



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1545</b>		DATE: <b>2/22/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABIGAIL CORNELIUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALEX EATON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-9860</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>444 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW, SUITE 200</b>		
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>
		ZIP: <b>20001</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALEX EATON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-9860</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FAMM</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1100 H STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BAHIYA H. SHAKUR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BOBBY BOSTIC</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRANDI BLACKBURN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>babs8027@hotmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2024 6:50 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GABRIEL BO CORNELIUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GWEN SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-324-9656</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4428 ELLENWOOD AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>gwen@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 11:52 AM</b>	

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Empower Missouri has been committed for over 120 years to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy and policy change. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration. HB 1545, sponsored by Rep. Bill Allen, would reduce the minimum prison term percentages for individuals with disabilities who have reached the age of 60. Missouri code defines disability as “a mental, physical, or developmental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities... whether the impairment is congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, and where such impairment is verified by medical findings.” Research shows that people with disabilities are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Compared to 15 percent of the general population in the US, 40 percent of people in state prisons have a documented disability. People with disabilities are more likely to experience victimization, be arrested, be charged with a crime, and serve longer prison sentences once convicted, than those without disabilities. Incarceration rates are higher due to a combination of factors, including individuals with disabilities being exploited by other people (i.e. coerced into committing a crime and taking the fall for others), displaying “inappropriate responses” in police presence such as running away or hiding, telling police what they believe they want to hear in order to be left alone, and/or waiving Miranda rights without understanding the repercussions. Once incarcerated, prison can be a particularly isolating and dangerous environment for those with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities risk higher rates of victimization from other incarcerated individuals and from guards, increasing their likelihood of worsening physical or mental health symptoms. Individuals with mental health issues may often be more likely to exhibit behavioral challenges once incarcerated, often from not having proper access to medications and/or therapy or simply not understanding the rules and requirements of prison. This may make it harder for them to receive parole. Older adults also face heightened risks inside prison, meaning that older adults with disabilities are doubly vulnerable. Prison is not an easy environment for anyone to live in, and the challenges of incarcerated life increase as people age. The physical demands of daily life in prison can be a struggle for people as they age, such as walking far distances in facilities for meals or recreation time, or keeping up with assigned work duties. Individuals with disabilities who are incarcerated for long periods of time may deteriorate over time, experiencing worsening symptoms or adding a dual diagnosis. It is important to remember the decision to parole an individual remains with the parole board regardless of the minimum percentage they must serve before becoming parole eligible. This is



true now, and it would still be true under this bill. This ensures that those who pose significant risks to the community can remain incarcerated at the direction of the parole board while providing key pathways for older individuals with disabilities to be monitored under community supervision rather than in our prisons. The fiscal analysis for HB 1545 found that if passed, this measure would save the state up to \$841,300 in the first year, \$1.2 million the following year, and up to \$2.5 million annually when fully implemented in FY 2034. The average cost to incarcerate someone in Missouri is \$57.16 per day, and those costs are even higher for many individuals with disabilities due to heightened health care needs. There are far better uses for taxpayer dollars than incarcerating individuals who pose very little risk to the community due to a combination of age and disability. This bill would also help provide relief to understaffed prison facilities around the state. Overall, reductions to the minimum prison term structure are based on sound criminal justice research. Shorter sentences promote better reentry outcomes by reducing the time people are away from their families and communities. Missouri recently became the first state to sign on to the federal Reentry 2030 initiative, committing to reducing recidivism and increasing reentry success. HB 1545 would help our state achieve these goals. Empower Missouri urges this committee to vote do-pass for HB 1545. Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important matter.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>EMPOWER MO</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>612 W 69TH ST.</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64113</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEITH DEN HOLLANDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-853-0707</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CHRISTIAN COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>FIELD DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8730 NORTH PARK BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>CHARLESTON</b>		STATE: <b>SC</b>	ZIP: <b>29406</b>
EMAIL: <b>keith@cc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2024 9:54 PM</b>	

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Dear Chair Roberts, Vice Chair Cook, Ranking Member Anderson, and Members of the Committee As Missouri's population continues to age, the cost to the state increases. As people leave the workforce, go off the tax rolls to some degree, and utilize more state services, the draw on the state budget goes up. There are few places where this is more evident than within the corrections system. The cost of caring for those who are elderly, and especially those who are sick, while incarcerated is considerably higher than it would be under private care. The cost of care for an elderly and sick individual who is incarcerated can be as much as double what it costs to care for someone younger and healthier. This cost gets passed on to the Missouri taxpayer. The number of incarcerated people over the age of 50 has doubled since 2005. When we consider that the reason we incarcerate people is for public safety and to disincentivize and punish bad behavior, we have good reason to ask whether our current system makes the most sense. As people age and become infirm, their threat to the public necessarily diminishes. For those who were incarcerated at a younger age, by the time they have aged, they have also lost most of the opportunities for a full and fulfilling life. They have missed out on years of relationships, birthdays, watching children grow, career opportunities or advancement, travel, and many of the best things that life has to offer. So, when we consider whether there may be grounds to consider changes to compassionate or medical release, we should consider that we are not releasing someone to a full and healthy life, we are releasing them to sickness, ailments, and a life that has largely passed them by at this point. Allowing for compassionate or medical release would allow for the individual to receive care from a family member, not the taxpayer. It would save the state considerable money, while also protecting public safety, as those who are elderly and seriously ill pose one of the lowest threats to society. The current system is not a functional one, and this type of legislation would more align with a similar program included in the First Step Act by President Trump back in 2018. We encourage this committee to give careful consideration to HB 1545 and consider supporting common sense improvements to the way Missouri approaches geriatric parole.

Respectfully, Keith den Hollander Christian Coalition



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARIA GOELLNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>717-945-9089</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FAMM</b>		TITLE: <b>FAMM DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1903 W. 8TH ST. PMB 257</b>			
CITY: <b>ERIE</b>		STATE: <b>PA</b>	ZIP: <b>16502</b>
EMAIL: <b>mgoellner@famm.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2024 7:18 PM</b>	

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**Written Statement of Maria Goellner Director of State Policy, FAMM In Support of Missouri House Bill 1545 House Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety February 22, 2024**

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee for considering this written statement in support of House Bill (HB) 1545. This bill would revise the Missouri statute governing parole eligibility for older people incarcerated in Missouri’s Department of Corrections (MDOC). I write on behalf of FAMM, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to create a justice system that respects our American values of individual accountability and dignity while keeping communities safe. For more than three decades, FAMM has been a leading voice for sentencing policies that are individualized and fair, protect public safety, and preserve families. Among the policies we advocate is increased use of geriatric and medical release processes for people in prison who are elderly, or seriously ill, and who do not pose a threat to public safety. We are pleased to see the Committee consider allowing more older incarcerated people to become eligible for parole consideration. FAMM is a national expert on medical and geriatric release programs. Our 2018 report, *Everywhere and Nowhere: Compassionate Release in the States* studied the geriatric and medical release systems in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We found that virtually all states have a program to consider the release of people in prison who are elderly or ill. Unfortunately, we also found that almost no states – including Missouri – use their systems to regularly release eligible prisoners whose incarceration no longer protects public safety. U.S. corrections systems define “geriatric” at a much younger age than in free society, i.e. 50-55. This is because people typically enter prison with more medical and substance abuse problems, have poor history of treatment and access to care, age much more rapidly in a prison environment, have less access to quality care and food while incarcerated, and more. FAMM’s research and analysis inform our support of HB 1545. Older prisoners have significantly lower recidivism rates than younger prisoners, and older and ill prisoners are costlier to incarcerate due to their increased medical needs. Geriatric and medical release both reduce prison costs and reserve expensive prison beds for people most likely to reoffend – which is not the population that HB 1545 addresses. Importantly, these mechanisms also uphold human and family dignity; reuniting the family unit and allowing it – instead of the state – to provide for and care for loved ones in the later years of life. HB 1545 updates the existing age and time served tier system to allow more incarcerated people to become eligible for parole consideration. As originally introduced, the bill would reduce existing felony sentence percentage requirements for older people by about ten percent. If a person becomes eligible for parole under this bill, the parole board does not have to grant parole. It is fully discretionary, and the board must consider all appropriate factors and circumstances. People with certain convictions do not qualify for parole eligibility under this bill, including those with first-degree homicide. See bill for full

list of eligible statutes of conviction. Currently, there are more than 1.1 million Missouri citizens over the age of 60 and estimates suggest that older adults will outnumber minors for the first time by 2030. Governor Mike Parson signed Executive Order 23-01 to establish a Master Plan on Aging and address the needs of the state's ballooning older population. The prison population is also rapidly aging, and must be addressed. The proportion of incarcerated people 55 years old and older increased 400 percent between 1993 and 2013 nationwide. In the state of Missouri, there are over 1,000 people who are age 60 or over and have been incarcerated for 15+ years. HB 1545 extends the spirit of Governor Parson's Master Plan on Aging to Missouri's incarcerated, older citizens. Prisons face challenges trying to meet the special needs of an older population, many of whom have multiple chronic age-related medical conditions and disabilities. Elderly individuals often need targeted supports such as ramps, lower bunks, and grab bars. They need help getting to pill line, commissary, the food hall, or in and out of wheelchairs and beds, and those with cognitive impairments need additional support. The cost of care for aging people in prison is between three and nine times more than for younger people and taxpayers are forced to foot the bill. In 2023, the Department of Corrections had a recommended 861 million dollar budget, billed to taxpayers. The expansion of age-based parole shifts the cost of housing, correctional staff, and medical care for aging people in prison off taxpayers. These are people at low risk to recidivate, and taxpayers are getting very little public safety bang for their buck by keeping them incarcerated. It is well known that people age out of crime, and this bill would provide a safe, measured approach to parole consideration for the highest cost, lowest risk population. Older people who have served substantial sentences are less likely to recidivate. If someone isn't a public safety threat anymore, has done significant time, and meets all the criteria for release including rehabilitation, the government should support them and their families to reenter society and potentially the workforce. We understand that the Committee is also considering a potential substitute that would change the increased eligibility from a reduced age-basis to one of disability; defined as "a mental, physical, or developmental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities or the ability to provide adequately for one's care or protection, whether the impairment is congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, where such impairment is verified by medical findings." We believe that the amendment would have less of an impact than the original age-based bill text, and therefore we recommend the original language to the Committee. Having said that, the amendment containing the "disability" language would capture serious conditions like dementia or stroke, which leave people unlikely to commit additional crimes and require particularly costly and extensive medical care. The current law needs significant improvement, and both the original language and the substitute would begin to address Missouri's aging prison population. FAMM therefore supports HB 1545 both in its original form and containing the substitute "disability" criteria. People should have a meaningful opportunity to leave prison when their continued incarceration no longer advances those purposes of punishment. HB 1545 would benefit public safety, Missouri families, and Missouri taxpayers. The continued incarceration of old and sick people in Missouri state prisons prevents the family unit from operating as it should in situations of aging. We encourage the Committee to apply the principles of Governor Parson's Master Plan on Aging to the incarcerated population: "[E]liminate barriers to safe and healthy aging, and help Missourians to age with dignity". Families are the basic unit of society and strengthening them where safe to do so is a core conservative principle. HB 1545 is small, safe, and smart. FAMM is happy to support HB 1545 both in its original form (recommended) and containing the House Committee substitute allowing increased parole eligibility for people with disabilities. Thank you for considering our views. Please reach out to [mgoellner@famm.org](mailto:mgoellner@famm.org) or (717) 945-9089 with questions or to discuss this further. NOTE: The online testimony submission form will not accept the citations that exist throughout this testimony; these are available upon request.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ML SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-814-2910</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>FOUNDER/DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6845 CREST AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mojusticecoalition@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 11:25 AM</b>	

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I support the passage and enactment of HB1545 because people incarcerated deserve a second chance, especially as they age. Stats say that after 15 years of incarceration and as a person matures, they age out of crime.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NOAH BEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>noah@justiceactionnetwork.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2024 2:14 PM</b>

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Chair Roberts, Vice-Chair Cook, and members of the committee: My name is Noah Bein, and I am a state policy manager for the Justice Action Network (JAN), an organization working with state legislators across the country to advance bipartisan criminal justice laws that keep the public safe. JAN asks for your support for HB 1545, sponsored by Rep. Bill Allen. Data show releasing older incarcerated people facing severe medical challenges is humane, cost-effective, and can be done safely. Older prisoners make up an increasing share of state and federal prisons. One study estimated that by 2030, more than 400,000 individuals 55 and older will be in prison across the country, representing close to a third of the overall population. Yet research shows these prisoners are much less likely to reoffend following their release than younger people—and much more costly to incarcerate, on average. Due to massive growth in the elderly prison population, Missouri taxpayers are now funding a de facto government-operated nursing home for thousands and thousands of people, many of whom could be sent back to their communities by the Parole Board without risking public safety. Dept. Corrections had a recommended \$861 million budget in 2023, a huge portion of which goes to paying for the government to provide healthcare services to these thousands of geriatric inmates. Rep. Allen’s bill does nothing more than allow the Parole Board the discretion to review geriatric cases to see if they should be released. This process is extensive and involves victim and prosecutor input. Missouri should not be afraid of expanding its own parole process to include review of older and potentially frail individuals. If JAN can assist members of the committee in any way, such as providing information about reforms by other states across the country, please do not hesitate to contact Noah Bein, JAN state policy manager, at noah@justiceactionnetwork.org. Sincerely, Noah Bein State Policy Manager Justice Action Network (202)805-0994



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICK PURTILL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>757-903-5224</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FAITH &amp; FREEDOM COALITION; AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>404A SOUTH CAPITOL STREET SE</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20003</b>
EMAIL: <b>patrick@ffcoalition.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2024 7:20 PM</b>

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February 21, 2024 Chair Roberts, Vice-Chair Cook, and members of the committee: As conservative grassroots organizations, the American Conservative Union and the Faith & Freedom Coalition support efforts to promote public safety through accountability and redemption. We write in support of House Bill 1545. This bill before your committee would take targeted but important steps to address the enormous and unnecessary burden Missouri taxpayers shoulder by paying to house and provide government healthcare to elderly prisoners who could be returned safely to their communities and families. Conservatives share a dedication to maximizing public safety. This means focusing prison beds—the most intensive and costly responses the criminal justice system has at its disposal—on people who pose the most serious threats to the safety of our communities. Missouri’s prisons, like many states’ prisons, are full of elderly, frail individuals who research shows are among the lowest risk population for reoffending upon release. Since 2005, the number of people over age 50 in Missouri prisons has doubled to 5,000, roughly 2,000 of which are in their 60s and 70s. Government healthcare costs were among the largest drivers of the Missouri Department of Corrections’ enormous \$861 million budget in 2023. This is a broken system with ballooning costs at taxpayer expense. Sick, elderly, and dying prisoners not only strain the state budget, but more importantly they also divert resources away from in-prison rehabilitation and from correction officer safety. These prisoners often need medical treatment that surpasses what prison facilities can provide. As a result, correctional officers must transport these patients to specialized medical facilities for radiation appointments, chemotherapy, or emergency room visits. This often requires that 1 or 2 officers chaperone each prisoner and remain with them for the duration of their treatment. It is dangerous that, while MDOC suffers from staffing shortages, guards are pulled away from their core duties. This compromises prison safety and jeopardizes the wellbeing of those who work or live in these facilities. In the long run it also harms public safety because every resource diverted to care for ailing and aging prisoners behind bars means less support for vocational training, education, drug treatment, or mental health counseling – crucial services that promote public safety by preparing those who will eventually reintegrate into our communities to be law-abiding upon release. We can do better and the solutions offered by HB 1545 begin to address this problem. Importantly, this bill is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. Under HB 1545, people can petition the Parole Board, which then reviews cases thoroughly and decides whether release should be granted or denied. The process includes extensive safeguards to make sure cases receive proper vetting, including victim and prosecutor input. HB 1545 simply establishes a mechanism through which geriatric inmates who pose little risk to the public can return home to their families and communities at the end of their lives. Families are the basic unit of society, and strengthening them when it is safe to do so is a core conservative principle. This is one of the



many reasons why President Trump expanded medical release with the federal First Step Act of 2018, passed with bipartisan consensus and implemented with great success over the last five years. We applaud Rep. Allen for presenting this common-sense, smart-on-crime approach. If our organizations can provide data, research, or additional context on this or other policies under consideration, please do not hesitate to reach out. Sincerely, Patrick Plein, Director, Nolan Center for Justice, American Conservative Union Foundation; Patrick Purtill, Director of Legislative Affairs, Faith & Freedom Coalition



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1545</b>		DATE: <b>2/22/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHEENA EASTBURN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 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 1545</b>		DATE: <b>2/22/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 10:48 AM</b>	

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I am Highly Opposed to this Bill. This Bill has Bad Ramifications. This Bill is wrong for Felons that have committed horrific and terrible crimes against other human-beings, other Missourians, Children, Family Members, Neighbors and Members of Our Communities ALL Across our Great State of Missouri. These individuals NEED to be Held Accountable and Responsible as they were found Guilty by a Jury of their Peers or a Circuit Court Judge or Associate Circuit Court Judge. Most of the State Prisoners' are repeat Offenders time after time after time. These men and women have been given chance after chance after chance. The Victims of Our State have Rights also and NEED to be able to live in peace and not to be afraid of their attacker. This is bad State Public Policy and will have a negative effect on our State, Counties, Communities and Neighborhoods. WE as Missourians can NOT take this additional risk to All of Our Six (6) Million Missourians. Defeat this Bill!



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>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 10:58 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote Bill H.B.-1545 Down! We Can NOT stand idly-by and just turn our backs on the victims and their families that have gone through pain, injury, abuse, agony, bitterness, heart-break, sadness, depression, rehabilitation and the psychological effect on ones mind & being. If you are convicted, went through an Appeal to the Missouri Court of Appeals, an Appeal to the State Supreme Court, you NEED to do the Time 100%. This is a disappointing Bill, not to mention the slap in the face to the Victims and their loved-ones. Defeat this awful Bill!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LOCKE THOMPSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-9180</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS</b>		TITLE: <b>COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>311 E. HIGH ST. #300</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Crime Prevention and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PARKE STEVENS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>parke.stevens@texascountypao.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2024 10:52 AM</b>

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This bill does not define what or who determines this disability, thus without the definition of “disability”, I see this as just another method to get individuals who commit crimes back onto the streets to re-offend; particularly the hardest to deal with and problematic individuals. This proposed amendment codifies that the Department of Corrections will not have to confine difficult criminals. Under 556.061 RSMo, section on Crimes and Punishment, Disability is defined as “a mental, physical, or developmental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities or the ability to provide adequately for one’s care or protection, whether the impairment is congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, where such impairment is verified by medical findings.” So I read this to mean DOC can say “this guy has a mental impairment (PTSD) that substantially limits a major life activity (social engagements aka recreation/work), thus he does not need to be in DOC, let him out to harm someone again. Even if we analyze option 2 to get a disability “inability to provide adequately for one’s care or protection” it gets worse (guy is a convicted sexual misconduct on a child (566.083 RSMo) offender or Assault on a Law Enforcement officer (565.052,4,6 RSMo) and can’t protect himself against other DOC inmates), so let him out early to re-offend. To make matters worse, the provisions modify the enhancement provisions for REPEAT 2,3,4,10 time offenders! I don’t know what the goal is, but this is not justice nor advancing society to live under the rule of law.