



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 294 | | DATE: 4/9/2025 | |
| COMMITTEE: Judiciary | | | |
| 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: ALLYSON STONE | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: allysonstone1948@aol.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2025 2:58 PM |

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

After 70 many of us have medical issues making travel difficult and sitting in a jury pool or on an actual jury very uncomfortable. Having served on 5 juries in my life time I can tell you it was very difficult voting whether to convict or not extremely difficult when a jury member was very loud and overbearing. Now that I'm 76 it just wouldn't be worth the fight. That's not fair to the defendant.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF - STATE PUBLIC AD | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JAY HARDENBROOK | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-810-2066 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AARP | | TITLE: ADVOCACY DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: 3307 MISSOURI AVE | | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63118 |
| EMAIL: jhardenbrook@aarp.org | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 8:35 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JEROME BARNES | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: oldjay4u@yahoo.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 12:10 PM |
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This bill, HB 294 gives senior citizens 70 and over with issues the opportunity to opt out of jury duty. However, you can still serve on jury duty if you choose. Some seniors are on a fixed income with limit transportation and failing health. When reporting for jury duty, they are rarely picked. After being available for jury duty from age 21 to 70, seniors should have options.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KAREN ARGO | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: Kaargo12@yahoo.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2025 2:54 PM |

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Transportation would be an issue for me as well as my health and hearing loss.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KATHY KENNEDY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: kennedykc1311@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2025 4:06 PM |
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Just thinking about friends and neighbors who are 70+, I drive a friend who can't drive due to macular degeneration, I drive another friend who is nearly blind from pigmentosa retinitis, I drive another friend who had a benign brain tumor but suffered a stroke post-surgery, my sister is disabled from fibromyalgia and in pain daily, and I could go on and on. For these reasons, I think ages 70+ should be able to opt out of serving.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LATRICE THOMAS | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: Mrs.Thomas624@yahoo.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 1:25 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

My name is Latrice Thomas, and I'm here to express my strong support for allowing senior citizens the option to opt in or opt out of mandatory jury duty. I believe this is not only a matter of compassion but of practicality and justice. As individuals age, they often face a range of challenges that can impact their ability to serve effectively on a jury. From chronic health conditions and limited mobility to cognitive changes and mental fatigue, these factors can make it extremely difficult—if not impossible—for some seniors to fully engage in the responsibilities that jury service demands. Requiring mandatory jury service for all seniors, without exception, disregards these realities. It can create undue stress on individuals who may already be navigating complex health or personal issues. It also risks compromising the quality and attentiveness needed for fair and impartial trials. By allowing seniors to opt in rather than be automatically obligated, we honor their experience and value while also protecting their well-being. It ensures that only those who feel physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared to serve are the ones participating—benefiting both our senior citizens and the integrity of our justice system. This isn't about excluding seniors—it's about respecting their right to choose based on their individual circumstances. For these reasons, I respectfully urge support for policy changes that give senior citizens the option to decide for themselves.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HULL | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: mikelinda4@att.net | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 12:04 PM |
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As a person over 70 with health issues it is difficult to be placed in a situation where I cannot control my movements when needed. Especially bathroom visits, many times I cannot hold the need to go for an extended period. I also have hearing issues making it difficult to hear conversations and my attention span is not always good. I don't think I should be deciding issues for others with my health issues.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL N DOWNING | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: politico1950@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2025 1:29 PM |
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Jury duty can often create a huge burden for the elderly. At present my severe arthritis pain only partially abates partially in a semi reclined position with three pillows. Many of us cannot move quickly and most cannot walk very far. Personally my diabetes can only be kept in control by avoiding sugar and simple carbohydrates. The local courthouse only offers sandwiches, chips, and candy we can purchase from a vending machine. Seventy years seems like long enough for the courts to demand our service.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SCHRADER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: steven.sue98@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2025 6:59 PM |

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I support the jury duty age to 70. Travel not always available & health not always good. Thank you.