



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1561</b>		DATE: <b>3/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Urban Issues</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICK CHAMBERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-863-2254</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SOUTH KC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>
ADDRESS: <b>1300 E 94TH ST</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64131</b>
EMAIL: <b>rchambers@southkcchamber.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 3:30 PM</b>

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

A primary mission of the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is to work with over 200 member businesses and non-profit organizations to make South KC the best possible place to live, work, learn, and play. Passage of this legislation would have a significant positive impact on our community. St. Joseph Medical Center, located at I-435 and State Line Road, is a first class medical center with outstanding ratings, especially for their Emergency Department. They clearly would qualify as a certified Trauma Center based on capabilities and performance. The only reason that they don't is that they are located too close to another Trauma Center, based on current state law. This legislation will address that inequity and allow St. Joseph, and other hospitals in similar situations, to become certified and available as an option for patients. This can have a dramatic impact on community members with serious medical issues who need prompt attention to save their lives. Having to bypass a close facility (that is fully capable of serving the need) to go to another hospital further away can have devastating consequences. Having a certified trauma facility will also have a positive economic impact on South Kansas City.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WILL MARRS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-848-8561</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MERCY HEALTH SYSTEMS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>211 E CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>willmarrs@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/11/2025 3:22 PM</b>	
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<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>3/11/2025 11:56 PM</b>
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**I am Opposed to this Bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DR, JEFFREY COUGHENOUR MD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-6803</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA, MISSOURI CHAPTER</b>		TITLE: <b>TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4402 CANYATA COURT</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>coughenourj@health.missouri.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/11/2025 4:23 PM</b>	

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The “15-mile rule” was adopted in 1999 to prevent the proliferation of lower-level trauma centers near higher-level centers. The rationale:• Additional centers dilute patient volume, which is important to maintain clinical proficiency and expertise.• Critically injured patients may be taken to a closer, lower-level center that has limited surgical capability• Secondary transfers (moving patients from a lower-level center to a higher-level center) may be necessary when they could have gone directly to the higher-level center after injury – delaying arrival to definitive careThe regulation (19 CSR 30-40.430(1)(M)) was challenged by St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Kansas City after their application for a Level III trauma center was denied in 2018.• The denial was upheld by the Administrative Hearing Commission in 2019.• The constitutionality and rationale of the regulation was upheld in Prime Healthcare Services v. State of Missouri DHSS in 2021 (Cole County Circuit Court, Case 19AC-CC00103)• That decision was upheld by the Western District Court of Appeals in 2022 (Docket WD84723)There are currently three higher-level trauma centers within 15 miles of St. Joseph’s Medical Center:• Overland Park Regional Medical Center – Level II (7 miles)• St. Luke’s Hospital – Plaza – Level I (8.9 miles)• Research Medical Center – Level I (9.4 miles)In 2022, the 101st General Assembly established the “Time Critical Diagnosis Advisory Committee” via HB 2331, creating a group of stakeholders to advise DHSS on matters concerning designation of stroke, cardiac, and trauma hospitals. It is our opinion that the TCD Advisory Committee, as they continue work to update elements of Missouri’s trauma system, can address the potential need for additional trauma centers using evidence-based guidelines such as the American College of Surgeons’ Needs-Based Assessment of Trauma Systems. This approach minimizes the politics or one hospital’s influence over the process and uses the most up-to-date methods for assessing an area’s needs and recommending appropriate changes to Chapter 190 or applicable DHSS regulations – keeping the patient at the center of everything we do.Respectfully submitted,Dr. Jeffrey Coughenour MD FACS Vice Chair, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma – Missouri Chapter Vice Chair, Missouri Board of Health