



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2169		DATE: 2/21/2024
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: FAMILIES AGAINST MANDATORY MINIMUMS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1100 H STREET NW SUITE 1000		
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC
		ZIP: 20005
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 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: 2/21/2024 11:53 PM
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Lower the Rates!



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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: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 10:08 AM	

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Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our work, we organize a statewide Community Justice Coalition with the goal of decreasing recidivism, decreasing the prison population, and decreasing Missouri’s criminal justice costs all while ensuring our communities are safe. It is imperative that incarcerated individuals are able to stay in communication with their loved ones while they are serving their sentences. Many individuals who are incarcerated have pre-existing mental health conditions, and even those who don’t can suffer great consequences to their mental health brought on by isolation. Maintaining a connection with family fosters a sense of hope, encourages good behavior, and helps maintain important parental and other familial bonds. Incarcerated individuals who maintain strong family ties have an easier time transitioning home and are more likely to succeed during re-entry, benefiting themselves, their families, and their community. HB 2169, sponsored by Rep. Aaron McMullen, would cap the cost of domestic phone calls in prisons and jails at 5 cents per minute. Based on this rate, the cost of a 15 minute phone call would be capped at \$0.75. On average, a 15-minute phone call in a correctional facility costs \$5.74, while some prisons are charging \$1 or more per minute. One study found that more than a third of families with incarcerated relatives went into debt over the costs of staying in touch with their loved ones. Many of these families are already suffering financially from missing a wage earner from the household– they should not go further into debt in order to fulfill a basic human need for connection. Meanwhile, the high costs of phone calls in jails and prisons generates \$1.4B per year for the correctional telecommunications sector. HB 2169 provides an important profit cap for these businesses while protecting access to an essential service for incarcerated individuals and their families. We urge this committee to vote yes on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-323-0915	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5380 MAGNOLIA			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA S PIEPER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lspieper13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 12:41 PM
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I also support House Bill 2169 for the same reasons I stated in House Bill 1679 Statement of Support stressing the cost not exceed five cents per minute. An inmate is living on bare bones and any help to allow communication with their family and friends only provides support for rehabilitation and becoming a productive member of society upon release.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
REPRESENTING: DREAM ORG; MO STATE CONFERENCE NAACP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: sharon@jonesadvocacy.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2024 4:51 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DON BICKHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: doniibecky@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2024 5:06 PM
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Do NOT support...It should be left up to the particular correctional facility.