



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 134		DATE: 3/3/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: ALAN SINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jd4cpa@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 3:10 PM

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Please show support of our important organizations



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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: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 11:54 PM

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I am in Support of this Bill. I have Supported this Bill the past two (2) Years.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLENE KASS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cnkass@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:19 PM
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We are on constant watch as members of our synagogue, and have hired police to guard our house of worship during regular Saturday services. The last synagogue we belonged to had members shot and killed by a gunman. Please help us feel safe.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISE H BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lisebernstein@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 2:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please support HB134. In these challenging times, with an alarming rise in antisemitism, it is imperative that we keep places of worship safe and secure. Thank you for considering this important legislation and voting in favor of it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: IRENE FRANCIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ihcfrancis@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 7:45 PM

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

Jewish houses of worship are a constant and visible target for those who hate other people. It is more than ironic that when we pray for peace we need to be protected because others don't want peace. They want violence and physical harm.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICAZ BROWN BILLHYMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: curtjes@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Given that houses of worship are increasingly the target of physical and cyber threats I am urging Missouri legislators to please, please pass this bill to ensure our communities and their inhabitants can feel safer in their houses of worship. By having more money to help secure these institutions, our citizens can feel more protected and safer. Thank you for considering this important bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JORDAN KADOSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-302-8533	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ADL HEARTLAND		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63105
EMAIL: jkadosh@adl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 6:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chair Christ, Vice-Shair Peters, and Ranking Minority Member Weber, My name is Jordan Kadosh and I am the Regional Director for the ADL's (Anti-Defamation League) Heartland region, which covers the entire state of Missouri as well as parts of neighboring states. I am writing today on behalf of HB 134 and the critical need to address security vulnerabilities facing our faith communities. As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias, using innovation and partnerships to drive impact. A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, ADL works to ensure a just and inclusive society for all. The faith community, at large, has found itself increasingly under the threat of violent attacks in Missouri, the U.S. and around the world. In fact, it is estimated that at least 617 worshipers were killed at houses of worship in the U.S. between 1999 and 2019. This includes the single deadliest anti-Jewish attack in U.S. history at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, the murder of nine members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in 2015, and the murder of six members of the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in 2012. Although not a deadly attack, the hostage situation at the synagogue in Colleyville, Texas in 2022, serves as another stark reminder of the threats faith communities face. It's important to note that this problem isn't unique to minority religious groups or marginalized communities. Between 2000 and 2020, American churches experienced 19 fatal shootings. In 2023, incidents that took place at Jewish institutions and non-Jewish places of worship in Missouri more than doubled. While data from ADL's 2024 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents is still being confirmed, it is important to highlight the dramatic increase in antisemitism Missouri has seen in recent years. According to ADL's 2023 Audit, ADL Heartland documented a 317% increase in vandalism, harassment and assault targeting Jewish institutions and individuals in Missouri over 2022. Nationally, ADL recorded 8,873 antisemitic incidents, the highest total since we started tracking such data in 1979. The problem many congregations face is that taking necessary security precautions is often cost-prohibitive. Security measures fall generally into three categories: training, hardening of facilities, and security staffing. While there are good training resources available free of charge, there are very real costs associated with the other two critical prongs of protecting houses of worship. From the installation of security cameras and alarm systems to bollards intended to prevent a car from driving into congregants gathering at an entrance or exit, to shatter resistant film on windows, to adequate fire mitigation or cyber-security, there are a wide range of needs that each faith institution must consider in addressing how to secure their facilities. House Bill 134 provides critical resources to assist institutions in funding their security improvements. The bill recognizes the unique vulnerabilities shared by the entire faith community. And it recognizes that enhancing the safety and security of faith institutions and nonprofit organizations

improves overall public safety when these places are less vulnerable to a deadly attack. In addition to serving as places of prayer, many of our religious institutions house schools, day care centers and non-profit organizations. Together we can ensure that both the Jewish community and all faith communities are protected. For these reasons and more, I ask you to vote in favor of HB 134. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA RICHTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: julia@therichters.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:54 PM

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This is an urgent bill to protect safe places for people to gather and worship in peace. No one wants to be a target of hate for gathering in peace. Please stand up for American values!!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARGO TZADOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tmargo@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:18 PM

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As a Jewish person who attends synagogue and Jewish events I am a witness to the fact that we have to have security guards at every event. This is an added cost to all of the Jewish community.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-5234	
REPRESENTING: JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 124 E HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: matt@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 5:57 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MENACHEM SZUS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-629-8741	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NUSACH HARI B'nai ZION CONGREGATION		TITLE: FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN	
ADDRESS: 650 N. PRICE ROAD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL: menachem@alonsystems.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:42 PM

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Our congregation in St. Louis is a Synagogue, which is open to wide range of individuals. This fulfills a great need, but also carries a great challenge. We need to have resources to provide both safety and security to our members and visitors. That involves both tangibles, like various physical protection devices and barriers. It also requires money to hire professional guards and to hire trainers to teach our members how to stay protected whilst on our premises. Local state assistance is likely to be more attune to our needs. thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY DESLOGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nancy.desloge@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:44 PM
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I am testifying in support of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to protect our community spaces from the rising threats of hate, which mirrors federal law. Every house of worship deserves to be a sanctuary, not a target. House Bill 134 creates a Missouri Nonprofit Security Grant Program as well as establishes the "Missouri Task Force on Nonprofit Safety and Security." Jews are facing increasing antisemitism, from both the left and right. The new Missouri Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding to faith-based communities to harden their spaces against rising physical and cyber threats, giving money to help buy the best security equipment and make these places stronger.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: W B TICHENOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: wbtichenor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:16 PM
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I wish to join with others in supporting HB 134. Providing grant funds to nonprofits to enhance the physical security of nonprofit facilities will be a strong deterrent against those who would attack such facilities to destroy property or attack individuals in such facilities. Society, as a whole is benefited by such use of government funds. I encourage the Committee to vote yes for reporting this legislation from Committee to the House of Representatives.