

BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DATE: 2/5/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety				
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF, STATE PUBLIC ADV		PHONE NUMI	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 1 2/5/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.				



freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: DATE: **HB 314** 2/5/2025 COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety ✓** IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES **TESTIFYING: WITNESS NAME BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:** WITNESS NAME PHONE NUMBER: **BYRON KEELIN** 314-402-0655 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO TITLE: **PRESIDENT ADDRESS** PO BOX 2 CITY: STATE: **BALLWIN** MO 63022 SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 6:38 AM ATTENDANCE:

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Written

Given the influx of deadly drugs, sex and human trafficking, and illegal guns coming into our country, we must send a strong message to criminals that Missourians will not tolerate criminals devastating our neighborhoods and families. These minimum sentences would also send a strong message to these weak, progressive Justices, we are done coddling criminals and take away their ability to give leniency.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE BONHAM			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI SHERII			TITLE: SHERIFF	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 2/5/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROY COLE			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI SHERIF			TITLE: SHERIFF	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	DBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAWN RHODES			PHONE NUME	BER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SHERIF	FS UNITED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: BUS. US 60				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT E 2/5/202	OATE: 15 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX EATON			PHONE NUME 573-616-9 8	
REPRESENTING: FAMM			TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1100 H. STREET				
CITY: WASHINGTON			STATE: DC	ZIP: 20005
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 2/5/202	PATE: 15 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX EATON			PHONE NUME 573-616-9 8	
REPRESENTING: ACTION NOW INIT	TATIVE, LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1717 W. LOOP S				
CITY: HOUSTON			STATE: TX	ZIP: 77027
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DATE: 2/5/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public	Safety			•	
TESTIFYING:	☐IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: AMY BREIHAN			PHONE NUM	MBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:			•		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: amyebreihan@gm	ail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 2/5/20	DATE: 025 2:35 PM	

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

I strongly oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in St. Louis County. I work at the MacArthur Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm that advocates for people impacted by the prison system. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. All Missourians benefit from having people return from prison, back to their communities and families. Also, the fact that someone is parole eligible does not necessarily mean they will be released--only those who have demonstrated their readiness for release and have a supportive home plan earn an out -date from the Parole Board. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ANDRE MITCHEL	L		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: iamdremitchbcmg	g@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	OATE: 25 3:01 PM
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Everyone deserves a second chance at life. We should be reducing the minimum. Thank you



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TESTIFYING: IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES		
	WITNESS NAME				
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ANDRIELLE BAKER-GARRIOTT PHONE NUMBER:					
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:			
ADDRESS:					
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:		
EMAIL: andriellegarriott@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 2/5/2025	ATE: 5 1:17 PM		

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

I am in OPPOSITION to HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862 for many reasons. I am a Missourian and I live in Farmington. St. Francois County has 2 prisons- ERDC and FCC. To keep it simple, Missouri State Prisons are inhumane and the individuals are treated worse than animals. These men and woman live in horrible conditions- mold, no AC/heat, given food that is labeled not for human consumption, are violently assaulted by Missouri State Prison Staff, have to fight for the bare minimum such as toilet paper or soap, incompetent or unavailable medical staff, I can go on and on. Living in these conditions in no way shape or form aligns with any sort of rehabilitation. How can ANYONE live in these conditions and expect to continue to be productive members of society when they are released with PTSD for simply trying to SURVIVE. These men and woman need to be home with their families- not locked in cages with no rehabilitation. 139+ individuals have DIED at the hands of the State of Missouri in 2024 and these numbers continue to increase year after year. MISSOURI STATE PRISON IS VIOLENCE! PLEASE VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862.



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		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY HARDWI	CK		PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: ashleyberning28@	@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/5/202	OATE: 25 3:48 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS BURLLO BECORD LINDER CHARTER 610, BSM					

am opposed to these bills, the prison system imposing longer time prior to being paroled only interferes and causes more issues financially on the state and for the families of the individuals incarcerated. Prisoners' are already being incarcerated and serving sentences for crimes that could be better address outside of the system.



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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: CANDACE MCGEE			PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: candiemcgee86@gr	mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 2/5/20 2	DATE: 25 2:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS BURLED BESORD LINDER OUADTER MAD BOM				

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I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Kennett. I work at Sage Creek. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	N SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN EASLEY			PHONE NUMBE	R:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAMI	E:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:			·		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: stacy.acarolyn@icloud.	com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 2/5/2025	TE: 1:56 PM	

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

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Liberty. I work in Clay county. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING: □ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN STACY		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: carolynastacy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	ATE: 5 1:45 PM
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Inmates are rehabilitated some should be given that second chance before they reach the 85% for violent offended. Some have made changes & granted, will continue to make positive contributions to life and their families. I think offenders who have done over half should at least be qualified & parole board should look at their cases.



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	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA WEST		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cynthia.d.west@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	ATE: 5 1:44 PM
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in St. Louis, MO. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE MITCH	ELL		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: danielle.ray2@gm	ail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/5/202	DATE: 25 2:58 PM
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People need a chance at life and show rehabilitation before it's go late. That's the whole point of prison. They deserve a chance at a meaningful life like everyone else in society. Thank you



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TESTIFYING: IN SUPPORT OF	▼IN OPPOSITION TO □ F	OR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE RAY		PHONE NUMBE	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nellyray314@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 2/5/202	ATE: 5 2:53 PM

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

Hello, I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Saint Lous. Missouri is a state that needs more big turn around in every department. We need more opportunities for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. The D.O.C is supposed to be for rehabilitation. That is not whats happening here. Making sentences longer definitely doesnt help. These men and women deserve the opportunity to enter back into society to have another chance at life and show that people can change abd be rehabilitated. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



BILL NUMBER: DATE: HB 314 2/5/2025 COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety** ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ✓ IN OPPOSITION TO FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES **TESTIFYING: WITNESS NAME** INDIVIDUAL: WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: **DENA NOTZ BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:** TITLE: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP: SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 1:18 PM EMAIL: ATTENDANCE: cccforchange24@gmail.com Written

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Hello,I am from Missouri and work with Collectively Changing Corrections. I wholeheartedly agree with rehabilitation and second chances. If an individual can demonstrate that they have been rehabilitated they deserve a second chance to prove they have learned their lesson. Keeping them in prison longer only causes more harm. The opportunity for parole should be offered, more often, to monitor progress. Too often these individuals are thrown in prison and forgotten about. This isn't what the Missouri Department of Corrections promises to do. They promise to help them be rehabilitated. So let's give them a chance to prove this. Thank you for your timeDéna Notz Collectively Changing Corrections President



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TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: EMILY WILKERSO	DN		PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: emily.a.hook@gm	nail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	OATE: 5 2:11 PM	
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Sullivan, MO. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: FELICIA HAMPTO	N		PHONE NUMBI	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D. 2/5/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: JESSICAH DONEH	IUE		PHONE NUMBE	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessicahdalton448	@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 2/5/202	ATE: 5 3:09 PM

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

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KHANIKA HARPER	₹		PHONE NUME 314-530-8 3	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION JUSTICE FOR ALL			TITLE: FOUNDER	2
ADDRESS:				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63147
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	OATE: 5 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORMAT	IONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTO	ON		PHONE NUMBER	:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NA	ME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			•	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gr	mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE 2/5/2025 S	E: 9:36 PM

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

HB 314, which proposes to enforce mandatory minimum prison terms, raises significant constitutional and policy concerns that cannot be overlooked. First and foremost, the bill's rigid requirement for offenders to serve 75% to 100% of their sentences, without regard for individual circumstances, violates the principle of proportionality in sentencing. The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution explicitly prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, and courts have consistently ruled that sentences must be proportionate to the crime committed. By stripping judges of the discretion to consider mitigating factors—such as an offender's efforts toward rehabilitation, the context of their prior offenses, or their level of involvement in the crime—HB 314 risks imposing excessively harsh sentences that fail to align with the severity of the offense. This blanket approach disregards the nuanced analysis required by constitutional principles and could lead to unjust and disproportionate outcomes. Additionally, HB 314 would worsen the already critical problem of prison overcrowding and its associated financial and social costs. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws have been widely criticized for driving the exponential growth of incarcerated populations, placing an unsustainable burden on state resources. Empirical evidence demonstrates that longer prison terms do not effectively deter crime more than alternative sentencing measures, such as probation, rehabilitation programs, or community service. By mandating that even first-time offenders serve 75% of their sentences, HB 314 ignores proven, evidence-based practices that prioritize public safety and reduce recidivism. Rather than fostering rehabilitation, this bill perpetuates a cycle of incarceration that disproportionately impacts marginalized communities and places unnecessary strain on the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the bill's provision requiring certain offenders, such as those convicted of first-degree rape or armed criminal action, to serve 100% of their sentences raises serious due process concerns. While these crimes are undeniably grave, eliminating any possibility of parole or sentence reduction removes critical incentives for good behavior and rehabilitation during incarceration. This inflexible approach undermines the principles of restorative justice and fails to acknowledge the potential for individuals to reform. It also places an undue burden on the Department of Corrections to manage an increasingly static prison population, diverting resources away from programs that could otherwise reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration into society. For these reasons, HB 314 is not only legally flawed but also counterproductive to the goals of a fair, effective, and equitable criminal justice system. I strongly urge the legislature to reject this bill and instead focus on reforms that balance accountability with rehabilitation and proportionality.



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	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LIZ DEKEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		•	
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lizdeken313@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE 2/5/2025 3	:40 PM

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Prison sentences disproportionately affect people of color. In a policing and judicial system with known biases, increasing minimum prison terms is an inhumane act. I oppose HB 314 as a Missourian who lives in St. Louis County. We need people able to work, able to be with their families, able to contribute to society. Missouri needs more opportunities, no less, for people to earn parole and get back to work, family life, and society. I ask that you visit a prison and talk to the people there. People in prison are people with families, jobs, communities, and deserve humane treatment. Please vote NO on HB 314, as well as HB 389 and HB 862.



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TESTIFYING: IN SUPPO	ORT OF ☑IN OPPOSITIO	N TO FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAMI	Ē	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	٧:		
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUM 314-306-8	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTI	VE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 2/5/20	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	IATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZA	ATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA GOELLNER			PHONE NUM 717-945-9	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FAMM	:		TITLE: SENIOR I POLICY	DIRECTOR OF STATE
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 11				
CITY: ERIE			STATE: PA	ZIP: 16512
EMAIL: mgoellner@famm.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 2/5/202	DATE: 25 9:47 AM

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

Dear Chair Myers, Vice-Chair Schulte, and Honorable Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding House Bill 314, House Bill 389, and House Bill 862. FAMM is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to create a more fair and effective justice system that respects our American values of individual accountability and dignity while keeping communities safe. We advocate sentencing policies that are individualized and fair, protect public safety, and preserve families. Each of these three bills contains so-called "truth in sentencing" (TIS) provisions and significantly increase the percentage of sentences that Missourians would be required to serve in state-run, taxpayer funded prisons. We ask you to vote "no" for the following reasons. These bills are unnecessary as people in are staying in Missouri prisons longer than they were in previous years. DOC data clearly show that the average amount of time people in Missouri spent in prison rose by 11.2% between FY 2018 and 2023. This amendment "fixes" a problem that doesn't exist. These bills will waste more than \$27 million of Missouri taxpayers' money without a discernible public safety benefit. The Fiscal Note on last year's version of HB 862 alone estimated \$27 million dollar in expenditures in just 10 years without benefitting taxpayers. The true cost will likely be more, as the state's prisons are significantly understaffed, and overtime is extremely costly. Keeping people in prison without a public safety benefit is absurdly expensive, wasting resources that could otherwise be invested in crime prevention. For example, 62 percent of violent crimes reported to police in Missouri in 2023 were not solved, down 12 percentage points from the solve rate in 2013. These \$27 million dollars would be far better spent testing rape kits, DNA, and supporting violent crime case closure. This Committee should be focusing its time and attention on preventing crime rather than making sentences longer for the smaller percentage of people apprehended. The public safety issue is not that Missourians are not spending enough time in prison. TIS laws remove a vital tool of correctional officers, because they limit and prevent the prison's ability to incentivize rehabilitation through programming and good behavior. These laws can lead to worse behavior in prison and higher recidivism once people are released. Good behavior and programming incentives are important tools for corrections staff. The Missouri Department of Corrections is understaffed and needs more tools like good and earned time credits, not less. President Trump's signature criminal justice legislation, the First Step Act, increased federal access to good and earned time credit. Missouri should follow suit instead of going in the opposite direction. When Arizona eliminated parole and earned time credits in 1993, prison rule violations increased by 50 percent, enrollment in educational programs dropped by 20 percent, and the reoffending rate jumped 4.8 percentage points. When Georgia limited parole eligibility in 1998, there was a 15 percent increase in prison rule violations, 14 percent decline in rehabilitative program participation, and 5- to 7-point increase in the recidivism rate. These bills are

unlikely to prevent crime. Researchers have found no evidence that severe sentencing policies deter people from engaging in criminal activity. It is the certainty of being caught and swiftly punished, not the length of punishment, that deters crime. The vast majority of people who commit crimes - even very serious crimes - naturally grow out of criminal behavior as they mature. TIS laws keep many people incarcerated long past the point at which they have become low risk for reoffending. The Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission, a legislatively created commission dating back to 1993, now hosts a public tool that clarifies how much of a sentence someone will serve - negating the need for any further "truth" in sentencing. The Missouri Time Served Calculator was created in response to feedback that victims and the public should have better information about prison sentences. It is available at https://www.courts.mo.gov/sentencing-calc/. These bills hurt Missouri families. By keeping family members in prison longer with no discernible benefit, TIS harms families and contributes to poverty by keeping people on the state rolls when they could be working. When someone is incarcerated, their families "do the time" with them. The incarcerated individual can no longer contribute to the household income, which often makes it difficult for their families to meet basic needs, such as food, housing, and utilities. Plus, many family members spend hundreds of dollars a month to visit, call, and email their loved ones and to provide prison commissary funding for toiletries and other essentials. The emotional and psychological toll of the incarcerated individual's absence from major milestones and day-to-day life is horrendous. Children of incarcerated parents experience significantly higher rates of mental health, educational, behavioral, developmental, and relationship problems than their peers. Similarly, incarceration is associated with negative mental and physical health consequences for adult family members. Finally, this Committee should wait for the substantive work of Governor Kehoe's parole working group before considering significant changes like these. Executive Order 25-07 mandates a working group to develop recommendations for the parole system and proposed changes. The working group is to include stakeholders including representatives of law enforcement, corrections, the judiciary, and the public to comprehensively review parole rules. The Committee should allow the Governor and parole working group the opportunity to do its work. FAMM urges the Committee to vote "no" on House Bill 314, House Bill 389, and House Bill 862 today. We urge you to advance legislation that makes effective, evidence-based public safety investments. Please contact me at (717) 945-9089 or mgoellner@famm.org for a PDF copy of this testimony including citations, or if you have any questions. Thank you for considering our views.



BILL NUMBER: HB 314				ATE: 2 /5/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public	Safety		•	
TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMAT	IONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MARY CLAIRE SO	DRENSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mcsorensen21@y	/ahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE 2/5/2025 1	

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

I oppose HB 314, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in St. Louis City. I work at MacArthur Justice Center. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 314				ATE: 2 /5/2025
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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MAYCE MARSH			PHONE NUMBER:	:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: maycemarsh@gma	ail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE 2/5/2025 1	

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

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Falcon, Missouri. I work at the Lake of the Ozarks, I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there.Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 314			DATE: 2/5/2025	
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TESTIFYING: □IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES	
	WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: MICHAEL DREYER				
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:				
ADDRESS:		•		
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 2/5/2025	TE: 9:32 PM	

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HB 314, which seeks to impose mandatory minimum prison terms, raises significant constitutional and policy concerns. First, the bill's blanket requirement for offenders to serve 75% to 100% of their sentences, regardless of individual circumstances, undermines the principle of proportionality in sentencing. The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. and courts have consistently held that sentences must be proportionate to the crime committed. By eliminating judicial discretion to consider mitigating factors—such as an offender's rehabilitation efforts, the nature of their prior offenses, or their role in the crime—HB 314 risks imposing excessively harsh sentences that do not align with the severity of the offense. This one-size-fits-all approach disregards the nuanced analysis required by the Constitution and could lead to unjust outcomes. Second, HB 314 exacerbates the already severe issue of prison overcrowding and its associated costs. Mandatory minimums have been widely criticized for contributing to the exponential growth of incarcerated populations, placing an unsustainable burden on state resources. Research consistently shows that longer prison terms do not necessarily deter crime more effectively than alternative sentencing measures, such as probation, rehabilitation programs, or community service. By mandating that even first-time offenders serve 75% of their sentences, this bill ignores evidence-based practices that prioritize public safety and reduce recidivism. Instead of fostering rehabilitation, HB 314 perpetuates a cycle of incarceration that disproportionately affects marginalized communities and strains the criminal justice system. Finally, the bill's requirement that certain offenders, such as those convicted of first-degree rape or armed criminal action, serve 100% of their sentences raises due process concerns. While these crimes are undeniably serious, the elimination of any opportunity for parole or sentence reduction removes incentives for good behavior and rehabilitation during incarceration. This rigid approach contradicts the goals of restorative justice and fails to recognize the potential for individuals to change. Moreover, it places an undue burden on the Department of Corrections to manage an increasingly static prison population, further limiting resources for programs that could otherwise reduce recidivism. For these reasons, HB 314 is not only legally problematic but also counterproductive to the goals of a fair and effective criminal justice system. I urge the legislature to reject this bill and instead pursue reforms that balance accountability with rehabilitation and proportionality.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DATE: 2/5/2025
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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE DOWNEY	,		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: n.downey88@gma	ail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/5/202	OATE: 25 2:09 PM
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Joplin. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314. Thank you.



BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DATE: 2/5/2025	
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		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: PASTOR RICHARD JACKSO)N		PHONE NUME	ER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:					
ADDRESS:			•		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: audimanasseh@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	OATE: 5 1:51 PM	
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Its inhumane. Not wise unfair and certainly not adding to prison reform more like prison deform. You must give people hope



BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DATE: 2/5/2025
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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK PLEIN			PHONE NUME 202-347-9 3	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CPAC	ON NAME:		DIRECTOI FOR JUST	R - NOLAN CENTER TICE
ADDRESS: 1199 N FAIRFAX S	ST.			
CITY: ALEXANDRIA			STATE: VA	ZIP: 22314
EMAIL: pplein@conservat	tive.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/5/202	DATE: 25 9:56 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBI	BYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JON	IES		PHONE NUMB 573-808-2 1	
REPRESENTING: DREAM.ORG AND MIS	SSOURI NAACP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/5/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: SHARON TURLINGTON					
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:					
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			S ⁻	TATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sharonturlington@	att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	1	SUBMIT DATE 2/5/2025 4:	13 PM

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

I am a resident of St. Louis County. Missouri should lowering all mandatory prison sentences not making increasing mandatory minimums. We need to focus of rehabilitation. Keeping people in prison costs more than 30 thousand dollars a year and wastes tax payer money. Long prisons sentences hurt families, the community and waste taxpayer money. Individuals should be released from prison and should get help getting jobs to help our economy.



BILL NUMBER: HB 314			TE: 5/2025
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TESTIFYING: IN SUPPOR	RT OF IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMATION	ONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TANYA OLIPHANT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tanyaandjoe@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 8:	

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

I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Maplewood. I work for WashU. I believe Missouri needs more opportunities, not less, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families. Parole eligibility doesn't mean someone will be released. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 314			DATE: 2/5/2025	
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	WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: VIRGINIA L LAROSE				
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:				
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: emailgina@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D. 2/5/202	ATE: 5 6:23 PM	

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

Good evening, I oppose HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862, which would increase minimum prison terms in Missouri. I am a Missourian and live in Maplewood MO (63143). I work as a home health physical therapist. I believe Missouri needs *more* opportunities, not fewer, for people to earn parole and get back to work to support their families and be productive citizens. Parole eligibility doesn't mean violent offenders will be released automatically. It is a long process with a lot of checks, a home plan, etc. I ask you to visit a prison and talk to people there; they are human beings with families, and hopes, and people who love and miss them. So many incarcerated people are there simply because the system has failed them. Please VOTE NO on HB 314, HB 389, and HB 862. Thank you.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 314				DA 2/ !	TE: 5/2025
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		WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:				
WITNESS NAME: CRIME AND JUSTI	ICE INSTITUTE		PI	HONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CRIME AND JUSTI			ТІ	TLE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY: BOSTON				TATE: IA	ZIP: 02116
EMAIL: espolar@cjinstitut	e.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 10):48 AM

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

OVERVIEWWhat is Truth and Sentencing (TIS)? First enacted in 1984, Truth in Sentencing (TIS) laws are a form of determinate sentencing where incarcerated individuals are required to serve a substantial portion of their sentence, generally 85%. Parole eligibility and good time credits are often restricted or eliminated. Why are HB314 and HB389 considered TIS bills? Both bills would dramatically increase the amount of time people spend in prison by mandating a minimum percentage of a person's sentence to be served. How? The bills would repeal Missouri's current staggered minimum terms for people with previous felony commitments and instead require: • 75% minimum prison term for people with no previous prison commitment: 80% minimum if they have 1+ prison commitments; • 100% of the sentence served for anyone convicted of first-degree rape or attempt to commit rape, enticement of a child or attempt to commit enticement of a child or armed criminal action. Does Missouri already have TIS? Yes. People convicted of a dangerous felony are required to serve 85% of their sentence. However, these bills would repeal the 40% exception for people +70.TIS in OTHER STATES Do longer sentences reduce crime? No. Increased incarceration has not been found to be effective in reducing crime. If TIS was responsible for the drop in crime, the drop would have begun when TIS was enacted and would not have happened in states without TIS -which is not the case. Research also shows that, at best, longer sentences have no effect on recidivism and, at worst, they actually increase recidivism. Why have states moved away from TIS? Over time, most states realized that TIS resulted in larger prison populations at tremendous cost with little evidence of improved public safety or reduced recidivism. What about cost? Louisiana just passed a TIS package of bills in 2024. Projections found that by mandating 85% time served, individuals will spend substantially more time incarcerated at great cost to taxpayers. An expected \$600 million per year —twice as high as the current corrections budget.PROJECTED IMPACT in MOProposed Change under HB314: Anyone convicted of first-degree rape or attempt to commit rape, enticement of a child or attempt to commit enticement of a child or armed criminal action would now serve 100% of their sentence.- 4,384 people are serving time for this type of offense.- On average, people convicted of this type of offense serve 76.8% of their sentences.-They would now serve 100% of their sentence. These longer sentences would mean absorbing the annual cost of incarcerating one person multiplied by 15,944.- The annual cost of housing an individual in MO state prison is ~\$33,000. Outcome: Just this provision of the legislation could cost Missouri up to \$523,760,400. What does the fiscal note say? The Fiscal Note on the bill clearly states that it "could result in a significant increase in the prison population and require the DOC to reopen housing units or build a new facility." Given the relatively long length of these sentence cycles, DOC expects to start to see the impact on offender populations in FY 2038. FY 2038

FY 2040+\$101,264,164 +\$165,277,556

+\$168,647,381