MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 389**	DATE: **2/5/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF, STATE PUBLIC ADV**		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER:	DATE:
HB 389	**2/5/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Crime and Public Safety

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME:	PHONE NUMBER:
BYRON KEELIN	**314-402-0655**
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:
FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO	**PRESIDENT**
ADDRESS:	
PO BOX 2	
CITY:	STATE: / ZIP:
BALLWIN	**MO** / **63022**

EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE:
freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	**Written**	**2/5/2025 6:38 AM**

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

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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **MIKE BONHAM**		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED**		TITLE: **SHERIFF**	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: **MO**	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **ROY COLE**		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED**		TITLE: **SHERIFF**	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: **MO**	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

REGISTERED LOBBYIST:

WITNESS NAME: **SHAWN RHODES**		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: **MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED**		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: **BUS. US 60**			
CITY: **JEFFERSON CITY**		STATE: **MO**	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

REGISTERED LOBBYIST:

WITNESS NAME: **ALEX EATON**		PHONE NUMBER: **573-616-9860**	
REPRESENTING: **ACTION NOW INITIATIVE, LLC**		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: **1717 W. LOOP S**			
CITY: **HOUSTON**		STATE: **TX**	ZIP: **77027**
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

REGISTERED LOBBYIST:

WITNESS NAME: **ALEX EATON**		PHONE NUMBER: **573-616-9860**	
REPRESENTING: **FAMM**		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: **1100 H. STREET**			
CITY: **WASHINGTON**		STATE: **DC**	ZIP: **20005**
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **AMY BREIHAN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **amyebreihan@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ANDRE MITCHELL**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **iamdremitchbcmg@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 3:01 PM**

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Everyone deserves a second chance at life. We should be reducing the minimum.Thank you

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL 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 DATE: **2/5/2025 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ASHLEY HARDWICK**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **ashleyberning28@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 3:48 PM**

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

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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CANDACE MCGEE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **candiemcgee86@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 2:11 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 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CAROLYN EASLEY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **stacy.acarolyn@icloud.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CAROLYN STACY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **carolynastacy@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 1:45 PM**

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

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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CYNTHIA WEST**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **cynthia.d.west@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 1:44 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 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DANIELLE MITCHELL**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **danielle.ray2@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 2:58 PM**

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

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DANIELLE RAY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **nellyray314@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 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 and 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DENA NOTZ**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **cccforchange24@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 1:18 PM**

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

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **EMILY WILKERSON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **emily.a.hook@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 2:11 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 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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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **FELICIA HAMPTON**		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JESSICAH DONEHUE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **jessicahdalton448@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 3:09 PM**

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

I wishl 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: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **KHANIKA HARPER**		PHONE NUMBER: **314-530-8331**	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **JUSTICE FOR ALL**		TITLE: **FOUNDER**	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: **ST. LOUIS**		STATE: **MO**	ZIP: **63147**
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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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: **2/5/2025 9:36 PM**

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

HB 389, 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 389 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 389 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 389 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 389 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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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**

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

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 389, as well as HB 314 and HB 862.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **MALLORY RUSCH**		PHONE NUMBER: **314-306-8945**	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **EMPOWER MISSOURI**		TITLE: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**	
ADDRESS: **PO BOX 104900**			
CITY: **JEFFERSON CITY**		STATE: **MO**	ZIP: **65110**
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 389**	DATE: **2/5/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **MARIA GOELLNER**		PHONE NUMBER: **717-945-9089**	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **FAMM**		TITLE: **SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICY**	
ADDRESS: **P.O. BOX 11**			
CITY: **ERIE**		STATE: **PA**	ZIP: **16512**
EMAIL: **mgoellner@famm.org**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 389**	DATE: **2/5/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **MARY CLAIRE SORENSEN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **mcsorensen21@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:42 PM**

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

I oppose HB 389, 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 389**	DATE: **2/5/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **MAYCE MARSH**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **maycemarsh@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 1:46 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 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BILL NUMBER: **HB 389**	DATE: **2/5/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Crime and Public Safety**	

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ 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: **2/5/2025 9:32 PM**

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

HB 389, 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 389 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 389 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 389 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 389 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **NICOLE DOWNEY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **n.downey88@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 2:09 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 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 389. Thank you.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **PASTOR RICHARD JACKSON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **audimanasseh@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 1:51 PM**

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Its inhumane. Will cause more harm than goodDoesn't give the person any hope. 80% of 10 years is 96 months which is flat 8 years. Not logical or wise.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:

WITNESS NAME: **PATRICK PLEIN**		PHONE NUMBER: **202-347-9388**	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: **CPAC**		TITLE: **DIRECTOR - NOLAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE**	
ADDRESS: **1199 N FAIRFAX ST.**			
CITY: **ALEXANDRIA**		STATE: **VA**	ZIP: **22314**
EMAIL: **pplein@conservative.org**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 9:56 AM**	

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

REGISTERED LOBBYIST:

WITNESS NAME: **SHARON GEUEA JONES**		PHONE NUMBER: **573-808-2156**	
REPRESENTING: **DREAM.ORG AND MISSOURI NAACP**		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: **227 JEFFERSON**			
CITY: **JEFFERSON CITY**		STATE: **MO**	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 12:00 AM**	

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **SHARON TURLINGTON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **sharonturlington@att.net**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☑ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL 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 8:26 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 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.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **VIRGINIA L LAROSE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:

EMAIL: **emailgina@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **2/5/2025 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.