



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1652</b>		DATE: <b>2/8/2024</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABBY SWANSON-PAWBEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-994-4368</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SCHNUCK MARKET INC.</b>		TITLE: <b>SECURITY SUPERVISOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>11420 LACKLAND RD.</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<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>2/8/2024 11:53 PM</b>

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**I am in Support of this Bill. Stiffer Penalties and to close down these Crime Rings.**



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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>2/7/2024 7:00 AM</b>

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We strongly support this bill. We have seen the images in Chicago, San Francisco, and other progressive-run cities where mobs of gangs, or thugs descend on a local business and ravage their store and/or shop stealing whatever they want and just walking out the door. We must do whatever we can to stop this type of behavior and these thugs need to be prosecuted for their criminal activities. Small businesses don't have the resources to keep replenishing their stores. When these retail stores are robbed, their insurance cost goes up, not to mention the repair costs for the damage these gangs or thugs cause when ransacking their businesses. Many stores have decided to close and this hurts Missouri's and the local community's economy.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID OVERFELT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-2524</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>618 E CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>dave@moretailers.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2024 7:44 AM</b>	
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The Missouri Retailers Association and the Missouri Grocers Association support addressing Organized Retail Theft and the boosters who buy the stolen merchandise from thieves. A pawnshop owner near Kansas City was arrested recently for boosting stolen merchandise. The following article is from my MissouriNet interview: Retailers in Missouri lose an estimated \$1.44 billion in annual revenue to theft. It's an ongoing problem that Dave Overfelt, president of the Missouri Retailers Association, said prosecutors and judges need to hand down stiffer penalties. "When there's no consequences, then you're going to have more of this type of activity," Overfelt said. "The thieves know not much is going to be done under a misdemeanor. They have to be convicted a couple of times before they can possibly get a felony on the third time. They know what they're doing." It's not just big box stores – Overfelt said that if thieves spot an opportunity for a five-finger discount, they'll take it, regardless of what it is and where it's at. The question becomes – why aren't stores stopping the thieves? There's a reason for that, and it's leaving retailers stuck in between a rock and a hard place. Overfelt said employees are instructed not to intervene. "It's really because of the liability of if the employee gets injured or another customer gets injured," he said. "That could outweigh the value of the theft." Overfelt said in 2021, Missouri lost out on nearly \$70 million in retail sales tax dollars due to theft. The Missouri Retailers Association said the state's retail theft per capita is 11.7% higher than the national average. "The boosters will go to any venue they think that they have a good shot of getting in there and getting out," said Overfelt. "They, over time and experience, get a feel for the time to go in – typically when a store is overcrowded, busy times." The most stolen items being denim, apparel, electronics, medication, meat, and detergent.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEIDI GEISBUHLER SUTHERLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3511</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &amp; INDUSTRY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>428 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFF WALKUP</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jeff.walkup@walgreens.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2024 6:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY MCCARTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rmccarty@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2024 4:18 PM</b>
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<b>Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill.</b>			



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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEPHEN SOKOLOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MO OFFICE OF PROSECUTION SERVICES</b>		TITLE: <b>SR. GENERAL COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 899</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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