



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1045</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</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>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>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 11:54 PM</b>

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

**I am in Full Support of this Bill and Charging a Person in the First Degree for Delivery or Injecting this awful drug.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA BURKHARDT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>laburkhardt3@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 7:44 PM</b>
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While I am in support of legislative actions taken to apply consequences to those who knowingly distribute fentanyl, the charge gives me pause. Under this language, a person could be sentenced to death for selling a drug that is laced with fentanyl. The language states that they must "knowingly" sell a drug laced with fentanyl, but that is something that is not easy to prove either way. Murder in the 1st degree is simply too harsh a charge for a crime that we can't always prove was intentional. I hope the committee can work on adjustments to this bill. I believe it has the potential to be a very good piece of legislation. Side note, I'd love to see the bill sponsor put this same time, energy, and passion into protecting the 100's of Missouri children who die by gun violence every year. They matter too. Even if the solutions aren't politically popular in the supermajority party.



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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>4/2/2025 10:58 PM</b>
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I urge you to oppose HB 1045 (Keathley), which seeks to expand the death penalty to non-homicide crimes. At a time when a majority of Americans question the fairness and efficacy of capital punishment, this bill represents a costly and regressive step backward—one that directly defies precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court. In its 2008 ruling in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, the Court held that imposing the death penalty for non-homicide offenses violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, deeming it disproportionate to the crime. Public opinion reinforces this stance. A 2021 Pew Research Center survey found that 63% of Americans believe the death penalty does not deter serious crimes, while 78% acknowledge the risk of executing innocent individuals. As 23 states have abolished capital punishment and national momentum grows toward ending it, Missouri should not be expanding its use. Financially, the death penalty is a burden. Studies from over a dozen states show capital cases cost up to 10 times more than comparable non-death penalty cases. Rather than expanding this system, Missouri should conduct a full audit to expose its hidden costs—diverting millions from public safety initiatives that could prevent abuse, fund mental health services, and ensure immediate therapy for survivors. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and any similar efforts to expand the death penalty in Missouri. The state's resources are better invested in protecting children, supporting survivors, and addressing root causes of crime—not perpetuating a flawed, costly, and unconstitutional practice.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHARON GEUEA JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-808-2156</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURIANS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VICKI BOLGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wearmatchingsocks@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 2:49 PM</b>
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I am opposed to these bills as they:• significantly broaden Missouri's self-defense laws, lowering the threshold for justified deadly force in public settings.• shift the legal burden to prosecutors, requiring them to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant's claim of self-defense in these scenarios was unjustified.• remove the duty to retreat in public and commercial spaces, broadening circumstances where lethal force is legally permissible.