



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 591</b>		DATE: <b>3/26/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</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>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>3/26/2025 11:59 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>BYRON KEELIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-402-0655</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 2</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63022</b>
EMAIL: <b>freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2025 6:28 PM</b>

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**We strongly support this bill. The St. Louis City Mayor has continually delayed and manipulated the crime statistics to present a better picture of what is really happening. Crime is not down in St. Louis City. When you don't report certain crimes or when you consolidate criminal activities such as car break-ins at a baseball game, you are lying to the people. We need this bill to give clarification of the crime statistics and give a clearer picture of the crime situation. We also need to give the state Public Safety Director the ability to audit any municipality.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JASON OLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>702-899-1166</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NISKANEN CENTER</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE AFFAIRS MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1201 NEW YORK AVE NW, SUITE 200B</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20005</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>EMPOWER MO</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64113</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RACHEL WRIGHT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>859-802-1146</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>RIGHT ON CRIME</b>		TITLE: <b>NATIONAL POLICY DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>901 CONGRESS AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>AUSTIN</b>		STATE: <b>TX</b>	ZIP: <b>78701</b>
EMAIL: <b>rwright@rightoncrime.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2025 3:22 PM</b>
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Dear Chair Meyers and Members of the House Crime and Public Safety Committee: I write to you in support of legislation before the Crime and Public Safety Committee that seeks to improve clearance rates, namely HB 591. This bill includes language that addresses the important issue of improving clearance rates so that crimes in Missouri can be solved, and closure and justice can be restored to victims and their families. Although violent crime across the nation is going down, almost half of homicides and violent crimes go unsolved every year. In fact, between 2019 and 2022, murder clearance rates fell from 61% in 2019 to 53%, marking an all-time low. And for all violent crimes, the clearance rate went from almost 46% in 2019 to 36.7% in 2022, a decline that has impacted rural and urban communities alike. And Missouri is no outlier to this troubling trend. In 2023, 38% percent of violent crimes reported to police in Missouri were solved. Law enforcement officers need more tools and resources to help them solve crimes so that public safety can be promoted, and victims' families can gain closure. HB 591 promotes policies that will help detectives solve crimes and increase clearance rates. This bill would help law enforcement in Missouri solve homicides and violent crimes more effectively by setting up a grant program focused on law enforcement and evidence technician hiring, training, and retention; upgrading evidence-processing technology and equipment; developing best practices on improving clearance rates; and expanding services to victims of violent crimes. The bill also ensures that the taxpayer dollar is spent wisely by requiring grant recipients to report data related to clearance rates. Improving clearance rates is essential to building and protecting public safety. In fact, solving crimes is one of the most reliable policies to improve public safety. Researchers have found that it is the certainty of being caught, not the length of the punishment, that deters crime. So the policies of HB 591 would increase the likelihood of catching criminals and will in turn prevent future crime and keep Missouri safe. This is not a political issue, but a common sense one. Crimes must be solved, victims must see justice, and our criminal justice system must be held to account as measured by public safety. HB 591 accomplishes these goals. Right On Crime supports this Committee's consideration of this legislation and urges bipartisan support for its passage. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Rachel Wright National Policy Director Right On Crime



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RENEE BURROWS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>naynayhog@duck.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2025 10:27 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MADELEINE DARDEAU</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>251-401-6483</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS JUSTICE CENTER</b>		TITLE: <b>PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>22 CORTLANDT ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>NEW YORK</b>		STATE: <b>NY</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	

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