YES IF** you want to pre-approve hate speech and threats - you've crossed the line.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JERE HOCHMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Jhstlny@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2024 2:07 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**OPPOSED:** How is this different from GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED HAZING? Schools should not be forced to recognize discriminatory organizations that harm students. We will get information to sign up to testify with us and talking points soon. And I will open up a channel to anyone interested in joining us at the Capitol. We would love to hear testimony from students, faculty, former students, clergy, and anyone else invested in making sure public funds are not spent on discrimination





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESS HARMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORDAN KADOSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ADL</b>		TITLE: <b>REGIONAL DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63105</b>
EMAIL: <b>jkadosh@adl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:07 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Dear House Special Committee on Government Accountability,?? On behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)’s Heartland Region, I am writing to?urge you to oppose HB 1518. ADL is a leading anti-hate organization whose mission is “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people, and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.”? 110 years later, we continue to fight all forms of hate with the same vigor and passion. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and fighting hate online, ADL’s ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate. HB 1518 would allow any student organization on a college campus to bar a student from the organization’s leadership based only on their pollical beliefs. As has been documented by ADL far too often these days, Jewish students often find themselves ostracized from certain groups in campus life because of their connection to the Land of Israel. In student governments and law school clubs across America “Zionists” are being banned from organizations and campuses where a person’s support for Israel or lack thereof is rarely at issue. “Zionist” in these circumstances is simply a euphemism for “Jew.” Student organizations must not be allowed to evaluate membership based on a political or reglidious belief because of the potential for this bill to have what I presume is the opposite of its intended effect. HB 1518 seriously risks restricting religious freedom of Jewish students on campus by politicising their connection to Israel. As student organizations receive tax payer money at public institutions, therefore they must adhere to the nondiscrimination requirements placed on all recipients of those funds. We expect the public funds the General Assembly so dutifully appropriates to our university system to protect the freedom of religion of all students. That includes members of protected classes in Missouri, such as race, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. Please vote do not pass on HB 1518. ?Sincerely,?? Jordan Kadosh?? Regional Director, ADL Heartland Office



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>JOSEPH ALBERT JEFFERIES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>joe.jefferies@joe4mo48.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 1:01 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>JULIE GRAHAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jgraham@holycommunion.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 1:51 PM</b>

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

The Rev. Julie A Graham Testimony in Opposition to HB 1518 I am the Rev. Julie Graham resident of the 80th Missouri House District 79 in the City of St. Louis, I serve and pastor the people of Holy Communion Episcopal Church in University City District 086 and I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Public funds should never be used to discriminate! I teach, preach and minister that ALL are God's beloved children, in Christ there is no east or west, no north or south, no black or white, and yes, no Republican nor Democrat. We are one in God's love. Diversity is what allows us to grow and flourish in the love of God. In the Episcopal Church: we are seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being. I would never expect, nor would I desire, public funds to be used for religious education from my faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri's Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.  
 Sincerely, The Rev. Julie A Graham Associate Rector, Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>KIMBERLY MAXWELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kcm Maxwell7@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2024 9:35 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**This bill is discriminatory. Missouri shouldn't pass bills that are based in bigotry.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>		
TESTIFYING: <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>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kortniehuddleston@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2024 6:44 PM</b>

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

I am writing to strongly encourage you to oppose HB1518 (Hudson), which proposes an exemption for religious student organizations and other "belief-based" student groups from non-discrimination policies in public higher education institutions. This bill should be rejected due to its potential to legitimize discriminatory practices. Student organizations play a vital role in campus life, contributing to overall student satisfaction and success, as evidenced by research. The implementation of robust non-discrimination policies ensures that all students have equal access to various organizations and the opportunity to explore diverse ideas and identities. To prevent discrimination on campus, promote equality, and foster inclusive practices for student organizations, many public colleges and universities have adopted "accept-all-comers" policies. These policies typically withhold funding, derived from a mandatory student activity fee, and official recognition from student groups that do not welcome all students. Contrary to these policies, HB1518 undermines the efforts to prevent discrimination on campus by allowing clubs to engage in discriminatory practices. For instance, a Christian student group could reject a student based on their sexual orientation or single-parent status. This bill may even provide an avenue for a white supremacist group to demand university funding and recognition. It's important to note that this legislation is not compelled by the First Amendment. Any student club can gain recognition and access funds by adhering to the school's nondiscrimination policy. If a club chooses to impose membership and leadership requirements conflicting with the school policy, it will not be silenced or expelled from campus; rather, it will simply not receive official recognition and funding. In fact, the Supreme Court, in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, upheld an "accept-all-comers" policy against claims that it violated the religious freedom of Christian student groups. The Court clarified that these policies do not infringe upon the First Amendment because the denial of benefits is based on the group's conduct, not their views. It is imperative that the Missouri legislature does not endorse divisive legislation that promotes discrimination within the state's public higher education institutions. The power of these institutions to protect students from discrimination should not be undermined, and it is crucial that public tax dollars and student activity fees only support groups that are open to all students. Thank you for considering this significant matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>LINDA KRAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lindakram@charter.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2024 10:36 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I do not want my tax dollars to go towards any organizations that are discriminatory. Colleges should not be allowed to use tax dollars for these organizations.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAGGIE EDMONDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI (FORMERLY PRO CHOICE MISSOURI)</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63110</b>
EMAIL: <b>maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 6:45 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>MARY E. O'REILLY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>maryeor@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 9:30 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Bill of Rights of the Missouri State Constitution, guarantee religious freedom to every citizen. In support of that freedom, our national and state governments have withheld public support of and to any particular religious groups, in order to remain neutral. For Missouri to propose to extend public money to any group that openly discriminates shows either a shocking lack of understanding of National and State laws, or an equally shocking contempt for those laws. I strongly urge the defeat of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>MEREDITH LABUDA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>labuda.meredith@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:24 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Meredith and I am a constituent from Saint Louis, Missouri . I'm calling to express my strong opposition to HB 1518.This bill would require universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against its members and the student body in adherence to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It allows student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc.Participation in student organizations is a significant way for students to obtain meaningful leadership opportunities, personal and professional contacts, and other important benefits. Exclusion from student organizations can substantially harm students, denying them access to class information, study-group opportunities, professional networks, and alumni associations. Public colleges and universities must strive to ensure that educational opportunities are available to all. LGBTQ+ students already experience poor mental health, bullying, and harassment at higher rates than their cisgender/straight peers. Schools should not perpetuate further harm by discriminating against these students.I urge [Representative/Senator's Name] to oppose this bill and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.Best,Meredith Labuda



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2024 6:43 PM</b>

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

I am writing to strongly encourage you to oppose HB1518 (Hudson), which proposes an exemption for religious student organizations and other "belief-based" student groups from non-discrimination policies in public higher education institutions. This bill should be rejected due to its potential to legitimize discriminatory practices. Student organizations play a vital role in campus life, contributing to overall student satisfaction and success, as evidenced by research. The implementation of robust non-discrimination policies ensures that all students have equal access to various organizations and the opportunity to explore diverse ideas and identities. To prevent discrimination on campus, promote equality, and foster inclusive practices for student organizations, many public colleges and universities have adopted "accept-all-comers" policies. These policies typically withhold funding, derived from a mandatory student activity fee, and official recognition from student groups that do not welcome all students. Contrary to these policies, HB1518 undermines the efforts to prevent discrimination on campus by allowing clubs to engage in discriminatory practices. For instance, a Christian student group could reject a student based on their sexual orientation or single-parent status. This bill may even provide an avenue for a white supremacist group to demand university funding and recognition. It's important to note that this legislation is not compelled by the First Amendment. Any student club can gain recognition and access funds by adhering to the school's nondiscrimination policy. If a club chooses to impose membership and leadership requirements conflicting with the school policy, it will not be silenced or expelled from campus; rather, it will simply not receive official recognition and funding. In fact, the Supreme Court, in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, upheld an "accept-all-comers" policy against claims that it violated the religious freedom of Christian student groups. The Court clarified that these policies do not infringe upon the First Amendment because the denial of benefits is based on the group's conduct, not their views. It is imperative that the Missouri legislature does not endorse divisive legislation that promotes discrimination within the state's public higher education institutions. The power of these institutions to protect students from discrimination should not be undermined, and it is crucial that public tax dollars and student activity fees only support groups that are open to all students. Thank you for considering this significant matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>MICHAEL G DUNNINGTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cvlwrnut@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 1:56 PM</b>

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

The Rev. Michael G. Dunnington      Testimony in Opposition to HB 1518 I am the Rev. Michael G. Dunnington, resident of the 89th Missouri House District in unincorporated St. Louis County. I am the Interim Priest in Charge at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the City of St. Louis. I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its membership based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. The bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, Proud Boys, etc. Public funds should never be used to enable discrimination. Our public schools should be diverse educational communities in which ALL students are to be treated with equity. In the Episcopal Church, our baptismal promises require us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and strive for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being." I would NEVER expect, nor would I desire that public funds could be used for religious education from my faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are morally wrong and violate the ideal of separation of religion and state that is strongly protected in Missouri's Constitution. Keep the public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers' money for public education, not private discrimination. I strongly urge you to vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>MICHAEL WALK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NIKOLAS NARTOWICZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-466-3234</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE POLICY COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1310 L ST. NW, STE. 200</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20005</b>
EMAIL: <b>nartowicz@au.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2024 2:13 PM</b>	

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

On behalf of the Missouri members and supporters of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, I write to urge you to oppose HB 1518, which would exempt religious student organizations and other “belief-based” student groups from nondiscrimination policies at public institutions of higher learning. The bill should be rejected because it could sanction discrimination. Student organizations are an important part of campus life. Research shows that they contribute to overall student satisfaction and success. Having robust non-discrimination policies in place ensures that all students are able to access various organizations and explore different ideas and identities. To prevent discrimination on campus, promote equality and fairness, and foster inclusionary practices for student organizations, many public colleges and universities have “accept-all-comers” policies. These nondiscrimination policies generally withhold funding—which comes from a mandatory student activity fee imposed on students—and official recognition from student groups that are not open to all students. This bill, in contrast, would undermine these policies. HB 1518 actually allows clubs to discriminate. For example, a Christian student group could turn away a student because he is gay or she is a single mom. This bill could even allow a white supremacist group to demand university funding and recognition. The bill is also not required by the First Amendment. Any student club can become a recognized group and access funds if it adheres to its school’s nondiscrimination policy. And if a club decides it wants to impose requirements for membership and leadership that conflict with the school policy, it will not be silenced or driven off campus; instead, it, like any other club, simply will not receive official recognition and funding. In fact, the Supreme Court upheld an “accept-all-comers” policy in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* against claims that it violated the religious freedom of Christian student groups. The Court explained that the policies do not violate the First Amendment because the denial of benefits is based on the group’s conduct, not their views. The Missouri legislature should not support divisive legislation that fosters discrimination in the state’s public institutions of higher learning. It should not undermine the power of these institutions to safeguard their students from discrimination and mandate that student activity fees paid by all students only support those groups that are open to all students. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
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<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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>OTTO FAJEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3202</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI NEA</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>1810 EAST ELM STREET</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>otto.fajen@mnea.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 11:43 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The Association believes that organizations are strengthened by offering memberships on a nondiscriminatory basis. The Association opposes the bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>PAULA KINDRICK HARTSFIELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>paula.hartsfield@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 11:13 AM</b>

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

I am Rev. Dr. Paula Kindrick Hartsfield, resident of the 60th Missouri House District in Cole County. I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. As an undergraduate student at Southwest MO State University (the name of the public institution at the time), student organizations were an important part of my student experience. As I held local and national elected offices in a student organization and honorary academic society, student organizations greatly developed by leadership skills and were a growth experience in terms of travel entailed and networking which occurred. I want such opportunities to continue to be available for all public higher education students. Therefore, I am opposed to HB 1518. Student activity fees, which all students contribute to, should not be used to support student groups which limit its membership on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation gender identity, and disability. HB 1518 would permit such offensive action. As an Episcopalian clergy member, I strive to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbors as myself, striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being. Therefore, I am concerned about the national movement which has raised its ugly head in the last six or seven years trying to send us in a direction contrary to my belief system. Unfortunately, my home state, in which I have deep roots, is playing into this concerning negativism and narrow mindedness that is sending us backward rather than maintaining the progress we have made in respecting and loving all people. Please oppose HB 1518.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>REV. ANN DIETERLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>727-463-6112</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>		TITLE: <b>RECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>123 SOUTH NINTH STREET</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>revann@calvaryonninth.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:26 AM</b>

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

My name is the Rev. Ann Dieterle and I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Public funds should never be used to discriminate. I would never expect, nor would I desire, public funds to be used for religious education from my faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri's Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>			
TESTIFYING: <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>SCOTT MCKELLAR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mck9@swbell.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2024 2:11 PM</b>	

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

Evidently, religious student groups want to hide behind their purported religious beliefs in order to protect hatefulness and bigotry. They want their bylaws to explicitly exclude LGBTQ+ members from leadership positions (or maybe they want to exclude Blacks, or women, or whomever; the argument works the same way regardless). If there are school policies against such bylaws, the religious groups think that they're nevertheless entitled to special privileges, because they're special; they're better than the others; they should be allowed to do what nobody else is allowed to do. As always when religion demands special privileges, it's a privilege that no decent person would ever want to exercise. There's a very simple solution. If they don't want LGBTQ+ members in leadership positions, then don't elect LGBTQ+ members to those positions. If they're not smart enough to figure that out, how did they ever get accepted into college in the first place?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>SHAHIN SHAMSIPOUR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>shahin_f22@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 1:40 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hello, my name is Shahin Shamsipour, and I am a current college student at St. Louis University. I am deeply concerned about HB 1518 passing into law, which would allow college organizations to discriminate on the basis of political orientation, race, disability status, sexual identity, gender identity, and religious orientation. Not only does this bill interfere with the operation of student clubs and the promotion of diversity and inclusion on college campuses, but also sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to the introduction of hate speech on college campuses like SLU. Government and university standards play a vital role in desegregating college organizations such as Greek Life, which historically have discriminated on racial and class lines. This bill would grant college students the license to discriminate and open the door for less accepting and ultimately less safe campuses for everyone involved. As a college student, I urge you to vote no and allow universities to run themselves without government interference.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHARON GEUEA JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-808-2156</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>PROMO &amp; MO STATE NAACP</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>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>2/2/2024 8:08 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Christians are not victims of discrimination, they are the perpetrators.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>TERESA DANIELEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tkmithen@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2024 6:17 PM</b>

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

I am the Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieley, resident of the 80th Missouri House District in the City of St. Louis, parent of three children attending St. Louis Public Schools (ages 13, 11 and 7) and Missioner for Public Advocacy for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Public funds should never be used to discriminate. I send my children to St. Louis Public Schools (they are currently in elementary school and middle school) to learn in diverse educational communities in which ALL students are to be treated with equity. I send my children to private religious education outside of school hours, so that they may learn the Christian faith as we practice it in the Episcopal Church: seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being. I would never expect, nor would I desire, public funds to be used for religious education from my faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri's Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>THE REV. CANON WHITNEY RICE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rev.whitney.rice@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:27 AM</b>

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

I am The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice, resident of the 81st Missouri House District in the City of St. Louis, judicatory clergy serving 42 congregations across eastern Missouri, aunt to three children in Jefferson City and Wardsville, and I am writing in opposition to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Public funds should never be used to discriminate. It is important that my nephews and nieces (aged 4-11) have the opportunity to learn in diverse educational communities in which ALL students are to be treated with equity. I would never expect, nor would I desire, public funds to be used for religious education from my faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri's Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>THE REV. DEACON BARBI CLICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bgclick@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 10:35 AM</b>

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

The Rev. Barbi Click Testimony in Opposition to HB 1518 I am the Rev. Dcn. Barbi Click, resident of the 78th Missouri House District in the City of Saint Louis, having had one child graduate from and two grandchildren attend St. Louis Public Schools. I am also Missioner for Jubilee Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Jubilee Ministry works with oppressed people wherever they are found, meets basic human needs and works for a just society. I am firmly opposed to HB 1518. HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Expressly, it would allow hate groups a place to thrive. Public funds should never be used to discriminate. My children attended St. Louis Public Schools even as I could afford to send them to private schools. There they learned in a diverse educational community where each student was to be treated with equity. Our faith is practiced on a daily basis, living out the Gospel of Jesus by Loving God and Loving our neighbors. The baptismal vows we take in the Episcopal Church commands us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being. This is MY life. It is not something I can demand others to follow by law. Denying hate or discriminatory groups a place on public universities and colleges to thrive and spread their hate is not a denial of their First Amendment Rights. It is protecting other students from an atmosphere that causes them harm. Discrimination because a person is disabled, LGBTQ, male, female, person of color is unconstitutional and it is harmful, not only to the particular person or group but to our society at large. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological, or religious beliefs violate the separation of religion and state that is protected in Missouri's Constitution. Taxpayers' money for public education cannot be used for private discrimination. Promoting the use of public funds for private groups is a violation of the public trust you swore to uphold. Vote against HB 1518.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>THE VERY REV. KATHLEEN ADAMS-SHEPHERD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kas@christchurchcathedral.us</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 5:54 PM</b>

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

The Very Rev. Kathleen Adams-Shepherd, Dean Christ Church Cathedral, STLTestimony in Opposition to HB 1518I am the Very Rev. Kathleen Adams-Shepherd, resident of the First House District in the City of St. Louis, Dean of the Cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. I am writing in opposition to HB 1518.HB 1518 would require public universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against students who do not adhere to the group’s political, ideological, or religious beliefs. It would allow student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This bill would permit student groups visibility and access on campus such as: The Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalists, etc. Public funds should never be used to discriminate. The majority of children in our congregation attend St. Louis Public Schools in order to learn in diverse educational communities in which ALL students are to be treated with equity. Our children attend private religious education outside of school hours, so that they may learn the Christian faith as we practice it in the Episcopal Church: seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being. I would never expect, nor would I desire, public funds to be used for religious education from our faith tradition or any other, let alone for exclusionary political or ideological purposes. All uses of public funds to discriminate based on political, ideological or religious beliefs are wrong and violate the separation of religion and state that is so strongly protected in Missouri’s Constitution. Keep our public universities and colleges public. Use taxpayers money for public education, not private discrimination. Vote against HB 1518.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>THOMAS WAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-6965</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>THE MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS</b>		TITLE: <b>BSW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 2043</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VANESSA WELLBERY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-531-7526</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>VICE PRESIDENT OF POLICY &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4251 FOREST PARK AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63108</b>
EMAIL: <b>vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 8:01 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Lawmakers should be fostering campus environments where every student can thrive. HB 1518 does the opposite, by requiring taxpayer dollars to fund student groups that discriminate against LGBTQIA+ students.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1518</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>WILLIAM COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cooperwl@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2024 6:36 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

This bill will force public college and university campuses to discriminate against students. It will require universities and colleges to recognize and provide taxpayer funds to student groups that discriminate against its members and the student body in adherence to the group's political, ideological, or religious beliefs. Essentially, it allows student groups the right to self-select and limit its members based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. Participation in student organizations is a significant way for students to obtain meaningful leadership opportunities, personal and professional contacts, and feel a sense of belonging on campus. Schools have a responsibility to ensure all students feel safe on campus, and this bill opens up the opportunity for hate groups to legally form on campus.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</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>ZARIA CHANEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			