



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 11:48 PM

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

I am in Support of this Bill and its Intent. This should already be Policy and the contents of this Legislation being done by our State's 518-Public School District and 36-Charter Schools.



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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: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 11:37 PM

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

I am in Support of this Bill and its intension of restoring much needed Respect and Dignity within School Buildings and Educational Community.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOANNE SCHRADER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: crazyhorse1876@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 11:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLY SUTTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kasutton5@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAINE M CORDELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lcordell@missouristate.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2025 11:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Laine Cordell and I teach at Missouri State University in the Theatre & Dance department. I also have had the distinct privilege of teaching at the Missouri Fine Arts Academy during the summer at MSU. MFAA has been not only formative to the students who attend, but to me as an educator. Allowing a safe space for creatives to make art, collaborate freely, and express themselves openly and authentically is imperative to a productive society. Several of the kids I worked with had never had a teacher (and in some cases, not even a parent) tell them that they were talented, and they were capable, and they were magical and WORTH IT. Being able to spend time with these magnificent young people and watching them blossom into young adults ready to enter the world of college, performing arts, or vocational trades was transformative to say the least. Funding for this program and others like it is essential to the well-being of the next generation. Not only does it provide community and understanding, but develops skills of self-worth, compassion, empathy and autonomy. Every child deserves to hear that they matter. Their art matters. And the world is better because both of those things continue to thrive.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 11:12 PM

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The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports the framework of this legislation but hopes that modifications proposed at the the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee hearing on March 5 are included in the substitute.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 222A MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 11:52 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. MSTA is in support of HB1287.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2025 4:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB1287 as it seems to be attempting two very important things that have been missing the past several years. First, it strikes a good balance between the authority of and respect for teachers and parents. Too often the public schools have sought to diminish the parents' role in education, attempting to sideline them and relegate them to irrelevance. At the same time, many parents have belittled the teachers and other school personnel – sometimes even in front of, or in a way that influences their children to have the same attitudes of disrespect. Both sides of the educational equation need a re-set and need to learn to respect and acknowledge the value of each other. I believe this bill is an attempt to facilitate that. Second, this bill seeks to not only foster respect between educators and parents, it actually goes a step farther and creates an avenue where the two parties are brought together in a partnership. While one may respect an enemy, that is not the same as working together in a partnership for a common goal. HB1287 make it clear that the educational system, and the parents have the same goal of raising up students who are honest, hard-working, critical thinkers who will be an asset to our state and communities, and an honor to their parents. As parents and educators work together toward a common goal it will be more difficult for student to pit one against the other – as young people often do in their exploration of boundaries, and will find their attempts to be less effective against a united front. With HB1287, I believe the parents win, and I believe the educators win, and ultimately the students will win, which means the whole state of Missouri will win.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB1287 as it seems to be attempting two very important things that have been missing the past several years. First, it strikes a good balance between the authority of and respect for teachers and parents. Too often the public schools have sought to diminish the parents' role in education, attempting to sideline them and relegate them to irrelevance. At the same time, many parents have belittled the teachers and other school personnel – sometimes even in front of, or in a way that influences their children to have the same attitudes of disrespect. Both sides of the educational equation need a re-set and need to learn to respect and acknowledge the value of each other. I believe this bill is an attempt to facilitate that. Second, this bill seeks to not only foster respect between educators and parents, it actually goes a step farther and creates an avenue where the two parties are brought together in a partnership. While one may respect an enemy, that is not the same as working together in a partnership for a common goal. HB1287 make it clear that the educational system, and the parents have the same goal of raising up students who are honest, hard-working, critical thinkers who will be an asset to our state and communities, and an honor to their parents. As parents and educators work together toward a common goal it will be more difficult for student to pit one against the other – as young people often do in their exploration of boundaries, and will find their attempts to be less effective against a united front. With HB1287, I believe the parents win, and I believe the educators win, and ultimately the students will win, which means the whole state of Missouri will win.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER BENGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: amber.benge0605@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 3:53 PM

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

I vehemently oppose this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER BENGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: amber.benge0605@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 9:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I oppose this bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARTHUR MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: almm1m91@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 3:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To the Members of the Education Committee, I agree with supporting teachers against unruly students. As a long-term educator I had to deal with these students often. They took away instructional time from those students that needed my help. However, there are concerning parts to this bill that will have an adverse effect on teacher recruitment/retention and education. I agree that parents should have the right to know what is going on with their children at school, and right now they do. A parent may request to see any materials that are being taught in the schools. They may request alternative assignments if the materials are objectionable to their belief system. I see nothing in this bill that is not already available to parents. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. The section entitled "Educators Bill of Rights" some sections that could help teachers but could be in conflict with the "Parents Bill of Right." Teachers do need protection from harassment from students and abuse from parents. What constitutes "abuse" from parents is not spelled out. The section covering "Participate in or promote a political, social, religious, or ethical position that violates such teacher's personal religious convictions; or (b) Engage in political or social activism during school hours since schools should be free from such activities;" What is activism? Would teaching a lesson on Martin Luther King be considered social activism? Teachers do not take "social, religious" positions in class. They will share a variety of thoughts and then let the students debate and draw their own conclusions. That is exactly what public education should be doing, giving the students a variety of views and allowing the students to choose the view that supports their values.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTA THORNTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: britta.thornton@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 3:13 PM

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

Excluding things like Black History and Women's History from school curricula prohibits students from developing balanced perspectives, critical thinking, and social knowledge. This bill wants to impose regressive policies in education, in a state already known for poor education, simply because some white men are scared of not being privileged above all others. Shame shame shame.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: christinebrown1009@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 6:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANY LACIO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dlacio84@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am expressing strong opposition to HB 1287. While this bill claims to reinforce parental rights and teacher protections, its vague language regarding curriculum oversight threatens the very foundation of local control in our school districts. Missouri has long upheld the principle that education is best governed at the local level, where school boards, educators, and communities work together to meet the needs of their students. HB 1287 undermines that principle by imposing broad and ambiguous restrictions that could lead to unnecessary conflicts over curriculum decisions, making it harder for educators to do their jobs and for students to receive a well-rounded education. Additionally, while parental engagement is essential in education, existing laws already provide parents with substantial rights regarding their children's schooling. This bill, like others before it, seeks to create solutions to problems that do not exist—at the cost of local decision-making and classroom autonomy. I urge this committee to reject HB 1287 and instead focus on legislation that supports educators, strengthens our public schools, and truly empowers communities to make the best choices for their students. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DARCY KLONSKY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dgklonsky@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEADER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 8:47 PM

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

MOEEP opposes parents' rights bills, no matter how well intentioned, as unnecessary because parents have rights already. Teachers have rights as well. Adding code means that DESE's bureaucracy grows. No one can legislate respect and trust. This is the issue. We suggest that MSBA and MASA work to train school boards and administration how to better balance teacher needs with those of other stakeholders.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 7:20 PM

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

Bills like this take away local control. Parents have rights already. Teachers do, too, but districts need to stand up for them. You can't legislate respect.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH J KITCHEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Djresisting@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 1:39 PM
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The language is vague on curriculum issues so in general I oppose all the parental rights bills that have come before this body.I Oppose this bill as written



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 1:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
HB 1287 has too many restrictions on local control of schools			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH COCHRAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: enburnett@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 6:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a parent and active volunteer in the Hallsville school district. I oppose HB 1287 as it adds unnecessary burdens to our already overworked teachers while duplicating opportunities that parents already have. Parents who want to be involved in their child's education have countless ways to do so—whether it's through PTO, volunteering in classrooms, or even something as simple as making copies for teachers. Our schools welcome us, and our teachers work hard to keep us informed. Missouri's curriculum is already publicly available through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website. The Missouri Learning Standards outline the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire at each grade level, and parents can easily access them. School districts then tailor their own curricula to align with these state standards. The idea that parents don't have access to what is being taught simply isn't true. Instead of restricting educators and adding bureaucratic red tape, we should support them with better funding, more resources, and policies that allow them to focus on teaching. HB 1287 does not solve real problems in education. I urge you to oppose it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER FLEMING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hsteacher.fleming@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 9:38 AM

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

Stop making laws limiting the rights of many parents and start making ones that will fully fund our schools and provide them with ample resources.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNA ROBERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jroberson1181@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 5:02 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNA ROBERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jroberson1181@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 2:05 PM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JENNIFER HIGHBARGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: plentifleur@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 8:34 AM

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

As someone that has worked in education for over 20 years and raised two children, I oppose the vagueness of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jhstl.edu@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please cite one "Right" enumerated in this bill that parents do not acquire already. Parents can complain at the source, to the principal, to the superintendent, to the Board and while it still exists, the FEDERAL OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS - on ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN. Parents can review curriculum, see materials, excuse children or find alternate resources as necessary. PUT SOME TRUST IN PROFESSIONALS AND SCHOOL BOARDS TO RESEARCH, TRAIN, RESPOND, and LISTEN - and follow up with parents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JESSICA BURGETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessicaborrini@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:44 PM

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

I oppose these harmful bills



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JESSICA BURGETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessicaborrini@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 1:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I oppose these harmful bills			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JUDITH WALKER-FELIX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jwdfelix@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 5:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose any bills that attempt to codify parental rights from the State's perspective. Such rights are the concern of local districts. As you know, there's a great difference between the school districts in our State. Enacting these education laws that everyone in Missouri must adhere to detracts from local control. It's puzzling that so-called conservative representatives are proposing greater governmental control of our families' lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JULIE HESS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: julesh4663@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 5:26 PM

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

I strongly oppose this bill - while well-intentioned, it completely diminishes local school district control



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JULIE SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jules1219@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 5:13 AM

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

The wording on curriculum issues is very vague. I understand that this may be well intentioned, however, it ultimately diminishes local district control.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JUSTIN KERKSIEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: justinkersiek@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 8:36 AM

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

Imposing religious positions on our kids education removes sound reasoning and imposes more dogma to the children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kcm Maxwell7@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 1:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kcm Maxwell7@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 9:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri legislature has made it a priority in 2025 to enact a so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights", with a number of bills that dictate what topics may be taught in Missouri's K-12 schools, banning lessons on equity or true historical events. The bills prohibit the teaching of what is often mistakenly called "critical race theory". The bills ban any teaching that may be construed to make students or parents feel that "individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, color or national origin, bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by others." In a State where our teacher pay is ranked 50th in the Nation, these bills would only make it harder to teach. It will be another hindrance to the growing problem of trying to keep our teachers and attract more qualified people to teach. These bills will not improve our State's education system, they will take us further backwards. No employers or families will be attracted to come here and those who are able, will leave. This will be detrimental to our State's economy and to the overall intelligence of our citizens. Aside from the burden on teachers and our State, these bills would harm our students. "Critical race theory" is not actually taught in Missouri's K-12 schools. It has become a buzz word to mean any kind of equity education or teaching of true historical events. It is just a political strategy to get more voters to the polls. All students must be taught the truth, painful and uncomfortable as it may sometimes be. We can no longer base our history knowledge on a lie. We must trust students to be able to establish their own perspectives on history. Students and children cannot be manipulated into believing a false history by banning conversations in the classroom about anything that makes certain parents feel uncomfortable. Many of our schools are already not teaching the full history of America, yet racism and inequality still exists, so clearly this approach has not worked. We must learn from our history, or be doomed to repeat it. We will not repeat it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: LAUREN HERMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: laurenahermann@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 7:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1287. As a lifelong public educator, I value the collaboration between parents and their school personnel to create engaging learning environments for students where they are able to reach their highest potential and start building the foundation to make their wildest dreams possible. While the text of this bill may be well-intentioned, school districts already work to ensure that parents have many avenues to collaborate with respect to their student's learning environment. That is precisely why I oppose the bill. The state dictating what this could or should look like in schools takes away the local control of each district, governed by an elected board, to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students and their families. We recognize that not only are teachers and district personnel well qualified to make these decisions alongside parents, but each district and school has unique factors that make one size fits all approaches impossible. Trust teachers and parents to work together in the context of their schools and districts. Keep local control! Oppose HB 1287!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: LINDA HOECHST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lchoechst@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 11:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose HB1287. Vote NO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: LINDA HOECHST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lchoechst@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 1:50 PM

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

I oppose HB 1287. It is detrimental to our local school districts by diminishing their control over their district. Vote NO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: MARY FITZGERALD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mfitzgerald1809@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 1:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill. I am a former teacher. The wording on this bill about curriculum is very vague. As a special educator I had to be very flexible with the materials I used in order to provide individualized education to each student. For example, if an approach to teaching a math concept to a student did not work I had to find alternate resources. I often had to create worksheets several times a day for each student. This bill would create an undue burden on teachers already working in overcrowded classrooms. They are underpaid and overworked already. By current law if a parent wanted to see something used to teach a student they just ask and the teacher provides it. Teachers don't have the time or energy to keep up with everything used to teach a class and upload it on a website. Few parents have an education degree and may make uninformed assumptions about curriculum. As a parent in Mo I have asked teachers to show me the curriculum. I learned more from that experience talking to the teacher than reading anything on a website. District curriculum is available now, parents can just ask and have the conversations about how it's used. Curriculum is developed in each district through a process that involves stakeholders. As a community member I am on my local district's curriculum committee so I can provide input and ask questions. Please vote against HB 1287, curriculum is already available online for folks to see. This bills language is very vague...requiring constant updates of everything taught puts an undue burden on teachers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 3/5/2025 9:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri legislature has made it a priority in 2025 to enact a so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights", with a number of bills that dictate what topics may be taught in Missouri's K-12 schools, banning lessons on equity or true historical events. The bills prohibit the teaching of what is often mistakenly called "critical race theory". The bills ban any teaching that may be construed to make students or parents feel that "individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, color or national origin, bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by others." In a State where our teacher pay is ranked 50th in the Nation, these bills would only make it harder to teach. It will be another hindrance to the growing problem of trying to keep our teachers and attract more qualified people to teach. These bills will not improve our State's education system, they will take us further backwards. No employers or families will be attracted to come here and those who are able, will leave. This will be detrimental to our State's economy and to the overall intelligence of our citizens. Aside from the burden on teachers and our State, these bills would harm our students. "Critical race theory" is not actually taught in Missouri's K-12 schools. It has become a buzz word to mean any kind of equity education or teaching of true historical events. It is just a political strategy to get more voters to the polls. All students must be taught the truth, painful and uncomfortable as it may sometimes be. We can no longer base our history knowledge on a lie. We must trust students to be able to establish their own perspectives on history. Students and children cannot be manipulated into believing a false history by banning conversations in the classroom about anything that makes certain parents feel uncomfortable. Many of our schools are already not teaching the full history of America, yet racism and inequality still exists, so clearly this approach has not worked. We must learn from our history, or be doomed to repeat it. We will not repeat it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: NICOLE WIETHOP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arb.nicole@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 8:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The wording on curriculum issues is very vague in this bill. A "Parents' Rights" bill in nearly any form, no matter how well intentioned, diminishes local district control in communities, and nearly always sides with only certain parents' rights. You can't only be against government overreach of local control when it suits one party's purposes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: PHYLLIS PASLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: PhyllisPasley77@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 10:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To the Members of the Education Committee, I have concerns about the language of HB1287 as written. Agreed: Unruly students can adversely affect the efficient use of instructional time. -Agreed: parents have the right to know what is going on with their children at school. -The section entitled "Educators Bill of Rights" contains some sections that could help teachers but could be in conflict with the "Parents Bill of Right." -Teachers need protection from harassment from students and abuse from parents but what constitutes "abuse" is not defined. -The language prohibiting teachers from engaging "in political or social activism" is problematic - since "activism" is not defined. (For example - if the current social norm is for students to throw trash on the playground, and people want to enact a change, the language of this bill would prohibit a campaign to reduce litter on the playground, since it could be construed as "social activism." Teachers are interested in allowing for the free flow of ideas, and the seeking of solutions to remedy situations in need of change. Even the changing of behavior of "unruly students" could be viewed as "social activism.") -Well-trained, skilled professional educators are able to help their students understand a variety of perspectives and allow for students to engage in critical thinking, choosing the point of view that supports their values, and engaging in civil discourse to express those views, without denigrating the views of others. -Teachers need professional learning support, not more mandates. They carry the burden of equipping the next generation for success. Lift them up! Parents have the rights enumerated. A parent may request to see any materials that are being taught in the schools. They may request alternative assignments if the materials are objectionable to their belief system. -Teachers and parents working together to help students be successful is the goal and will yield positive results. -I'm not sure how this bill will be helpful to either group, or the students they serve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: ROB GOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: robgood82@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 10:21 AM

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

I am writing in opposition to this redundant and vague bill which, while possibly well-intentioned, will have unintended consequences that will further erode local control of schools.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: ROTH MCELVAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: SHANA YOUNGDAHL MINTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: skyoungdahl@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you as a Missouri parent, lifelong educator, and author. This bill will limit abilities for districts to self-govern, and will cause undue cost to districts in order to implement the approval process for each and every assembly. Likely this will result in a reduction of important guests to schools in our state. Schools already communicate well with their parents and communities, involved parents easily know what is happening at their kids schools. Parents with concerns about school curriculum or programing already have the right to be offered alternatives. The red tape that you propose will only limit Missouri students education further. We already rank 26th for public education in the nation and this bill will create undo red-tape for districts bringing life-changing programming to schools. Teachers are strapped for time, having to collect forms for every assembly and log them for hundreds of students will only result in fewer assemblies. Schools already communicate with families about assemblies and curriculum. There is already transparency. What this bill seeks will only burden educators. While the bill sounds like it is acting in favor of students, parents and schools, it is really standing in the way of progress and creating an undo burden on our hard-working educators. Please vote no on HB 1287.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 6:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Regarding line 94, the problem here is that there are no “universal community standards that benefit all students equally” because students come from different backgrounds and experiences. Children are not identically made as if with a cookie cutter. This misguided legislation would be better directed at ensuring parental rights are respected regarding their children’s healthcare.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: THE REV. DR. TERESA DANIELEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tkmithen@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2025 7:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Parents and educators have many rights already. We do not need these redundant bills every year. Please focus on fully and adequately funding publicly governed public education so that teachers and other staff may educate our children and so that parents and guardians may support them in this endeavor. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: VICTORIA ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN ATHEISTS		TITLE: STATE POLICY COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 225 CRISTIANI STREET			
CITY: CRANFORD		STATE: NJ	ZIP: 07016
EMAIL: vanderson@atheists.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 4:51 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

February 26, 2025The Honorable Rep. Ed LewisChair, House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee201 W. Capitol Avenue #325Jefferson City, Missouri 65101Re: **OPPOSE HB 1287, Undermining Students' Rights**

Dear Chairperson Lewis and Members of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:American Atheists, on behalf of its constituents in Missouri, writes in opposition to HB 1287, a bill which would reduce the quality of education offered in Missouri public schools and needlessly endanger vulnerable children. Under the pretext of advancing "parents' rights," the bill would undermine students' rights and impose a host of draconian restrictions on teachers and school staff. We strongly urge you to reject HB 1287.American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the "wall of separation" between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation's communities and where bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. As advocates for nonsectarian public education, American Atheists supports students' rights and opposes efforts to erode the quality of education they receive.So-called "parents' rights" bills place draconian restrictions on teachers and school staff, undermining the quality of education available to students. Public school curriculum is developed by experts professionally trained in education and curriculum development to ensure the best educational outcomes for students across the country. If passed, HB 1287 would invite parents who lack these qualifications to interfere with the normal operations of their children's schools. Their personal objections to certain instructional materials would not only impact their own children but all students.While parents have the right to make decisions for their own families, those rights do not include deciding what is appropriate for all families. Missouri's public schools serve students from diverse backgrounds, encompassing a wide range of beliefs, values, and lived experiences. Classroom curriculum should reflect and respect this diversity rather than being dictated by the preferences of the loudest or most domineering parents. Allowing one group of parents to impose their objections on everyone else undermines the core mission of public education: to provide an inclusive, equitable, and high-quality learning environment for all students.HB 1287 also explicitly endangers LGBTQ+ students by encouraging counselors to disclose sensitive information, even in cases when doing so could put a student in harm's way. By granting parents such broad access to all school records, including medical records, HB 1287 risks endangering students whose parents are not supportive of their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ+ youth who are not adequately protected from harassment or abuse, including by their guardians, are more likely to suffer lifelong negative psychological consequences. Although parents should generally have access to their child's

medical records, school professionals are trained to recognize signs of abuse and should be afforded the discretion to ensure they are not endangering vulnerable young people. Missouri's public schools are meant to be a "great equalizer," safe and welcoming learning environments where all students can receive a quality education. Lawmakers should not create an imbalance of power between parents' responsibilities to ensure the safety and well-being of their children and the fundamental rights of all students. We strongly urge you to reject this unnecessary and harmful bill. Should you have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 1287, please contact me at vanderson@atheists.org. Sincerely, Victoria Anderson
State Policy Counsel
American Atheists



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287		DATE: 3/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: WILLIAM MATHESON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: wjmpym@umsystem.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2025 3:21 PM
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The scope of this bill would allow parents to interfere with and object to standard curricula for any reason. This will negatively impact teachers' ability to create lesson plans and tailor their instruction to the needs of individual students and classrooms. I urge the committee to vote NO on this legislation.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE STEENSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Julie.Steenso	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 9:42 PM
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As a co-author along with several parent volunteers of Kansas City's Parents Bill of Rights, I am in favor of this bill in substance, but I want to speak directly to subsection 8.3, lines 92-95 of this Bill. This restriction on training is uncalled for in this bill. Teachers should have whatever tools are necessary to use in situations that arise in schools, especially in schools that may be highly racially diverse. There are evidence-based practices that teachers can use in discipline or mediation that properly situate race and gender. My daughter has attended diverse schools and there are times when the causes of student disruption have been rooted in discrimination. Teachers should be given adequate training to deal with these situations. This subsection of the bill is worded in such a way that these principles are prohibited. That strips local schools and local parents of potentially beneficial information for no legitimate reason other than bandwagon antics.