



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2502</b>		DATE: <b>1/31/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALEX EATON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>513-616-9860</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>444 N CAPITOL STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20001</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 11:55 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GWEN SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-324-9656</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 14900</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65110</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANNINE "JANN" COULSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jann.coulson60@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/30/2024 11:54 AM</b>	
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The U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics (November 2023, NCJ 307149) reports Missouri DOC population for 2021 as 23,442 and 2022 as 21,370 (Table 2)\*. They also report releases in 2021 as 11,425 and in 2022 11,197 net of deaths. In short, the numbers of annual releases detainees numerically are about equal to half of the average population. (DOC confirmed December 2023 census as 23,851 detainees. It is therefore certainly in everyone's best interest that people being released return to the free world as well prepared as possible to be contributing members of their families and communities. The longer a person spends incarcerated, the greater the challenges they face since, as we are all experiencing, the world is changing at an ever increasing pace. Families struggle to house, feed and cloth themselves as inflation has stretched budgets thin, so when a returning family member has difficulty obtaining employment, that punishes their families with stressors that are acute for everyone, including people who have never been charged with a crime. (Remember: family support is a significant factor in reducing recidivism so it is particular BAD when we make things harder for the kids and elderly parents inequitably harmed by this situation.) So it seems to me that the LOWEST level of preparation that is reasonable is that they have the basic documents and identifications needed to successfully apply for and be hired for even the most basic of employment. This will certainly not be a magic answer to the current abysmal challenges they face even when they have "paid for their crimes" as determined by the state. But surely we can not do LESS. I am aware that the immediate past director established a release preparation team that is charged with, among many other tasks, assisting detained persons scheduled for near time release to prepare to return to the free world. But the funding is not generous and I believe that "good intentions" may fail when multiple needs present. Please codify: basic needed documents and IDs are a basic need that DOC must make every effort to meet in a timely manner. Personally, I would like to see this as targeted for ALL detained persons for these reasons: DOC annually sees more than 11,000 persons released and by far the majority of these are returning to the free world. As a citizen of the State of Missouri, I strongly prefer that they arrive home with not LESS than this minimal need met. Thank you for your thoughtful and courageous consideration of all potential legislation that improves safety and humane treatment for ALL citizens of the State of Missouri. If I can provide any additional information or perspective feel free to ask.



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

I stand firmly in support of the proposed bill that mandates the Department of Corrections to furnish specified inmates with essential documentation to facilitate their seamless transition into post-release employment. This forward-thinking legislation not only recognizes the critical importance of aiding individuals in their reintegration into society but also takes concrete steps towards breaking down barriers to employment that often hinder successful reentry. By requiring the Department of Corrections to collaborate with the Department of Revenue to issue State-issued identification cards and proactively ensuring that inmates lacking current IDs have the necessary documentation nine months prior to release, this bill empowers individuals with the tools they need to secure employment opportunities. The stipulation that these ID cards are valid for four years and nonrenewable ensures a reasonable timeframe for use, while the flexibility in funding sources, including inmate trust funds and donations, showcases a commitment to practical solutions. This bill, with its thoughtful provisions, is a testament to our dedication to fostering rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and promoting a more just and inclusive society.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDA S PIEPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lspieper13@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 8:59 AM</b>
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To better serve Rehabilitative efforts, moving away from warehousing inmates and re-entry to jails, I fully support House Bill 2502 to provide a person with the tools of stated documents to: 1) Pursue Employment without delays, and 2) Obtain Documents stated in Subsection 8 (1 - 6) that provides a history of the inmates' positive activities while incarcerated, and 3) Provides productive tools for an inmate, as a member of society, to begin a new life for himself and family. With overcrowding of Missouri Prisons/Jails, House Bill 2502 addresses issues that encourages Rehabilitation and Saving the Taxpayers' dollars.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 1:23 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NOAH BEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-805-0994</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE POLICY MANAGER, JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20001</b>
EMAIL: <b>noah@justiceactionnetwork.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/30/2024 4:51 PM</b>	
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Chair Veit, Vice-Chair Perkins, Ranking Member Terry, and members of the committee: My name is Noah Bein, and I am a state policy manager for the Justice Action Network (JAN), an organization working with state legislators across the country to advance bipartisan criminal justice laws that keep the public safe. JAN asks for your support for HB 2502, sponsored by Rep. Oehlerking. This legislation is vital not just to reducing recidivism but also to growing the state's economy by addressing workforce shortages. Missouri had 173,000 job openings as of November 2023, posing severe challenges to businesses in your communities. Data show that obtaining employment within 30 days of release from prison is the single most important factor in reducing recidivism and keeping the public safe from crime. HB 2502 requires the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide an inmate with crucial and necessary identification documents to assist an inmate in obtaining employment once released from prison. Providing individuals with these documents is critical for them to find employment opportunities while significantly reducing the likelihood that they will commit another crime. This policy is already successfully implemented in states across the country – with a strong track record of success. In 2021, Oklahoma Governor Stitt signed HB 1679, a law containing this same policy, named after his wife. The Sarah Stitt Act codifies much the same requirements as HB 2502. Oklahoma is seeing results: over the last five years, the prison population has declined 21%, and the state reports the second-lowest recidivism of any state in the country. This is a bipartisan reform championed by policymakers from both sides of the aisle. In 2022, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative policy conference, adopted the Act To Prepare Inmates For Re-Entry And The Workforce, which includes reforms mirroring those in HB 2502. Similar legislation has been signed into law in Arizona, Georgia, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Alaska. Missouri's DOC does issue some people some documents upon release. We applaud DOC for its efforts and for its good-faith engagement in improving reentry for people in its custody. This legislation simply codifies best practice to ensure that everyone leaving prison has what they need to find work on day one. With this in mind, we urge you to support HB 2502. If JAN can be of service to this committee in any way going forward, please be in touch. Thank you for your time and consideration, Noah Bein  
State Policy Manager  
Justice Action Network





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAL MARTINEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Smartinez@sfm-stl.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 5:26 PM</b>
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**I support former inmates being able to obtain all necessary government documents as soon as possible as they are released from incarnation.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>VANESSA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 9:39 PM</b>
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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. HB 2502 advances systems to expand access and information for Missourians to be empowered as they forge the next steps in their lives.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ADAM ALBACH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-526-6499</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE LIAISON</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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