



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2218		DATE: 3/6/2024
COMMITTEE: Insurance Policy		
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 ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 11:50 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
I am in Support of this Bill. There NEEDS to be Penalties Provided with the State Law.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL TUCKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-598-5450
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI WORKERS CENTER		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3347 TRACY AVE.		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64109
EMAIL: dct041@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 1:43 PM

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

I am writing today on behalf of the Missouri Workers Center and our opposition to HB 2218. Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are enshrined in the 1st Amendment to our federal Constitution and there's a reason for that: because the freedom to assemble is integral to maintaining a free republic and a free society. We believe that this legislation, whether explicitly or by implication, will undermine our most fundamental rights to free speech and assembly. Our organization works in particular with low-wage workers who are organizing and very often have to rally, strike, and hold public demonstrations in order to hold their employers and our elected leaders to account, and we believe this legislation could have a chilling effect on workers exercise of these federal rights--therefore we see this legislation as both un-American and anti-worker.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DANY LACIO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PROMO MISSOURI		TITLE: EQUALITY ORGANIZR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65807
EMAIL: dany@promoonline.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 2:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are writing to express our strong opposition to HB 2218, legislation that aims to penalize individuals for participating in peaceful protests. As an organization that advocates for a marginalized community and values the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble, we believe this legislation poses a threat to our constitutional rights and undermines the very foundations of our democratic society. We are an organization that sometimes engages in protest as a way to exercise our first amendment, a constitutionally right to free speech. Our organization we takes steps to hold peaceful and nonviolent protests, rallies and other free speech activities. But we are very concerned about the attempt to hold an organization reliable for the actions of any person attending or at the protest. From the beginning of our country's history, America has been made better by protests. People coming together to demand change is how we fought segregation, how we ended child labor, protected the environment and expanded the right to vote. Most protests are peaceful and the way to address protesting is to fix the causes of it, not to attempt to silence the people's voices. Penalizing individuals for exercising their right to peaceful assembly not only contradicts the principles upon which our nation was founded but also sets a dangerous precedent that could stifle dissent and discourage civic engagement. It is a betrayal of the spirit of our constitution, which protects freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as some of the most sacred rights to be protected. HB 2218 would diminish that fundamental American freedom. While we acknowledge the importance of maintaining public order and safety, existing laws already address instances where protests escalate into violence or criminal activities. Introducing additional penalties for protestors runs the risk of disproportionately silencing marginalized voices and minority groups who often rely on peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to social injustices. Under HB 2218, taking to the streets for actions like union picket lines, rallies for healthcare, or marches for Black Lives Matter could result in severe penalties. HB 2218 is an attempt to silence our voices. That is downright unAmerican we won't stand for it!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID L DEROSSETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dderosse@drury.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 3:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

More Missourians in recent years have been exercising their 1st amendment rights and participating in our democracy by making their voices heard in the streets, particularly when unpopular or unjust policies are proposed or passed. Legislation designed to undermine, stifle, or suppress dissent, including of public protest, is by definition anti-democratic. The avalanche of anti-protest bills and bills to undermine Missouri's century old initiative petition process clearly have this goal and are nakedly anti-democratic. Missouri voters know it! HB 2218 is the latest in a string of 18 anti-protest bills that have been introduced in Missouri since 2017. Legislators who have proposed and supported these bills are either fearful or disdainful (or both) of Missouri voters who push back against unpopular policies. HB 2218 would take a step toward criminalizing citizen rights to engage in collective action, including demonstrations, civil disobedience, and potentially even legally permitted rallies, by making organizers legally culpable for disruption or property damage that occurs during a protest event, regardless of who the perpetrators are. This is potentially unconstitutional, but at the very least the bill is designed to undermine effects of protest and to render civil disobedience, a key tactic in struggles for social change since the Civil Rights Movement, all but impossible. With HB 2218, taking to the streets for actions like union picket lines, rallies for healthcare, an increased minimum wage, or marches for racial justice could result in severe penalties and potentially jail time for organizers. There is no evidence of a trend of protestors in Missouri becoming more violent or present an imminent danger to the safety of the general public. But that concern is not really why bills like HB 2218 are being proposed. This is a clear attempt to silence our voices and criminalize democracy and Missouri citizens will not stand for it!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAI BYRD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: johnathanbyrd33@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 11:25 PM
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Testimony Against HB 2218As people who believe in the power of peaceful protest to bring about meaningful change, I vehemently oppose HB 2218. This bill, rather than addressing the root causes of social issues, seeks to intimidate and punish organizers of protests, regardless of their actual involvement in any damages. Protests are a vital tool for expressing dissent and advocating for change. They have historically been used to amplify marginalized voices and push for progress. However, HB 2218 threatens to undermine this fundamental right by holding organizers liable for damages caused by individuals or groups unrelated to the protest's goals. I have seen how opposition forces have infiltrated and manipulated peaceful movements in the past, using violence and destruction to discredit the cause. HB 2218 plays into this strategy by unfairly targeting organizers who may have no control over such actions. Instead of fostering dialogue and understanding, this bill creates a chilling effect on free speech and assembly. It discourages people from exercising their constitutional rights out of fear of being held responsible for the actions of others. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 2218 and focus on addressing the underlying issues that lead to protests. Let us not stifle dissent, but rather embrace it as a necessary component of a democratic society. Thank you for considering our testimony.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMALA ROGERS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-367-5959	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK STRUGGLE		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1401 ROWAN AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: jamala7@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 9:56 PM	

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Re HB2218, the Organization for Black Struggle is appalled that such anti-democratic legislation is being proposed. The right to assemble is a fundamental right of all citizens. Further, I'm not sure how one determines "who" is liable for damage at a protest when organizers can't control who comes to a public protest. They are being whose intent is to cause trouble. I don't think groups who are organizing non-violent protests should be held accountable for the actions of saboteurs. This goal of this kind of legislation is to muffle the voices of dissent and to put a chill on their actions. We oppose HB2218.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMALA ROGERS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-307-3083	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: YOUTH COUNCIL FOR POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 5277			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63115
EMAIL: ycpd_stl@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 10:42 PM	

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The Youth Council for Positive Development stands in staunch opposition to HB 2218. It is unclear as to what problem it is a remedy for and seems like it will create more problems. It is the right for any person to assemble in a peaceful manner for whatever the person. We hope you will reconsider the merits of this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KAY MILLS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2725 CLIFTON AVE.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63139
EMAIL: kay@mojwj.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 12:32 PM

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As an organization that sometimes engages in protest as a way to exercise our first amendment, constitutionally protected right to free speech, we are opposed to HB2218. We find his bill anti-Democratic and an attempt to silence voices that are marginalized - voices that our society needs to hear from. We take steps to hold peaceful and nonviolent protests, rallies and other free speech activities. But we are very concerned about an attempt to hold an organization or a person liable for the action of any person attending or at a protest.



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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: 3/6/2024 9:18 PM

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

I'm reaching out to voice my firm opposition to HB2218 (Morse), which pertains to protests and liability for damages. While I recognize the importance of maintaining public safety, this legislation takes an overly aggressive stance that undermines core rights and freedoms. Protests stand as a vital pillar of our democracy, offering citizens a platform to voice their concerns and advocate for change. However, by instituting strict liability for any damages arising from a protest, this bill casts a chilling shadow over freedom of speech and assembly. Furthermore, the bill's language is overly vague and expansive. The term "property damage" is broad and could encompass minor incidents beyond the control of protest organizers. Holding them accountable for such damages is unjust and disproportionate. Additionally, penalizing individuals for obstructing an interstate highway or emergency vehicle, irrespective of intent or circumstances, is draconian and fails to acknowledge the nuances of protest dynamics. Often, protesters resort to such actions as a last resort to draw attention to pressing issues that are being overlooked by those in authority. Instead of quashing dissent and punishing those who exercise their constitutional rights, we should strive for constructive dialogue and seek solutions that tackle the underlying causes of social unrest. This bill establishes a perilous precedent and jeopardizes the very foundation of our democracy.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MALIK SIMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: donnellsimsmaurice@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 9:45 PM
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I'm writing to express my concerns about HB2218. The language is vague for such a valued constitutional right as freedom of assembly. I urge you to put the brakes on this misdirected legislation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCEL HAGENS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marcel@actionstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 11:22 PM

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Chair Cristofanelli and the members of the Policy Committee, My name is Marcel Hagens. I am the policy coordinator for the Action St. Louis Power Project and I submitting my testimony in opposition of HB 2218. Protests are embedded in the very fabric of the American Story. From this country's inception, when citizens felt as though their needs weren't met and their voices weren't being heard they utilized protest as a tool to draw attention to their needs. The language as interpreted seeks to criminalize this very much American institution and it isn't lost on us that this bill and previous versions on similar language began appearing when the most marginalized of us began to ulitize protesting to bring awareness to the injustices that have taking place over the last decade. The LGBTQIA+ community in Missouri has been subject to these chambers disregarding their rights and their existence. Black people has been told that aggressive policing in their communities is what's best for them. Women have been told that they don't have the freedom over their bodies. Each of these communities have utilized the means of protesting to speak for themselves and empower the stories of these communities and with this language, you are telling them that speaking up for themselves is a crime. We at the Action St. Louis Power Project reject this notion and implore this committee to do the same. Please vote no on HB 2218. Marcel Hagens (They/Them) Policy Coordinator Action St. Louis Power Project



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN BALDRIDGE		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-4007	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE GLO CENTER		TITLE: PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
ADDRESS: 1707 S FAIRWAY AVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL: president@glocenter.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 6:24 PM	

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We are writing to express our strong opposition to HB 2218, legislation that aims to penalize individuals for participating in peaceful protests. As an organization that advocates for a marginalized community and values the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble, we believe this legislation poses a threat to our constitutional rights and undermines the very foundations of our democratic society. We are an organization that sometimes engages in protest as a way to exercise our first amendment, a constitutionally right to free speech. Our organization takes steps to hold peaceful and nonviolent protests, rallies and other free speech activities. But we are very concerned about the attempt to hold an organization reliable for the actions of any person attending or at the protest. From the beginning of our country’s history, America has been made better by protest. People coming together to demand change is how we fought segregation, how we ended child labor, protected the environment and expanded the right to vote. Most protests are peaceful and the way to address protesting is to fix the causes of it, not to attempt to silence the people’s voices. Penalizing individuals for exercising their right to peaceful assembly not only contradicts the principles upon which our nation was founded but also sets a dangerous precedent that could stifle dissent and discourage civic engagement. It is a betrayal of the spirit of our constitution, which protects freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as some of the most sacred rights to be protected. HB 2218 would diminish that fundamental American freedom. While we acknowledge the importance of maintaining public order and safety, existing laws already address instances where protests escalate into violence or criminal activities. Introducing additional penalties for protestors runs the risk of disproportionately silencing marginalized voices and minority groups who often rely on peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to social injustices. Under HB 2218, taking to the streets for actions like union picket lines, rallies for healthcare, or marches for Black Lives Matter could result in severe penalties. HB 2218 is an attempt to silence our voices. That is downright un-American and we won’t stand for it! Thank you, The GLO Center



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 10:20 AM	

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The Sierra Club opposes House Bill 2218, which would have a chilling affect on protected first amendment rights. The bill would place legal liability for damages on a highway to "any person who sponsors or organizes a protest or demonstration". If the person leads an organization, would the organization be liable for the actions of any individual who claims to have been part of the protest, or inspired by the protest? Who is going to determine who the "leader" is? There are already Missouri laws addressing issues of trespassing and property damage. A bill to augment liability for those who act out of belief is an attack on people's rights. This is not a direction that we should go in.



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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: 3/6/2024 9:16 PM

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB2218 (Morse) regarding protests and liability for damages. While I understand the need to maintain public safety, this bill takes a heavy-handed approach that undermines fundamental rights and freedoms. Protests have been a cornerstone of our democracy, allowing citizens to voice their concerns and advocate for change. However, by imposing strict liability for any damages that occur during a protest, this bill creates a chilling effect on free speech and assembly. Furthermore, the language of the bill is vague and overreaching. The term "property damage" is broad and could encompass minor incidents that are beyond the control of protest organizers. Holding them liable for such damages is unjust and disproportionate. Moreover, penalizing individuals for blocking an interstate highway or emergency vehicle, regardless of intent or circumstances, is draconian and ignores the complexities of protest dynamics. Many times, protesters are forced into such actions as a last resort to draw attention to urgent issues that are being ignored by those in power. Rather than stifling dissent and punishing those who exercise their constitutional rights, we should be working towards constructive dialogue and finding solutions that address the root causes of social unrest. This bill sets a dangerous precedent and threatens the very fabric of our democracy. I urge you to reconsider this misguided proposal and uphold the principles of free speech, assembly, and dissent that are essential to a healthy and vibrant society.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-531-7526	
REPRESENTING: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI		TITLE: POLICY & POLITICAL MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: sarah.felts@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 5:13 PM	
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From the beginning of our country's history, America has been made better by protest. People coming together to demand change is how we fought segregation, how we ended child labor, protected the environment and expanded the right to vote. The way to address protest is to fix the causes of it, not to attempt to silence it. HB 2218 is an attempt to silence marginalized voices — please vote no.



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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: 3/6/2024 12:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I sometimes engage in protest as a way to exercise my 1st Amendment Constitutionally protected right to free speech. The bill is an anti-American attempt to silence voices that are marginalized, that society needs to hear from. I take steps to hold peaceful and nonviolent protests, rallies and other free speech activities. I am concerned about an attempt to hold an organization or a person liable for the action of any person attending or at a protest. This bill would make it easy for an infiltrator who opposes an action to derail the action and do real harm to the organizers. From the beginning of our country's history, America has been made better by protest. People coming together to demand change is how we fought segregation, how we ended child labor, protected the environment and expanded the right to vote. The way to address protest is to fix the causes of it, not to attempt to silence it. The bill would diminish what has been a fundamental freedom for Americans for generations. It is a betrayal of the spirit of our Constitution, which protects freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as some of the most sacred rights to be protected.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI SCHAFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACLU OF MISSOURI		TITLE: DD FOR POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS	
ADDRESS: 906			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: tschafer@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 7:42 PM	
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The ACLU of Missouri opposes HB 2218. Bills that impact the First Amendment should always be read with a detailed amount of scrutiny. This bill attempts to create liability for "any person who sponsors and organizes a protest." By reading this bill, it's unclear who exactly could be considered an "organizer" or "sponsor." Would every organization that reposted a social media invite to the protest be liable? Would the mom who organized her book club to attend the protest be liable? Bills like this can chill the First Amendment, by unconstitutionally restricting the right to protest, and are applicably undemocratic. As Missourians, we should encourage citizens to utilize their First Amendment rights. Moreover, there are already penalties for individuals who destroy property or impede emergency vehicles. The ACLU of Missouri strongly encourages the committee to vote no on HB 2218. This bill discourages citizens from utilizing their First Amendment right, and it does not benefit Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VEE SANCHEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: veesanchez30@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 11:02 PM
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Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2218, which threatens to infringe upon our fundamental right to protest and free speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This bill, if passed, would allow civil lawsuits against organizers or sponsors of protests that result in property damage or personal injuries, regardless of their intent or involvement in causing such damage. Protest has long been a cornerstone of American democracy, allowing citizens to peacefully assemble and voice their concerns. Attempts to suppress this right, such as those seen in HB 2218, are deeply concerning and run counter to the values of our nation. HB 2218 would not only deter individuals and organizations from exercising their constitutional rights but also have a chilling effect on dissent and public discourse. It is essential that we protect the right to protest as a vital tool for holding government and institutions accountable. I urge you to reject HB 2218 and uphold our fundamental rights to free speech and assembly. Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely, Vee Sanchez



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2218		DATE: 3/6/2024
COMMITTEE: Insurance Policy		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: ZACK DUNN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-739-7270
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI KANSAS LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 951 CORPORATE PARKWAY		
CITY: WENTZVILLE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63385
EMAIL: zdunn@mkldc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2024 7:03 PM

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My name is Zack Dunn and I'm providing testimony on behalf of the Missouri and Kansas Laborers District Council. As a union, we represent construction craft laborers. Our members perform concrete work, demolition, asbestos and lead abatement, and we represent public employees across the state. In total, we have 12,000 members in Missouri. We are testifying in opposition to the bill today for a couple reasons. First, we believe the bill to be incredibly vague. There are no definitions for what constitutes property damage. No definition for organize. No definition for protest or demonstration. It's hard to fully appreciate a bills impact with so much out for interpretation. The second reason for opposition is the fact that as a union, we organize workers at their workplace. There are times where we may have to picket, strike, or hold a rally. To what extent would this bill be able to be used to attack labor organizing? We want to ensure workers can support their families with a great career in the construction industry. This bill could make it harder to achieve that. We appreciate your time and respectfully encourage you to oppose this bill.