



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1777		DATE: 1/31/2024	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: ALEX EATON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-9860	
REPRESENTING: JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 444 N CAPITOL ST			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20001
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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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: 1/31/2024 11:55 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 2:18 PM	

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Prohibiting former drug offenders from receiving food stamps is a form of double punishment not experienced by other offenders. This legislation corrects this injustice while ensuring that former offenders are receiving (or have received) substance abuse treatment. Additionally, pregnant women and their unborn children are in a particularly delicate state, therefore added precautions against stress and potential harms will lead to more positive health outcomes for these mothers and their children.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-406-2933
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1865		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH (LIZA) WEISS		PHONE NUMBER: 202-641-0041	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 100 N TUCKER BLVD RM 840			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: EMMA SHANKLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: GREATER KC FOOD POLICY COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: KS	ZIP: 66101
EMAIL: eshankland@kchealthykids.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 4:30 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chairman Veit and Committee Members, On behalf of the 21-member steering committee of the Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, we support the provisions in HB 1777 related to food access. The Coalition supports the repeal of provisions that restrict or prohibit the participation of individuals who have been convicted of a drug-related offense in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Hunger is bad for health. Hunger and food insecurity are connected to poor health outcomes for adults of all ages, including chronic health conditions and diseases. According to the USDA, 12.2% of Missourians experienced food insecurity between 2020 and 2022, which was higher than the national average of 11.2%. Since SNAP benefits are distributed by household, the denial of benefits to people who have been convicted of drug-related offenses may also negatively impact their family. Formerly incarcerated people need community support, not punitive motivation. Many formerly incarcerated people experience food insecurity upon release from incarceration. The denial of SNAP benefits exacerbates food insecurity and serves as a barrier to reintegration for formerly incarcerated individuals. Restrictions on benefits act as a de facto ban due to the administrative burden. Currently, Missourians who have been convicted of one drug-related offense that is not a felony are still eligible for SNAP benefits if they comply with certain requirements. These requirements are associated with an increased administrative burden on state staff. Over the past few years, Missouri has struggled to keep up with the administrative demand of the program, resulting in issues like excessive call time waits. The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, a program of KC Healthy Kids, convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in greater Kansas City and promote policies for the nutritional, economic, social, and environmental health of the community. Sincerely, Emma Shankland, Director, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition.

1. "USDA ERS - Interactive Charts and Highlights." USDA ERS, 2023, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/#States>.
2. Marc Mauer and Virginia McCalmont, A Lifetime of Punishment: The Impact of the Felony Drug Ban on Welfare Benefits, The Sentencing Project, September 2015.
3. Bates, Clara. "'Broken System': Call Center Backlogs Impede Missouri Families Seeking Food Assistance • Missouri Independent." Missouri Independent, 2 Nov. 2023.



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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: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HARGROVE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-0529
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FEEDING MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DR.		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: heather@feedingmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 10:59 AM

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Feeding Missouri is writing to express our support for HB1777 and lifting the ban on SNAP for individuals with prior felony drug convictions. This ban is counterproductive as it makes it harder for Missourians with convictions to get back on their feet. Successful reentry into society from the criminal justice system requires being able to meet the most basic and essential human needs including, but not limited to, gainful employment, housing and food. Denying access to these basic needs programs, like SNAP, does nothing to establish a path of success and becoming a contributing member of the community in which they reside. This is the ONLY felony exclusion for SNAP benefits with this focus on multiple drug possession or use charges or any felony for drug manufacturing and distribution. Other criminal convictions are NOT excluded. It is in the best interest of our state for the path to reentry to be supportive and successful. HB1777 is a step in the right direction.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACK SPISEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-944-5078	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OPERATION FOOD SEARCH		TITLE: GOV RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 1644 LOTSIE BLVD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASMINE FORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092	
REPRESENTING: FEEDING MISSOURI, NATIONAL ASSOC. OF SOCIAL WORKERS-MO CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1865			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SEITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-415-6228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI KIDSFIRST		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 520 DIX ROAD, SUITE C			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIANN DEPALMA HESED		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: momhesed@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 3:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I stand in support of Missouri opting out of a life-time ban of SNAP benefits for those who have been convicted of a drug offence. Drug addiction is not a life-time condition, drug addiction can be overcome with support and effort on the part of the former drug offender. It is unfair to decide that because a person has been accused and convicted of a felony drug offense they cannot turn their lives around. Likewise, it is unfair to refuse SNAP benefits, and the healthy food that comes with them, to the family of a former drug offender. The healthy food that comes with SNAP benefits can act as a means of support for a drug offender. Missouri should stand in support of persons doing their best to overcome drug addictions. Juliann DePalma Hesed



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DEN HOLLANDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: keith@cc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 9:05 AM

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

Chair Veit, Vice-Chair Perkins, Ranking Member Terry, and members of the committee: I write to you in support of House Bill 1777, specifically the provisions that eliminate Missouri’s ban on SNAP benefits for people with felony convictions. This is the right move for Missouri, as it was for the majority of Missouri’s neighboring states, including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Illinois—all of whom have passed legislation removing this barrier to SNAP benefits. In addition to Missouri’s neighboring states, the ban has also been lifted in a number of other states where the Christian Coalition has a strong presence, including Michigan, Ohio, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Our corrections systems were implemented to disincentivize and correct bad behavior, and return the offender to society better, thus created greater public safety for the people of Missouri. Over the years, we have seen a breakdown in the effectiveness of these systems, with many people returning to incarceration repeatedly. This has led the Christian Coalition of Missouri, and others to look for opportunities to improve upon the effectiveness of our system through thoughtful and meaningful reforms. In John 10:10 we read that “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”. This verse sets out that a lack of abundance is opposite to stealing, killing, and destroying. When we look at common threads among those incarcerated, a lack of abundance in many areas of life is a very common thread. Once released, it should be our desire that those who have made mistakes get on their feet, find work, and take a different path. SNAP is a safety blanket along that way to make sure that no one goes hungry. Hunger leads people to take extreme measures to avoid starvation and could be a catalyst that could lead someone back down a bad road. If it is our true desire to help people to return to society as a better person, and contributing member of society, denying them access to food assistance is exactly opposite of what we say we are trying to do. This reform is pro-life. Being pro-life means more than just wanting children to be born. It means embracing a culture that supports all life, from conception to death. Ensuring that children and families who have fallen on hard times have enough food to eat is consistent with that culture. We have all made mistakes in our past. Many of us know individuals who have suffered through drug addiction or made the mistake of engaging in criminal activity. And many have overcome these past behaviors. Vice-Chair Perkins’ legislation offers dignity and support to those who may have erred in the past but have served their sentence and shown a desire to be better. We must provide a foundation on which people can rebuild their lives, and ensuring they have access to basic sustenance is just that: a platform on which people can find work and reestablish themselves as successful, productive citizens of Missouri. We applaud Vice-Chair Perkins for his humane, smart-on-crime approach, recognizing the need for second chances and the ways in which providing them can ultimately make us safer by reducing recidivism. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation, and we urge your support.
 Respectfully, Keith den Hollander Vice President - Legislative Affairs Christian Coalition



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 1:23 PM

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I wholeheartedly support the comprehensive changes proposed in this bill, which significantly enhance the protection of vulnerable individuals within our legal system. The decision to repeal provisions excluding individuals convicted of certain drug offenses from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits is a crucial step toward ensuring a fair and equitable society, acknowledging that access to nutrition is a fundamental right irrespective of one's past mistakes. Moreover, the bill's dedication to safeguarding the well-being of pregnant offenders is commendable, restricting the use of restraints during the third trimester and prioritizing humane treatment during transportation, labor, and post-delivery. The specific provisions for staff training, maternal health evaluations, and the presence of a female medical professional during examinations showcase a commitment to comprehensive care for pregnant offenders. Additionally, the amendment raising the age to 18 for the admissibility of statements and recordings in criminal cases involving minors is a progressive measure that aligns with evolving standards of justice. This bill is a testament to our collective commitment to compassion, fairness, and justice for all.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY LISA PENILLA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mipenilla7@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 6:07 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee Members, Thank you for hearing House Bill 1777. My name is Mary Lisa Penilla, a resident of Missouri. I'm writing about the proposed passage of House Bill 1777 through your committee. This bill would, as I understand it, opt Missouri out of an optional Federal provision. I also understand that most other states have already opted out of this provision. Currently in Missouri, in most cases, when someone has a drug felony on their record, even after they have served their time and have returned to society, if they have need of the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which provides food, they cannot access this safety net program ever. They are banned for the rest of their life. When originally passed, this federal law was intended to be a get-tough-on-crime measure, but it failed to consider the reality of addiction or the notion of second chances. While getting tough on crime and keeping people safe is a noble and worthwhile idea, punishing individuals for past wrongs or indiscretions goes against the very fabric of a just society. This current law is not helping anyone. It hurts individuals and families, and does not offer folks a second chance. We are talking about access to food. Please pass House Bill 1777 through your committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 1:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I wholeheartedly support the comprehensive changes proposed in this bill, which significantly enhance the protection of vulnerable individuals within our legal system. The decision to repeal provisions excluding individuals convicted of certain drug offenses from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits is a crucial step toward ensuring a fair and equitable society, acknowledging that access to nutrition is a fundamental right irrespective of one's past mistakes. Moreover, the bill's dedication to safeguarding the well-being of pregnant offenders is commendable, restricting the use of restraints during the third trimester and prioritizing humane treatment during transportation, labor, and post-delivery. The specific provisions for staff training, maternal health evaluations, and the presence of a female medical professional during examinations showcase a commitment to comprehensive care for pregnant offenders. Additionally, the amendment raising the age to 18 for the admissibility of statements and recordings in criminal cases involving minors is a progressive measure that aligns with evolving standards of justice. This bill is a testament to our collective commitment to compassion, fairness, and justice for all.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL J. SONNTAG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: michaeljsonntag@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 8:47 AM
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Thank you for hearing House Bill 1777. My name is Michael Sonntag. I am a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 3854 Flad, St Louis, MO 63110, and am active in their Living Justice Ministries. I support the proposed passage of House Bill 1777 through your committee. This bill, as I understand it, would no longer exclude individuals who are convicted of a state or federal felony drug offense from SNAP for such conviction. In effect, Missouri would choose to opt out of this (optional) federal exclusion - an action already taken by many other states. Currently in Missouri, in most cases, when someone has a drug felony on their record, even after they have served their time and have returned to society, they are unable to access the support of the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which provides for the most basic of human needs: food, for the rest of their lives. When originally passed, this federal law was intended to be a get-tough-on-crime measure, but it failed to consider the reality of addiction or the notion of second chances. While getting tough on crime and keeping people safe is a noble and worthwhile idea, punishing individuals for past wrongs or indiscretions goes against the very fabric of a just society. This current law is not helping anyone. It is increasing recidivism, hurting individuals and families, and not offering folks a second chance. Please pass House Bill 1777 through your committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL JASON DEAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jason@faithnurses.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 10:38 AM
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Most other states have opted out of the lifetime ban on SNAP benefits for those with a drug felony. This is reasonable given the legalization of marijuana while many remained banned for a drug charge related only to marijuana (and are unable to have their record expunged). Continuation of the ban disproportionately affects women and children, does nothing to increase public safety and may actually increase crime, and certainly increases recidivism as it significantly hampers efforts to promote successful re-entry. I'm a nurse working with justice involved, recently released individuals. Please hear me when I say: if we prohibit meaningful re-integration into community, if we increase the already stacked difficulty of feeling ownership and partnership with one's neighborhood - then we (with our policy) are actively promoting the opposite - a dispossess people who cycle in and out of the justice system.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK PLEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION; FAITH AND FREEDOM COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR, NOLAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ALEXANDRIA		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22314
EMAIL: pplein@conservative.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 10:21 AM
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January 31st, 2024 Corrections and Public Institutions Committee Missouri House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Avenue Jefferson City, MO 65101 Chair Veit, Vice-Chair Perkins, Ranking Member Terry, and members of the committee:

As conservative grassroots organizations, the American Conservative Union and the Faith and Freedom Coalition support efforts to promote public safety through accountability and redemption. With this in mind, we write in support of the policy before your committee that would lift Missouri's ban on the Supplemental Nutrition Food Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for certain individuals with criminal history. This change is a common-sense solution that prioritizes human dignity and basic needs, while removing an unnecessary roadblock for people on a path toward becoming successful, productive citizens. As conservatives, we share your dedication to maximizing public safety. Toward this end, we have advocated for policies that lower recidivism by removing counterproductive barriers to a law-abiding life. The evidence firmly shows that laws which permanently ban individuals with criminal convictions from accessing food do not work to deter future crimes. In fact, the exact opposite tends to become true. Increasingly punitive bans can actually increase recidivism, driven in part by financially motivated crimes and the need to access the most basic human needs. To the extent increased recidivism drives higher incarceration costs, taxpayers will be needlessly on the hook. While not only humane, this policy is unequivocally pro-family. Opening pathways to a second chance for parents with a criminal history by simply allowing them access to the most basic human need is a no brainer. That is why conservative lawmakers have chosen to lift bans in pro-family states across the country, including Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and South Dakota. We applaud Missouri policymakers for considering this human-first, rational 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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1777		DATE: 1/31/2024	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 142585			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 9:36 AM	
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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARA FLORES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: saramflores@Gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 4:10 PM
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Dear House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee Members, Thank you for hearing House Bill 1777



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
REPRESENTING: DREAM.ORG & MADP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: VANESSA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 9:39 PM

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Testimony on behalf of Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (Advocates).Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (PPSLRSWMO) proudly provides respectful, equitable, and evidence-based health services, and seeks to reduce health inequities for those most marginalized and with the least access to care.PPSLRSWMO health center staff also see firsthand the long-term impact of how trauma and disparate treatment in care impacts patients. Advocates supports policies that expand accessibility, availability, and affordability of sexual and reproductive care across the lifespan, whether at Planned Parenthood health centers or elsewhere. Advocates also supports policies that create equitable and just systems so that all Missourians and their families can thrive.We are active in work across coalitions with partners representing a broad range of sexual, reproductive, and maternal health issues - because access to dignified, safe, compassionate health care for all people is critical to their reproductive health and freedom. These bills unequivocally advance these goals and would benefit the health of Missourians. Advocates strongly supports HB 1777, which addresses numerous gaps in access and care for incarcerated people. It would place protections against the use of restraints in city and county jails; as already recognized in state statute, the practice of using restraints, or “shackling,” on pregnant, laboring, and postpartum individuals is both demeaning and dangerous. This practice has long been opposed by major medical organizations such as the American Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and American Public Health Association. Eliminating this practice should extend to all those detained in Missouri, regardless of the carceral system in which they are detained. Incarcerated individuals face unique barriers to health care, and those who are pregnant and postpartum are at increased risk of negative health outcomes; yet, their health care needs remain largely unaddressed. HB 1777 makes critical strides to protect the health and dignity of those in the corrections systems. It also creates pathways for returning citizens to optimize their health and families once released. HB 1777 ensures critical preventive services and basic dignity are afforded incarcerated individuals in city and county jails. Nutrition and menstrual products, as well as preventive services and testing and treatment, with a trauma-informed lens, are critical to individuals and more broadly, to our state’s public health systems.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANA KNAPP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CARTER DOCHLER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-345-7751	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 4254 VISTA AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: jdochler@mffh.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2024 6:28 AM	

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Missouri Foundation for Health is an independent nonprofit foundation whose mission is to eliminate underlying causes of health inequities, transform systems, and enable Missourians to thrive. Like you, we want Missouri to be a healthy place to live and work. We are submitting information-only testimony that might be helpful for the committee to consider. Learn more about our Infant Mortality Strategic Initiative: <https://mffh.org/our-focus/issue-based-work/infant-mortality/> Learn more about our Food Insecurity Strategic Initiative: <https://mffh.org/our-focus/issue-based-work/food-justice/> Read the SNAP Basics Fact Sheet: <https://mffh.org/publications/snap-basics-2023-fact-sheet/> Read the SNAP Basics: <https://mffh.org/publications/missouri-snap-basics-2023/>