



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2523		DATE: 2/12/2024
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Homeland Security		
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: BEVERLY WATKINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: watkins1998@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 9:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My friends son was killed by an illegal drunk driver. Although this was some years back, the illegals are still pouring in. And I can assure you my friends pain of losing her son is as fresh as the day it happened. David Garcia, the illegal, walked out of the hospital and was never held accountable. He was working at a local Mexican restaurant, it is suspected they helped him flee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BILLY R MINTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: minters1@live.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 4:37 AM
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If we as a State don't take action now, the Federal Government will make these types of decisions for us. We must stand now and Protect our state before we become overrun like some of the other states are already being overrun and with no protections in place before it became to late for them. I support legal immigration, Not Illegal Immigration. For these reasons, I stand in Support of all 3 of these House Bills



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 15095			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: freedomprinciplestl@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 8:16 AM	

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One of the core principles of our organization is to protect the American citizen. American citizenship is the core indivisible and legally unopposable component of our American Republic. We must stop the invasion of our border and we need to protect our citizens and their property. We support LEGAL immigration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CINDY SKAGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: outdoorsie82@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2024 7:44 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: COLLEEN KAY TALLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: colleenbuffington@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2024 8:23 PM
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See above.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DENNIS WOELTJE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: navyseabee@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 10:04 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANE DINKINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ddnkns108@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 9:26 AM
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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: 2/10/2024 5:13 PM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
ABSOLUTELY and fast track this bill!**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ERIC PAISLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: paisleyeric@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 11:07 AM

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We need stronger laws and they need enforced.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERRY BINGHAM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bullseyexxxx@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

How can we afford to allow illegal aliens into our state when we have so many homeless people on the streets? Same with all the mental health needs in our state? We send the mental health people to our state correctional institutions instead of helping them on the streets, we are failing to uphold our own constitution!!!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLEY MITCHELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rubie.4790@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 8:26 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LANCE ERIC MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: faller540.lm@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 4:12 PM
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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: 2/12/2024 7:49 PM

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I SUPPORT HB 2523 as originally written!!This bill will deter illegal immigrants from coming to Missouri. Missouri might not be able to stop illegal immigrants from coming into the USA, but we can (and should) do everything we can to deter them from coming to Missouri. As United States Congressman Tom McClintock said: "Without enforcing our immigration laws, we effectively have no borders. And if we have no borders, we cease to be a nation and instead become a vast international territory between Canada and Mexico.That is now happening with astonishing speed, and we are fast running out of time to avoid joining the long list of civilizations that fell because they could not or would not secure their borders. Let that not be the epitaph of America."I say, let that not be the epitaph of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C.AC DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 11:49 PM
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This Bill needs work.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: EDGAR PALACIOS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REVOLUCION EDUCATIVA		TITLE: FOUNDER	
ADDRESS: 2203 LEXINGTON AVE			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64124
EMAIL: edgar@revedkc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 12:34 PM	

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

To the Members of the House Special Committee on Homeland Security: I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bills 2367, 2470, and 2523, which are scheduled for a hearing on February 12th before the Missouri House Special Committee on Homeland Security. As the founder of Revolucion Educativa, an organization committed to empowering the Latino community on education issues, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences of these bills on immigrant communities in Missouri. First and foremost, these bills suffer from serious constitutional defects, similar to those recently challenged in Texas. The Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution clearly assigns matters related to immigration and foreign commerce to the federal government, and any state action in this area must yield to federal jurisdiction. The U.S. Department of Justice has already filed a lawsuit against Texas for unconstitutional legislation targeting immigrants, and it is imperative that Missouri lawmakers consult with legal experts before proceeding with similar bills. Furthermore, these bills would allocate resources to matters that are already addressed by existing law or fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. By adding additional penalties for offenses already covered by federal law, these bills not only duplicate existing punishment but also risk further marginalizing immigrant communities in Missouri. Additionally, criminalizing conduct that is already subject to federal law could lead to costly litigation and unnecessary strain on our state's resources. Given the existing punishment for the underlying offenses, the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government in matters of immigration law, and the potential for expensive court litigation, the costs associated with these bills far outweigh any perceived benefits. I urge you to carefully consider the implications of HBs 2367, 2470, and 2523 and to prioritize the well-being and rights of all residents of Missouri, including immigrants and their families. Thank you for considering my concerns. I respectfully request that you oppose these bills and work towards policies that promote justice, equality, and inclusion for all members of our community.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SALLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: esalleyslu@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 8:59 PM
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Many undocumented individuals are awaiting their court cases while simultaneously adapting to a new society and culture, in which they may still be learning U.S. rules and laws. As someone who has worked with Afghan refugees, including those whose work authorization expired while waiting new humanitarian parole status or immigration court dates (therefore considered undocumented), I know how difficult it is for them to learn all the new laws of our country while trying to maintain jobs and families, all while recovering from the financial and social distress of fleeing persecution. I urge my lawmakers to oppose this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY HORNSTRA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emlife@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2024 10:30 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GABRIELE EISSNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GUILLERMO VILLA TRUEBA		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: HISPANIC OUTREACH MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: villatruebag@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 10:48 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA TROUT		PHONE NUMBER: 618-795-8525	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO IMMIGRATION POLICY COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2660 PARK AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JO ELY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joremm22@aim.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2024 8:31 AM

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These bills are hateful and harmful. Undocumented immigrants are often coming here seeking safety and a better life. As a Missouri voter and citizen, I strongly oppose these bills.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAREN SOJOURNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: catrunswithmatches@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 4:48 PM
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There is no need to make a special class for what would already be considered a Class C misdemeanor. To do so is reminiscent of what happened during the Jim Crow era.



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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: 2/12/2024 5:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a concerned citizen deeply rooted in the values of justice and compassion, I stand vehemently opposed to the proposed bill. This legislation not only criminalizes individuals seeking refuge and a better life for themselves and their families but also perpetuates a cycle of fear and marginalization within immigrant communities. This bill disregards the complex circumstances that drive individuals to cross borders in search of safety and opportunity. Furthermore, the provisions to detain individuals without due process and coerce their return to potentially dangerous situations are not only inhumane but also undermine the very principles upon which our justice system is founded. We cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of those who seek nothing more than a chance to contribute to our society and should instead focus on comprehensive immigration reform that upholds our shared humanity and values of compassion and fairness.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARY MOHL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Lary.Mohl@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2024 12:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH HBs 2367, 2470 and 2523 On February 12th the Missouri House Special Committee on Homeland Security has scheduled a hearing on HBs 2367, 2470 and 2523. All of these bills have serious problems that legislators must consider. Constitutional Defects - These bills are inspired by actions that Governor Abbot and the State of Texas has taken recently and suffer from similar Constitutional defects. - Supremacy Clause. Among other things, Texas has passed laws authorizing arrest for "illegal entry" and "refusal to comply with order" to return to country of origin. The U.S. Department of Justice has responded by suing Texas, partly by noting that the U.S. Constitution assigns all matters related to immigration and foreign commerce to the federal government and that state action in this area must yield to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. See <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-lawsuit-against-state-texas-regarding-unconstitutional-sb-4>- Equal Protection and Due process. Other Plaintiffs have sued Texas on other grounds. For example, the American Civil Liberties Union and other nongovernmental organizations have sued Texas for discriminating on the basis of national origin and ethnicity in its trespass laws and for vague and procedurally defective statutory language. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consult the Department of Justice and Constitutional experts before proceeding with these bills. Two of these bills have fiscal notes which do not consider the cost of defending these bills in the courts. **Cost/Benefit Calculation** - These bills would devote the resources of prosecutors, public defenders, police, correctional personnel, etc. to matters that either are already addressed by existing law or appear intended to punish conduct under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. - All three bills add a second offense when a defendant is guilty of an initial offense. So, punishment already exists in law for the initial offense. Where is the data that justifies new penalties for the same conduct when committed by an "illegal alien?" When "illegal aliens" are arrested for the initial offense, it is likely that they already will experience greater difficulty than other defendants in matters such as bail, sentencing, probation, etc. Of course, a state court conviction of the initial offense could have detrimental consequences for the convicted person under federal immigration laws. Why should Missouri add a second offense when matters such as illegal entry, refusal to comply with a court order, harboring, etc. already are covered under federal law? - All three bills would criminalize conduct already subject to federal law. For example, HB2367 basically criminalizes trespass in Missouri "for violation of 8 USC 1325 or 8 USC 1326." These statutes deal with unlawful entry and reentry. It is clear that a Missouri court has no jurisdiction to address a violation of a federal criminal statute. Yet, that is exactly what HB2367 expressly requires. HB2523 has the similar defect. HB2470 criminalizes illegal entry, refusal to comply with a court order to return to a foreign nation, concealment or harboring, etc., all of which encroach on federal crimes for the same conduct. **RECOMMENDATION:** Considering the existing punishment for the underlying offense, the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government to punish the proposed new second offenses, the apparent lack of data suggesting

Missouri has a significant problem requiring the attention of Missouri law enforcement, and the likelihood of expensive court litigation, the cost of these three bills seems to vastly outweigh any perceived benefit.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI (FORMERLY PRO CHOICE MISSOURI)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 11:32 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1750 JEFFERSON ST. #104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL: mallory@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2024 6:52 PM	

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Date: February 12, 2024 **To:** Chairman Schnelting and Members, House Special Committee on Homeland Security **From:** Gwen Smith, Criminal Justice Policy Manager, and Mallory Rusch, Executive Director, Empower Missouri **RE:** HB 2523

As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration. HB 2523 would add an additional felony criminal trespassing charge if an undocumented person commits an offense that is a Class C misdemeanor or higher. We are opposed to this bill as it creates a double punishment. Immigrants in our communities who experience even the slightest brush with the law can find themselves subject to detention for an undetermined period, after which they are expelled from the country and barred from returning. Adoption of state and local criminal laws against undocumented immigrants has often been driven by misleading rhetoric about “criminal aliens,” as well as by reliance on inaccurate statistics suggesting that all undocumented immigrants are criminals or a dangerous threat to communities. Local and state officials also often misunderstand the nature of the criminal provisions in federal immigration law. In fact, mere unlawful presence in the United States has never been a crime. When considering immigration reform legislation in 2005, Congress specifically rejected a provision that would have made unlawful presence in the United States a federal crime. Entering the United States without being inspected and admitted is a misdemeanor, but many undocumented immigrants do not enter the United States illegally. They enter legally but overstay, work without authorization, drop out of school, or violate the conditions of their visas in some other way. Mere undocumented presence in the United States alone, in the absence of a previous removal order and unauthorized reentry, is not a crime under federal law. Why are we treating it as such? Use of law enforcement resources to target undocumented immigrants may have serious consequences for public safety. Given the evidence that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than other residents of the United States, law enforcement may find itself targeting a generally law-abiding population at the expense of investigating serious property and violent crimes. Additionally, state and county correctional facilities face severe understaffing, and any additional strain on the population of state prisons and county jails would be detrimental to the operation of these facilities. Public safety resources should not be diverted to enforce this law, which is in conflict with federal precedent. For these reasons, we urge the committee to oppose HB 2523. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2523		DATE: 2/12/2024
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Homeland Security		
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: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 5:53 PM
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As a concerned citizen deeply rooted in the values of justice and compassion, I stand vehemently opposed to the proposed bill. This legislation not only criminalizes individuals seeking refuge and a better life for themselves and their families but also perpetuates a cycle of fear and marginalization within immigrant communities. This bill disregards the complex circumstances that drive individuals to cross borders in search of safety and opportunity. Furthermore, the provisions to detain individuals without due process and coerce their return to potentially dangerous situations are not only inhumane but also undermine the very principles upon which our justice system is founded. We cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of those who seek nothing more than a chance to contribute to our society and should instead focus on comprehensive immigration reform that upholds our shared humanity and values of compassion and fairness.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL POZZO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rachelnpozzo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2024 1:54 PM

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Representatives, I am aware that a number of members on this committee are Christians, as am I. As a Christian, I must urge you to oppose all the bills being discussed today. When Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats, he says that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." The "least of these" refers to the vulnerable, such as the undocumented immigrants of 2024 Missouri. In the parable, Jesus aligns himself with the vulnerable. Undocumented immigrants are people who were forced to make the difficult choice to leave their homes and live in a constant state of uncertainty, just so they can survive and feed their families. Whatever we do, or advocate to have done, or legislate to have done to the undocumented people of Missouri, we are doing, advocating have have done, and legislating to have done to Christ himself. Similarly, the parable of the Good Samaritan shows us plainly how we are expected to treat the people around us. That story was not shocking because it was a stranger helping a stranger. It was shocking because it was about a Samaritan helping a Jewish man. These were two men who were supposed to hate, fear, and distrust one another. They would have been taught by everyone in their societies--political leaders, families, religious leaders, etc.--to hate one another from birth. Yet Jesus says that those are the very people we are supposed to care for in their times of need. There are many voices telling Americans to hate, fear, and distrust undocumented immigrants. The message of Christ is clearly in opposition to this. These bills, if passed, would rip apart families. HB 2470 particularly, would make it difficult for nonprofit workers to serve in their communities. Serving an undocumented person would put a worker at risk of being charged with a class A felony. That would be a punishment on par with murder, kidnapping, and child molestation. All for helping a neighbor--which Christ commanded us to do. All the bills being discussed in this hearing will make life more difficult and uncertain for people in an already precarious situation. It will also stir up even more negative feelings toward them in the general public. That is not in line with the teachings of Christ. In fact, it is in direct opposition to his teachings. I urge you to carefully consider this. Pray about it, open your heart to what the Lord has to say on the matter. There are also many practical issues to consider on this topic. Undocumented immigrants commit crimes at a far lower rate than native born citizens. Increases in the undocumented population have no effect on crime. "Safety" is not a real reason to try and drive undocumented people from our state. Additionally, undocumented people paid over \$49 million dollars in state and local taxes in MO in 2021. They contribute heavily to our state's economy and function. These bills are bad for Missourians and counter to the teachings of Christ. Statistics on crime and tax contributions come from The Cato Institute and the American Immigration Council, respectively. Thank you for your consideration. Best Regards, Rachel Pozzo



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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Homeland Security			
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-669-3425	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
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Special Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Schnelting Re: HB 2523 The ACLU of Missouri stands for the fundamental constitutional protections of due process and equal protection embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights as they apply to every person, regardless of immigration status. HB 2523 would create a new felony offense that targets undocumented immigrants and severely increases penalties, including the threat of deportation, for otherwise minor offenses or infractions. The impact of this bill carries disproportionate risks for mixed-status families as well as vulnerable populations that face barriers to obtaining or renewing documentation, opening the door for increased discrimination and racial profiling in Missouri. Simply put, HB 2523 would impose a harsh punishment on certain community members and their families and should be opposed. For these reasons, and to affirm the dignity and worth of every person, the ACLU of Missouri and our membership urge you to vote no on HB 2523.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
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It is abhorrent to dehumanize our fellow humans by using this language to refer to undocumented immigrants and to harshly penalize them for seeking a better life.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIA FREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
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As a concerned citizen, I want to make clear my opposition to the passing of HB2367 HB2470 and HB2523. These bills would undoubtedly increase racial profiling in Missouri and lead to family separation. They are also blatantly unconstitutional. I value our nation's security and the protection of the freedoms, values and safety of our communities but I also value the justice system that the US was founded on; made by our founding fathers of whom many were immigrants themselves. The difference in severity of punishment and classification of the offense seem to be changed solely due to the person which is unethical and non constitutional. Immigrants are subject to our laws, but they also deserve rights and respect and the freedoms to be correctly charged if an offense does occur. I ask you to please think of what you would do to protect and where you would flee to save yourself or your family, to take a moment and hesitate to put yourself in the position of one who had to flee, who had to run or who simply had the need to move to a better life for themselves and their family, their children. Think of them as people, not just as illegals, not just as foreign immigrants. Think of them as a person worthy of a fair and just system of law. I plead with you to please reconsider and to not pass these bills.