



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1693		DATE: 2/21/2024	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID SAMUEL OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6006	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO 1336, 618 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: dave@moretailers.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 12:02 PM
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Using minors to steal from businesses has continually increased every year. The Missouri Retailers Association and the Missouri Grocers Association support HB 1693 to address this problem.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 11:55 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GWEN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-324-9656	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 4428 ELLENWOOD AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: gwen@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 12:37 PM
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As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. 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. We are providing testimony today regarding HB 1693, sponsored by Representative Sparks. HB 1693 would create a new offense of using of a minor to commit a crime, in the event that someone aged 18 or older intentionally used a minor to commit a crime to avoid detection or apprehension. This bill does not take the context of youthful offenders into consideration. Young people tend to associate primarily with other young people, meaning that an 18 or 19 year old hanging out with a 17 year old classmate could be convicted of this charge, if the group decided to engage in any kind of criminal activity. There is ample data that shows the relationship between age and criminal activity, indicating that the adolescent brain does not reach maturity until the mid to late 20s. While adults who have reached full brain development use the prefrontal cortex to make decisions, adolescents and young adults use the amygdala, which is responsible for impulsivity and failure to appreciate risks. HB 1693 should take this important context into consideration, and amend the language to apply only to older individuals- for example, 22 and older, an age threshold proposed in Rep. Perkin's HB 1996, related to certain drug felonies. For these reasons, we urge the committee to oppose HB 1693 as it is currently written. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.