



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:59 PM	
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I am in Support of this Bill with the Creation of a State Appointment City Police Commission Appointed by the Governor, with the Confirmation of the majority of State Senators. See my further Testimony.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE OF MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER SCHOEMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-541-1128
REPRESENTING: ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DONNY WALTERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ETHICAL SOCIETY OF POLICE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4901 DELMAR			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JANE DUEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-265-5072	
REPRESENTING: ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOC., STL COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS ASSOC. & MO FOP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY SCHROEDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI FOP		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 715 JEFFERSON ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOE STEIGER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-353-3200	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION		TITLE: BUSINESS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3710 HAMPTON AVE.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE PELTON		PHONE NUMBER: 636-583-2560	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED		TITLE: SHERIFF	
ADDRESS: #1 BRUNS LANE			
CITY: UNION		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63084
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN MYERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanmyers@socket.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:10 AM

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My testimony today is focused solely on the "Committee on School Safety" section. This portion of HB 495 has my tentative support, though more information is needed before I can get behind and advocate for it. Some thoughts/concerns..It is my firm belief that any committee formed with the express purpose to "evaluate and establish guidelines for school safety concerns" would be doing a disservice to those children, their parents, and our communities should they choose not to carefully examine and consider recommending the expansion of our School Protection Officer program, opening it up to allow district to select candidates from among all employees, not just teachers and administrators, as is now the case. They should also explore the idea of allowing districts to enlist the aid of fully vetted volunteers from within their communities to serve as SPO (still required to go through the same training/certification as all other SPO). It is unfortunate and dangerous to our children's safety that "firearms in schools" has been allowed to become a divisive and often political issue. When someone chooses to open fire within a school, that's when everyone agrees that another gun needs to be used to stop them. That being the case, clearly the sooner that happens the better. Not allowing that threat-stopping firearm to already be in the building, discreetly concealed upon a trained and willing responder's person is woefully irresponsible and wholly unacceptable. Should such a committee be formed, their first order of business should be to begin educating themselves on the active shooter topic with open minds. I strongly recommend they seek out and invite Ed Monk to come speak to them. His knowledge of the subject matter and his military planning insights will prove invaluable. *Providing his Bio below for reference.No outside agenda should ever be allowed to get in the way of doing what's best for the safety of children. They are our treasure and should be guarded and protected as such. Thank you for your efforts in that regard.Susan Myers, Missouri State Director - Women for Gun Rights*Ed Monk has been researching the Active Shooter threat and providing training to counter it for over 17 years. He speaks to and trains law enforcement agencies, schools, universities, churches, businesses and conferences nationwide. Monk is a retired Army officer (Lieutenant Colonel and Battalion Commander), former schoolteacher, and current law enforcement officer and firearms trainer. Education includes BS in US History from West Point, MS in Education from Kansas State University, and graduate of US Army's Command & General Staff College.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TODD SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-8366
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL's OFFICE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 207 W. HIGH ST.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ADOLPHUS PRUITT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-361-8600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS CITY NAACP		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 4811 DELMAR			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALEX MCPHERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: alexmc97@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 495. The St. Louis Police Department deserves to be represented by local leaders, not state officials who lack the personal connection to the St. Louis community and who undermine current efforts to curb crime and Common Sense gun laws across the city and state. This is also a violation of the clearly-stated Home Rule Principles. As a young person who's already growing up with the existential threats of gun violence, climate change, and political figures who disregard the personhood of myself and those I care about, it's important for my community in St. Louis (I was born and raised in St. Louis) to represent itself and not be beholden to the whims of those who don't understand the challenges we face regarding public safety. Thanks for reading, and I respectfully encourage you to vote "NO" on HB 495.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY MCPHERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amcpherson97@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:55 AM
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I oppose this bill because although it uses crime prevention as justification, it disrupts locally led efforts to address gun violence. Increasing state control disrupts effective local efforts, leaving my community more vulnerable.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY GEORGE GILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: aggstl@primary.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:07 AM
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Local St Louis officials and residents should control their own public safety as they understand the unique challenges of their environment. This bill also risks dismantling proven strategies to reduce gun violence in St Louis.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BONNIE D. WENDLANDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bwendlandt22@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:41 AM

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HB495 seeks to strip the control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from local leaders. This action represents a dire threat to the safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis communities.VOTE NO ON HB495!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTANY KIEFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: brittany.kiefer@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:57 AM

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

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HN495. As a St. Louis city resident, I know taking local control away from SLPD is **NOT** in my best interest. These bills erode local accountability which is necessary in building a strong relationship between the community and our law enforcement. I fear the effective work that the SLPD is currently doing to reduce crime in St Louis will be dismantled under these laws. In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address our needs. Reversing this decision disregards our voices. It is important to uphold home rule principles which empower our local leadership to make decisions directly affecting our community. These issues are important to me because I **DO NOT** trust state authorities to have our best interest in mind regarding gun control legislation. We currently have **NO** common-sense gun laws in place in Missouri and the state government seeks to continue to put us at risk with these terrible, harmful, and embarrassing policies.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE NOVALIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: christine.novalis@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly oppose HB495 as it undermines local accountability by replacing St. Louis's community-driven leadership with state-appointed commissioners who lack direct ties to residents. This bill disrupts effective violence-prevention strategies and community-policing efforts, fracturing trust between law enforcement and the community. Moreover, HB495 disregards voter intent from 2012 and violates home rule principles, setting a dangerous precedent for state interference in municipal affairs.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dwebster30@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:55 AM

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Saint Louis needs something. They haven't been effective because of permissive firearms laws in Missouri. The proposed commission may be an answer, but a better one would include the ability of St. Louis to determine their own firearms laws. Common sense says: "If you don't want violent crime, don't let the criminals have guns."



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY HORNSTRA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emlife@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 5:49 PM
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The state is in control of the KC PD and it has not made a difference in crime rates. Local governments should control local PDs.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN ELLINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: erin.ann.collins@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:25 AM

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I oppose this bill as it would represent a profound threat to safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis Communities. It erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis's challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection. It disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis's community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control. It fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust. It ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices. It is a violation of Home Rule Principles: These bills violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ERNIE MORETTI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ernie.moretti@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a citizen of Missouri and I oppose HB 495 for the reasons detailed below:1. Erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis's challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection.2. Disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis's community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control.3. Fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust.4. Ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices.5. Violation of Home Rule Principles: These bills violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ETHAN MCCOLLUM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ethanmccollum@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:55 AM
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Hello, my name is Ethan McCollum and I would like to submit my testimony against HB 495. Submission to tyranny begins when we deny the reality in front of us. The reality is that this bill denies the intent of Missouri voters and strips municipal government of their autonomy. Those who support this bill unwittingly support the centralization of power. That power may one day be abused by evil and conspiring men. I beg our leaders to stand support for what is right and vote NO on HB 495.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GAIL WECHSLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: gailwechsler91@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 3:54 PM

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I oppose this bill because it would be a threat to the safety, well-being and autonomy of the people of St. Louis. Stripping away local authority over the police would negatively impact locally led efforts to address gun violence and would leave communities in St. Louis more vulnerable to crime. This bill erodes local accountability. Local leaders understand St. Louis’s challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection. This bill disrupts known and evidence-based strategies. St. Louis’s community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control. Please vote NO on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GRACE IVERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: grace.tedder97@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:07 AM

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I urge the committee to reject this bill and NOT pass it out of committee. The state should not assume control of SLMPD. We as St. Louis residents should continue to have local control over our own police department, as voters approved in 2013 when SLMPD moved from state to local control. Secondly, I oppose Section 568.045 on page 20 of this bill. Adding fentanyl to the charge of "endangering the welfare of a child" does not improve child safety, but only creates further criminalization and harm to child, parent and community. This bill includes pretty much any activity in relation to fentanyl (including possession, even in a residence where a child lives when the child is not present there), mandates a minimum sentence and preempts judicial discretion. People struggling with substance use disorders need support and healthcare, not criminalization. Incarcerating a parent and removing a child from their family creates tremendous harm. Other supports that actually ensure parent and child well-being are possible and should be pursued instead of criminalization. Lastly, I oppose Section 574.050 in relation to the offense of rioting. This is clearly an attempt to criminalize protest and increase repression against free speech. By removing the clause about a group agreeing beforehand to "violate criminal laws" and removing the language about "violating laws with force and violence", this bill lowers the bar AND raises charges against protestors from a misdemeanor to a felony. Time and again, the state has targeted protestors with unjustified criminal charges in order to suppress free speech, and this dangerous bill only heightens the risk and degree of repression. I urge the committee to vote no on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GRACE MARTINIÈRE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gamartiniere@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 8:49 PM

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I do not support this bill and think it threatens the safety for people in St Louis. St Louis needs reform and this OBVIOUSLY is not it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: IDA FOGLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ida@fogles.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 6:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri citizen, I oppose this bill. The rate of violent crime has been dropping in St. Louis. Residents have voted for local control. There's no need for the state to spend our tax money interfering where they are not wanted or needed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES FIGUEROA-ROBNETT JR.		PHONE NUMBER: 573-356-4433	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI NAACP CONFERENCE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE COMM. MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 111 WEST HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANEEN TURK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmtraen@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing to oppose HB 495. The move to take away control of the police from a local government is counter to the conservative and Republican principles I was raised with, and I believe it will make St. Louis law enforcement less effective, less responsive and undermine the intention of local voters who want a locally controlled police force.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA BENIPAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: benipaljessica@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I do not support this bill and believe that it goes against gun safety and the safety of the public.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOAN MCGIVNEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mcgivney91@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Representatives: As a resident of the St. Louis area, I urge you to vote NO on HB495. This bill takes away local control, which violates principles of home rule. Also, St. Louis has adopted new initiatives for community-policing and violence prevention, which is starting to be effective in lowering crime rate. I cherish the time I spend in the City of St. Louis and think these bills will erode public confidence in local public safety because there will be no accountability at the local level. Joan McGivney



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIANN DEPALMA HESED		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: momhesed@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a long-time citizen living in St. Louis City I oppose this bill as it will not add safety to our neighborhoods and on our streets.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN AUGUST SPECTORSKY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kspectorsky@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

- Local leaders understand St. Louis's challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection. In addition, St. Louis's community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control. Most importantly, in 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN K WEIGEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: weigel.kathryn@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:53 AM

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

I oppose this bill as they would represent a profound threat to safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis Communities. This Bill: 1) Erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis’s challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection.2) Disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis’s community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control.3) Fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust.4) Ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices.5) Violation of Home Rule Principles: This bill violates the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATIE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katiefrank@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:10 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill as it would represent a profound threat to safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis Communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN HINK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kevin.hink@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:01 AM

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

I am opposed to HB 495 as currently written. This bill would disregard the will of the people expressed in 2012, when they voted decisively to return control of the St. Louis city police department to the people of the City of St. Louis. If Mr. Christ disagrees with the result of that vote, he should organize a ballot initiative to overturn it. It is not proper for the legislature to override the will of the people when expressed lawfully and constitutionally. Further, it is only proper for local authorities to have control over a local police department. Authorities in other parts of the state would be less educated on unique challenges faced here and less vested in the outcomes of policing strategies decided upon or deployed. This proposal is akin to the Federal Government assuming control over the Missouri State Highway Patrol or Missouri National Guard!! I would support a standalone bill to address stunt driving.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
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: 1/22/2025 9:31 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to vote NO on HB495 (Christ), which allows for the state takeover of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD). It has become clear over the past few years that many elected officials are willing to go to extreme lengths to override the will of the voters and limit local elected officials' ability to effectively govern. We've seen an assault on our power as voters; with the passage of restrictive voting laws, the relentless attacks on the initiative petition process, and now continued attempts to strip control of the SLMPD from the people of St. Louis. We are vehemently opposed to these attacks. Twelve years ago, after years of organizing and advocacy, St. Louis City gained control of the SLMPD through the passage of Proposition A. Voters in St. Louis City and across the state overwhelmingly agreed that the residents of St. Louis should have control over their policing. Local Control ensures direct accountability and guarantees that communities can enact a vision of public safety. Local elected officials are working to keep the residents of St. Louis City safe by addressing contributing factors of violence, such as economic insecurity, mental health challenges and substance abuse. In the last several years, the current administration created the Office of Violence Prevention within the Department of Public Safety and allocated resources to create intervention programs to make the city safer. These programs, which coordinate with SLMPD, have been effective in curtailing violence throughout St. Louis, with violent crime down over 35% in the past two years. Compare that statistic to Kansas City, the only city with a state controlled police department in the nation, where violent crime has significantly increased over the same period. Any legislation designed to take away local control is unacceptable. What our city needs is partnership with state officials to continue to identify strategies to improve public safety, not continued efforts to place SLMPD under state control. I implore you to listen to the voices of the people and vote against all proposed legislation that seeks to limit or remove local control over SLMPD from the people of St. Louis. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIN BOWEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kristinbowencomo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing to oppose HB 495, being heard today in committee. This extreme bill aims to strip control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from local elected leaders and transfer it to the state, undoing years of progress made under local leadership. This bill uses crime prevention as a justification. But it would instead disrupt essential, locally led efforts to address gun violence. Because local control is a core principle--and because increasing state control of public safety will negatively impact effective local efforts--as a resident of another growing city (Columbia), I urge you to oppose this measure. Dangerous legislation that would leave St. Louis communities more vulnerable is not what Missouri families need at this moment. Sincerely, Kristin Bowen 614 W Stewart Road, Columbia, 65203



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Lauramberry14@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose these bills as they would represent a profound threat to safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis Communities. Erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis's challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection. Disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis's community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control. Fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust. Ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices. Violation of Home Rule Principles: These bills violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly urge the committee to vote no on HB 495. We hear this bill over and over and over again, and it's consistently sponsored by representatives who do not live in St. Louis. Local control. That's it. If you really do care about decreasing crime, it would serve you best if you fund public education, free school breakfast and lunch programs, gun violence prevention laws, funding social services... It's past time these representatives get back to doing what's best for their communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA KROUPA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: LJK222@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 8:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Oppose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN BRUNO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: laurenbruno@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a constituent in St. Louis county. As a constituent, I am urging you to vote NO on HB 495. This bill takes away accountability from local leaders which best understand St. Louis' challenges. In addition, these bills would ignore voter intent which chose local control. Strong relationships between police and the communities they serve are imperative for public safety. For these reasons and more, I am urging you to vote NO on HB 495. Thank you for your time and your consideration. Best regards, Lauren Bruno



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lindakram@charter.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA REYNOLDS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lindareyno@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please vote no on HB495. As a constituent, I believe that the bill represents a profound threat to the safety, autonomy and well being of St. Louis communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA RHINE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rhinelisa5@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The voters in St. Louis chose local control in 2012 and to reverse this decision disregards our voices. I feel that the St Louis Metropolitan police dept. needs to remain under local, not state control, to better serve the citizens of St. Louis. Furthermore, this bill violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:05 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> 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: mallory@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 5:37 PM	

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

Date: January 16, 2024 **To:** Chairman Myers and Members of the House Committee on Crime and Public Safety **From:** Mallory Rusch, Executive Director, Empower Missouri **Re:** Our opposition to HB 495

On behalf of the staff, board, and statewide Criminal Justice Coalition convened by Empower Missouri, I am here today to oppose HB 495. I am also a lifelong resident of and long-time homeowner in the City of St. Louis. While HB 495 includes a number of provisions that our organization does not object to, there are two sections that we hold significant concerns about— the state takeover of the St. Louis Police Department and expanding the definition of rioting. Regarding the control of the SLMPD, the crux of the issue is that there is simply no logical explanation for pursuing this type of legislation at this time. St. Louis saw a 21% drop of homicides, more than 40 cases, in 2023 from 2022. The same was true for other types of reported crime: Shootings were down 24% from 772 in 2022 to 552; felony thefts were down 39%; auto thefts were down 19%; and shootings involving juveniles were down 47%. This positive trend continued in 2024, with a 6% decrease in homicides and 15% reduction in crime overall. And, contrary to what many in this legislative body have feared, St. Louis is not defunding the police. The FY24 police spending package was up 6.6% from FY23, including raises for officers and a \$2M increase to its capital equipment allocation to update and expand its vehicle fleet. On the contrary, Kansas City, whose police force is managed by the state, saw a 7% increase in homicides in 2023, in defiance of national trends. And while homicides fell in KC in 2024, nonfatal shootings were the second highest of any year in Kansas City’s history, and violent crime overall remained at consistently high levels. The number of people who were hit by bullets — and survived — rose 12% over the previous year, according to police data. Missouri voters overwhelmingly voted to return local control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to the City of St. Louis only ten years ago. Proposition A passed in 2012 with a whopping 64 percent of a statewide vote. Missouri voters believe in local control of police. You will hear others testify today that voters made that choice because St. Louis made certain promises about outcomes if they were to regain local control. However, I pulled the ballot language from 2012, and this is not reflected in the ballot language. Missouri voters support local control unreservedly. This legislation not only undermines the will of the people, it forgoes putting the issue back in front of voters to hear their voice. This is remarkably undemocratic. Empower Missouri asserts that crime is often a symptom of poverty. Some people break the law in a desperate attempt to provide for their families. Others live in communities, both urban and rural, where there is an abiding sense of hopelessness. The disinvestment and poverty in these communities is often overwhelming. In the City of St. Louis, over 20% of our residents live below the federal poverty line. Communities ravished by poverty can become breeding grounds for drug use and other illegal activities. We can choose to address these issues through policing alone, or we can seek to address the root cause of the issue, working to ensure that

every Missourian has an equal opportunity to thrive. City leadership has demonstrated time and time again that they care deeply about decreasing poverty across the City. They've committed \$5 million towards expanding Cure Violence and other community violence intervention programs. They have launched "Social Workers for St. Louis," an innovative new program aimed at hiring social workers and public health professionals to intervene in nonviolent situations such as mental-health crises as an alternative to the criminal justice system. The current administration is actively investing in youth programming and job training. They are choosing to focus simultaneously on both public safety and decreasing poverty. Decreases in poverty will mean decreases in crime. Decreases in homelessness will mean decreases in crime. Increases in mental health services and addiction treatment will mean decreases in crime. These efforts need to go hand in hand and be managed by local leaders. This isn't about public safety— it is about control. The answer to addressing crime is to address poverty. Regarding the changes to the definition of rioting, the provision would make it easier for peaceful protestors to be branded rioters. It is right and just for citizens to stand up and protest injustices in our communities. The First Amendment guarantees our rights to the freedom of assembly and the freedom of speech. Unfortunately, there has been a pattern of tensions between police officers and peaceful protestors escalating and those protests being deemed riots. Protests can be tense situations, and there can be a lot of confusion. It is already extremely easy for someone participating in a peaceful protest to be swept up, arrested, and charged with rioting. SB 44 would lower the threshold for rioting charges, which is currently defined as six or more people assembled who agree to violate laws with force or violence and then, while assembled, do violate those laws with force/violence. Under the proposed bill, rioting charges would apply when six or more people are assembled and any criminal laws are violated: there would no longer need to be pre-agreement to violate laws or force/violence necessary for a protester to be charged as a rioter. SB 44 simultaneously increases penalty provisions (from class A misdemeanor to class D felony and class C felony for future charges). The removal of force or violence from the definition could make the mere act of protest and assembly a rioting offense: failure to disperse, for example, could become a felony rioting charge under this proposal. These changes hinder our right to protest, creating overzealous consequences for those who simply seek to make our state and our country a better place for all. To protect the First Amendment rights of Missouri citizens, we urge the committee to reconsider this proposal and remove it from the broader package.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MAYOR TISHAURA O. JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE: MAYOR	
ADDRESS: 1200 MARKET ST., ROOM 200			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MEGHAN SPEISER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: speiserme@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Saint Louis City Resident and I oppose this bills as it would represent a profound threat to safety, autonomy and well-being of St. Louis Communities. Erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis’s challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection. Disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis’s community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control. Fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust. Ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices. Violation of Home Rule Principles: These bills violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> 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: 1/22/2025 9:31 PM

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

I urge you to vote NO on HB495 (Christ), which allows for the state takeover of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD). It has become clear over the past few years that many elected officials are willing to go to extreme lengths to override the will of the voters and limit local elected officials' ability to effectively govern. We've seen an assault on our power as voters; with the passage of restrictive voting laws, the relentless attacks on the initiative petition process, and now continued attempts to strip control of the SLMPD from the people of St. Louis. We are vehemently opposed to these attacks. Twelve years ago, after years of organizing and advocacy, St. Louis City gained control of the SLMPD through the passage of Proposition A. Voters in St. Louis City and across the state overwhelmingly agreed that the residents of St. Louis should have control over their policing. Local Control ensures direct accountability and guarantees that communities can enact a vision of public safety. Local elected officials are working to keep the residents of St. Louis City safe by addressing contributing factors of violence, such as economic insecurity, mental health challenges and substance abuse. In the last several years, the current administration created the Office of Violence Prevention within the Department of Public Safety and allocated resources to create intervention programs to make the city safer. These programs, which coordinate with SLMPD, have been effective in curtailing violence throughout St. Louis, with violent crime down over 35% in the past two years. Compare that statistic to Kansas City, the only city with a state controlled police department in the nation, where violent crime has significantly increased over the same period. Any legislation designed to take away local control is unacceptable. What our city needs is partnership with state officials to continue to identify strategies to improve public safety, not continued efforts to place SLMPD under state control. I implore you to listen to the voices of the people and vote against all proposed legislation that seeks to limit or remove local control over SLMPD from the people of St. Louis. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NOAH BURNS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ncburns1192@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:50 AM

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

The local police force should be governed by local leaders as they know what their community needs are.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PHILIP KNOCKE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: pcknocke@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:14 AM

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

I strongly urge you to vote against HB495. Transferring control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to the state will disrupt and interfere with violence prevention and community policing efforts undertaken by local leaders. This bill ignores the stated will of the people, who voted in 2012 to choose local control to address their needs in the vital area of law enforcement.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 417-943-0757	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BREAKING GENERATIONAL POVERTY FOUNDATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 470306			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63147
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL MORETTI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rachel.dian512@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am citizen of Missouri and I oppose HB495 due to the harmful impacts as described below:1. Erodes Local Accountability: Local leaders understand St. Louis’s challenges and are accountable to its residents. State-appointed commissioners lack this connection.2. Disrupts Proven Strategies: St. Louis’s community-policing efforts and violence-prevention initiatives risk being dismantled under state control.3. Fractures Community Trust: Effective public safety depends on strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. State interference undermines this trust.4. Ignores Voter Intent: In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices.5. Violation of Home Rule Principles: These bills violate the principles of home rule, which empower local governments to make decisions on issues directly affecting their residents. This sets a dangerous precedent for state interference in other cities across Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD EGAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: egan.egan@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:32 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a St. Louis City resident, I favor local control of my police department. I oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RIVA E CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly oppose this bill. The state has been in control of the KC police and the crime here has increased, not decreased. Obviously they are NOT running the department effectively. Local control of these agencies allows them to work more effectively as they know their communities and can better address criminal issues.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT J. TRACY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SLMPD		TITLE: CHIEF	
ADDRESS: 1915 OLIVE ST.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sherrybuchanan66@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 4:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Local control is essential to public safety. Local leaders know best what the needs of their cities are and how best to confront crime. The MO Legislature should help public safety officers by providing better gun safety laws, or allowing local government to do so.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN DONAHUE YATES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanyates716@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 1:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Among other things, this bill blatantly ignores voter intent. In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. If this decision is reversed, then the government is totally ignoring the citizens and silencing their voices. I am a constituent of Rep. Brad Christ in District 96 and I expect better from my Representative.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 9:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose such insults to local control. Want to increase public safety? Make it illegal for minors to carry guns! There are plenty other gun safety measures that could be legislated as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TARA REUTER JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: trjpeace@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2025 9:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please vote to oppose HB495. I oppose HB495 because removing local control of the St. Louis Police department to control by a state board disrupts the relationships and trust that local police make in the communities of St. Louis. A state board would lack the connections to the community and may disrupt violence-prevention and community-policing efforts in those communities. St. Louis area residents deserve to be able to work with local and municipal government leadership to make decisions directly effecting them and be able to hold those governments accountable – as they voted to do in 2012. Please vote to oppose HB495.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERRY KNIES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tknies@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 5:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The state needs to mind its own business.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY HINK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tiffany_cm2003@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 495 because it is in direct opposition to the vote that passed in 2012 to return control of the St. Louis police department to local rule. The citizens voted for this local control. I am a mom, wife and resident of the city of St. Louis. As citizens, we should have the right to govern our city police. I agree that there are public safety issues in St. Louis. However, that is not due to the police department entirely. The flooding of guns into our city has caused the greatest public safety issue. If we could pass reasonable gun laws in this state (background checks, permit, etc.), it would greatly improve public safety. This is not just my opinion, but is backed up by actual data.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: VALERIE HALDIMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: vhaldiman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:03 AM

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

In 2012, St. Louis residents chose local control to better address their needs. Reversing this decision disregards their voices.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 495		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES ANDY ARNOLD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-971-1000	
REPRESENTING: KANSAS CITY BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS; KANSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT		TITLE: LOBBYIST- KCBOPC/KCPD	
ADDRESS: 28697 KENDALWOOD DR			
CITY: WRIGHT CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 62290
EMAIL: caarnold@arnoldlobby.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:24 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 495 includes section 105.726 which deals with reimbursements to the KC Board of police commissioners for legal claims. The current cap on reimbursement is \$1M per final year. HB 495 changes this section and allows any board (StL) under chapter 84 to have access. We would suggest the reimbursement cap be raised to \$2M per fiscal year as the cap was established in 2005 and has been static for nearly 20 years and has not kept up with costs. We would also suggest that the language clarify that the cap is per agency. As currently written, the KC Board of Police Commissioners is concerned that the current cap would be applied to 2-Boards and cut reimbursements in half. Respectfully submitted Charles Andy Arnold