



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 534</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Emerging Issues</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-3077</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NFIB</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>Brad.Jones@nfib.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 9:02 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANA FRESE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-893-5300</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS; MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT &amp; CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4700 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>d.frese@hsg-group.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2025 3:52 PM</b>	
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**As President & CEO of Healthcare Services Group, I will testify in person on behalf of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers and the Missouri Hospital Association.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DOUG GALLOWAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-3112</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FORD MOTOR COMPANY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HAMPTON WILLIAMS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-793-0673</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>220 W. HIGH STREET, SUITE B</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORGEN SCHLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-4876</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOC.</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>213 E. CAPITAL AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LUKE REED</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-3511</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>428 E CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT PRICE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-5299</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>DIAMOND PET FOODS</b>		TITLE: <b>CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1200 WEST STADIUM BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-988-2257</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>130 RIEF CT, UNIT B</b>			
CITY: <b>HOLTS SUMMIT</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65043</b>
EMAIL: <b>mjsmith65742@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 3:37 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD AUBUCHON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-1845</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION, INC; AMERICAN PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE ASSN.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>112 E. HIGH ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JC</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:36 PM</b>	
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**I am highly Opposed to this Bill! This is taking away the Rights of Missourians when wronged by big business. This very bad Public Policy and the Bill was written and comes from Special-Interest, which will gain additional profits and screws with the Legal-Rights of Missourians. Defeat this awful Bill!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kortniehuddleston@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 7:10 PM</b>	
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I urge you to oppose HB534 (Diehl), which seeks to amend Supreme Court Rule 52.08 relating to class actions. This bill creates unnecessary barriers for everyday citizens, harms vulnerable populations, and undermines the effectiveness of class actions—a critical tool for holding powerful entities accountable. HB534 imposes a "rigorous analysis" standard for class certification, placing the entire burden on plaintiffs. This makes it excessively difficult for individuals, particularly in cases involving consumer fraud or environmental harm, to pursue claims against well-funded corporations. The bill also requires courts to make specific findings and conclusions, which will prolong litigation and delay justice for urgent issues like defective medical devices or predatory lending practices. The bill repeals the current requirement for court approval and notice to class members before dismissing or settling cases. This risks sidelining class members, especially in cases of wage theft or discrimination, where workers may lose out on fair compensation. Allowing notice by electronic means could exclude elderly or low-income individuals who lack internet access, leaving them uninformed about their rights. HB534 mandates appellate review of certification decisions, enabling defendants to exploit delays and drive up costs. This disproportionately harms plaintiffs, particularly in cases against large corporations like pharmaceutical or pesticide manufacturers. Additionally, the bill's focus on appointing "interim counsel" favors well-funded law firms, sidelining smaller or public interest attorneys who often represent marginalized communities. While the bill claims to ensure "fair, reasonable, and adequate" settlements, it lacks meaningful oversight. Class members may be bound by inadequate settlements without a new opportunity to opt out, and objections face unnecessary hurdles, undermining the democratic nature of class actions. HB534 prioritizes corporate interests over ordinary citizens, weakening accountability and fairness. I urge you to reject this bill to protect the integrity of our legal system and preserve class actions as a vital tool for justice.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 7:07 PM</b>
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I urge you to oppose HB534 (Diehl), which amends Supreme Court Rule 52.08 relating to class actions. These bills create unnecessary barriers for everyday citizens, harm vulnerable populations, and erode the effectiveness of class actions, a critical tool for holding powerful entities accountable. The bills impose a "rigorous analysis" standard for class certification, shifting the burden entirely onto plaintiffs. This makes it excessively difficult for individuals, especially in cases involving consumer fraud or environmental harm, to pursue claims against well-funded corporations. The requirement for specific findings and conclusions will also prolong litigation, delaying justice for urgent issues like defective medical devices or predatory lending. The bills repeal the current requirement for court approval and notice to class members before dismissing or settling cases. This risks sidelining class members, particularly in wage theft or discrimination cases, where workers may lose fair compensation. Allowing notice by electronic means may exclude elderly or low-income individuals who lack internet access. The bills also mandate appellate review of certification decisions, enabling defendants to exploit delays and increase costs. This disproportionately harms plaintiffs, especially in cases against pharmaceutical or pesticide companies. Additionally, the focus on appointing "interim counsel" favors well-funded firms, sidelining smaller or public interest attorneys who serve marginalized communities. While the bills claim to ensure "fair, reasonable, and adequate" settlements, they lack meaningful oversight. Class members may be bound by inadequate settlements without a new opportunity to opt out, and objections face unnecessary hurdles, undermining the democratic nature of class actions. This bill prioritizes corporate interests over ordinary citizens, weakening accountability and fairness. I urge you to reject HB534 to protect the integrity of our legal system and preserve class actions as a vital tool for justice.