



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2160		DATE: 2/28/2024
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 11:23 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill. However many, if not all of these items in the Proposed Legislation are already being done and practiced by Missouri's 518 Public School Districts. There are some conflicts with Federal Law that I have an issue with.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875
REPRESENTING: OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS PROJECT		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 122 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 200		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 5:30 PM
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I SUPPORT HB 2160. I do have a problem with the following text on page 3 though: "4. (1) Each school district and charter school shall develop policies and procedures for such school district and charter school to follow to accommodate and assist parents in the exercise of the parental rights..." It seems to me like this is akin to charging the fox with guarding the hen house. What provisions would be in place to protect against such policies and procedures developed by the school/school district that aren't acceptable to the parents or the spirit of this bill? For example, on page 3 it states "(4) The right to visit the school and check in on their minor child during school hours;". What if the policy developed by the school/school district only allows parents to visit their child(ren) from 12:00pm to 1:00pm? Would that satisfy the spirit of this bill? What if the policy developed by the school/school district only allows parents to visit their child(ren) for a maximum of 10 consecutive minutes, regardless of the time of day? Would that satisfy the spirit of this bill? I think such sections of this bill need to be tightened up and more clearly defined. The tighter and more clearly defined a bill is, the less likely it is to cause confusion, uncertainty, and costly legal challenges. Instead of making the school districts and schools develop policies and procedures to carry out the requirements of this bill, I think it would be better if this bill created the policies and procedures. This bill isn't perfect, but I think it's better than nothing, better than what we have now, and a step in the right direction.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP-A		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63303
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 11:48 PM

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I oppose this bill as unnecessary and redundant. Parents already have these rights. I believe bills like this are not really meant to be actually passed. I believe they are meant to divide us, pit parents against teachers. It has been made abundantly clear as I listen to discussion and testimony on a variety of bills that there is an attitude that all parents are wonderful and all teachers operate with nefarious intent, and that is simply not true. Bills like this are working to desensitize us to discrimination, not just by their content, but by the discourse that is accepted in discussion. Once the toe is in door, how long until it is thrown wide open and we are slammed back into the 1930s and 1940s? I do not accept the premise that any race, ethnicity, etc is INHERENTLY inferior. We shouldn't teach that. However, our SYSTEM has such embedded racism in it, how can we NOT teach that? The Civil Rights Bill did not completely heal racism. The Voting Rights Act was just rolled back because the system wants to shut out minority voters; SCOTUS has had to weigh in. Educators that build quality connections with students on some level have better educational outcomes. Why? Because those connections lead to trust. This bill will jeopardize this connection. Educators do not want to supplant parents, indoctrinate kids, or push a social agenda. We just want to connect in some way so they will take the risk to ask the question in class, to write the poem, to perform the solo, to offer a little of themselves to each other so they aren't alone. Sometimes that leads to kids who feel comfortable sharing, "We don't have electricity at home right now," so they can get help. Sometimes it's, "My mom has been depressed for weeks and barely gets out of bed." Sometimes it is far, far worse and we must hotline. This bill has no middle ground. It is only about mandated reporter level of safety, so since that is the only option, the fiscal note should reflect increasing case workers at DFS. They're going to need them. Florida has the requirement for permission slips for EVERYTHING and some districts find it completely cumbersome. They are required to send home a permission slip for a student who can drive himself to the theater to see Disney's Frozen as part of a school activity. I believe this is a form of malicious compliance, and if this passes in MO, I'm here for such compliance. In D and D, I'm chaotic good, so I don't like the term malicious; I think of it as chaotic compliance. Save us all the headache and let this bill languish on the chairman's desk, please.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Jhstlny@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2024 11:33 PM

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With one exception - PARENTS HAVE THESE RIGHTS. What is the motive writing laws for rights they already have? Are school districts being flooded with requests for information or complaining and being rejected? The exception is as if a teacher would preach collective guilt. Has it, could it happen. Sure. Along with a few hundred other things adults shouldn't say - AND - that parents or kids have complained about - AND - they have been dealt with. **AND THE IRONY - IT SEEMS THAT NOT PREACHING COLLECTIVE GUILT WOULD BE IN A DIVERSITY TRAINING!** The bill specifies that teachers and students cannot be compelled to adopt, affirm, or profess ideas in violation of Title IV and VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 including but not limited to: that individuals of any race, ethnicity, color, or national origin are inherently superior or inferior; and that individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, color, or national origin, bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kcm Maxwell7@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2024 10:58 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MALCOLM GERHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAY HALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NAACP AND PROMO		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHIRA BERKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-862-4900	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PROMO		TITLE: SR. DIRECTOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 2200 GRAVOIS AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL: shira@PROMOonline.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 7:04 PM	
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PROMO, Missouri's LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, is opposed to this bill. This bill seeks to curtail how teachers discuss racism's impact on politics and society, leading teachers to excessively scrutinize daily classwork and to pre-emptively pull potentially contentious materials to avoid drawing criticism. As an organization that aims to protect the health and vibrancy of LGBT Missourians, we strongly believe that teaching censored history or censored curriculum in general is not good for anyone.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SLOAN SHEFFIELD COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sloansheffield13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 8:51 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 10:40 PM
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This proposal would adversely affect the freedom of teachers to provide the honest education students deserve, and the complex new provisions could interfere with existing policies respecting student and school privacy.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: BRANDT SHIELDS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-638-7501
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2105 I-70 DRIVE SOUTHWEST		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM
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