



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 117</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2025</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>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 11:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**This a great Bill!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 117</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<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>1/29/2025 10:05 PM</b>	

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

HB 117, though designed to address motor vehicle thefts, is an overly harsh and poorly constructed piece of legislation that risks criminalizing harmless actions and unfairly targeting marginalized groups. The bill's expansion of second-degree burglary to include merely "intruding" into a motor vehicle with any part of the body or an object is overly broad and could lead to absurd and unjust outcomes. For instance, a passerby who leans into an unlocked car to turn off its headlights, or a neighbor who opens a car door to silence a blaring car alarm, could technically be charged with a felony under this law. These examples illustrate how the bill's vague language could punish well-meaning individuals for acts that lack any criminal intent, creating unnecessary harm and legal complications. Additionally, the creation of a new offense for "unlawfully gaining entry into a motor vehicle" by testing door handles or locks is an extreme response to what is often a nonviolent and opportunistic act. While vehicle break-ins are a legitimate concern, making this behavior a class E felony is disproportionate and ignores the underlying issues that drive such actions, such as economic hardship or lack of access to resources. Rather than imposing harsh penalties, the state should invest in solutions that address these root causes, such as expanding job training programs, increasing affordable housing, and providing mental health support. By focusing on punishment over prevention, HB 117 risks perpetuating cycles of incarceration without making our communities any safer. Furthermore, this bill raises significant concerns about unequal enforcement and its potential to deepen existing racial and socioeconomic disparities. Broadly worded laws with severe penalties are often applied inconsistently, disproportionately impacting people of color and those living in poverty. For example, a teenager playing a prank by testing car doors in a parking lot could face felony charges, while a similar act in a wealthier neighborhood might go unnoticed or unpunished. This uneven application of justice undermines trust in the legal system and reinforces systemic inequities. HB 117 does not address the real issues of public safety; instead, it creates more opportunities for injustice. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and focus on fair, effective, and compassionate solutions to motor vehicle-related crimes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 117</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<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>1/29/2025 10:01 PM</b>

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

**\*\*Testimony in Opposition to HB 117\*\*** While HB 117 may be well-intentioned in its aim to address motor vehicle thefts, is an overly punitive and misguided piece of legislation that risks criminalizing ordinary behavior and disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities. The bill's expansion of second-degree burglary to include simply "intruding" into a motor vehicle with any part of the body or a connected object is dangerously vague and could lead to unjust prosecutions. For example, a curious child who reaches into an open car window to retrieve a toy, or a Good Samaritan who opens a car door to rescue a pet or child in distress on a hot day, could theoretically be charged with a felony under this law. Such scenarios highlight the bill's potential to ensnare innocent individuals in the criminal justice system, creating lifelong consequences for actions that lack criminal intent. Moreover, the creation of a new offense for "unlawfully gaining entry into a motor vehicle" by lifting door handles or testing locks is an excessive response to what is often a minor act of trespass. While vehicle break-ins are undoubtedly a concern, classifying this behavior as a class E felony is disproportionate and fails to address the root causes of such crimes, such as poverty, addiction, or mental health challenges. Instead of investing in punitive measures, the state should focus on preventative strategies, such as increasing access to social services, improving economic opportunities, and supporting community-based interventions. Criminalizing attempts to open car doors risks further overcrowding our prisons and diverting resources away from more effective, restorative approaches to public safety. Finally, HB 117 raises serious concerns about racial and socioeconomic disparities in enforcement. History has shown that laws with broad language and harsh penalties are often applied unevenly, disproportionately affecting communities of color and low-income individuals. For instance, a person experiencing homelessness who checks car doors for spare change could face felony charges under this bill, while a wealthier individual committing the same act in a different neighborhood might escape scrutiny. This bill does not make our communities safer; it perpetuates systemic inequities and exacerbates the cycle of poverty and incarceration. For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to reject HB 117 and pursue more just and equitable solutions to the issue of motor vehicle theft.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 117</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHERRY BUCHANAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sherrybuchanan66@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 2:51 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Anything to reduce the use of guns in vehicle crime would be good. Anything to reduce the number of guns stolen from vehicles would be good. It is well known that many crimes are committed with stolen guns, many from vehicles. Gun owners need to be held accountable for secure gun storage in vehicles.