



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 601</b>		DATE: <b>3/12/2025</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>3/12/2025 11:58 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 601</b>		DATE: <b>3/12/2025</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORDAN KADOSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ADL</b>		TITLE: <b>REGIONAL DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 16141</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63105</b>
EMAIL: <b>jkadosh@adl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/12/2025 1:51 PM</b>	

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

Dear Chair Myers and members of the committee, My name is Jordan Kadosh and I am the Regional Director for the ADL's (Anti-Defamation League) Heartland region, which covers the entire state of Missouri as well as parts of neighboring states. HB 601 begins to address the critical need to address masked harassment and intimidation. As the leading anti-hate organization in the world, founded in 1913, ADL's mission remains to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. Today, we persist in tackling all forms of antisemitism and bias, leveraging innovation and partnerships to drive effective change. ADL works vigilantly to protect democracy and foster a just and inclusive society for everyone, is known as a global leader in fighting antisemitism, exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and fighting the spread of hate in our communities and online. Starting over a hundred years ago, anti-masking laws were on the books in many states across the country. These laws were put in place to protect our communities from masked intimidation by the KKK. Our work on this issue dates back to the late 1940s, when ADL published a pamphlet titled "How to Stop Violence! Intimidation! in Your Community." This publication included model language for state statutes and local ordinances aimed at preventing members of the KKK from engaging in tactics of harassment and intimidation while concealing their identities behind hoods and masks. ADL's efforts led to the passage of anti-Klan legislation, including anti-mask and anti-cross burning laws in states and communities across the United States. We know from history that these laws helped to end the KKK's reign of terror, as they could no longer intimidate and threaten Black, Jewish, Catholic communities, and other marginalized communities using hoods and masks to hide who they were. Unfortunately, we are once again seeing a resurgence in masked harassment and intimidation in Missouri, with individuals across the political spectrum engaging in harassment and intimidation while wearing masks to conceal their identity and intentionally place others in fear of physical harm. This is an important moment to revisit masked harassment and intimidation laws to ensure that they are comprehensive, appropriately tailored, and constitutionally sound. Any legislation regarding masked harassment and intimidation should preserve freedom of speech and assembly. However, the exercise of free speech and assembly must not infringe upon the rights and physical safety of others. Missouri must continue to safeguard the freedoms of religion, speech, and assembly. The goal of unmasking hate should be simple: individuals and groups who intentionally engage in harassment and intimidation, fueled by bias and hate, must not be able to hide behind masks to avoid consequences for their conduct. It is long overdue for Missouri to prioritize public safety and ensure that our laws adequately protect individuals of all races, ethnicities, faiths and creeds from masked harassment and intimidation. Thank you for considering ADL's position on this crucial legislation and working to ensure that bad actors will face consequences for their actions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 601</b>		DATE: <b>3/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<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>3/12/2025 11:28 PM</b>

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

I strongly oppose HB 601, a bill that jeopardizes civil liberties, unfairly targets vulnerable communities, and risks undermining the constitutional rights that are the cornerstone of our democracy. While presented as a measure to enhance public safety, this legislation is an overreach that unfairly associates anonymity with criminal behavior, disproportionately impacts marginalized groups, and weakens trust in our justice system. HB 601 imposes harsher penalties for crimes committed while wearing masks or disguises, disregarding the many valid reasons people choose to conceal their identities. Masks are worn for health protection, religious or cultural practices, and personal safety. Survivors of abuse, immunocompromised individuals, and protesters—exercising their First Amendment rights—often rely on masks to participate in public life without fear of harm or retaliation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, masks were essential for public health; today, they protect activists from surveillance, harassment, or violence in movements like Black Lives Matter. By equating masks with criminal intent, this bill risks criminalizing ordinary, lawful behavior. This legislation will disproportionately harm communities already targeted by overpolicing, including people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and political dissenters. Law enforcement could misuse this law to escalate charges against protesters, blurring the line between peaceful assembly and criminal activity. Consider a young person wearing a hoodie during a minor offense—could their clothing now justify a felony charge? Such ambiguity invites racial profiling and abuse, exacerbating systemic injustices. Practically, HB 601 is unworkable. Requiring separate jury trials for penalty enhancements will burden the courts, delay justice, and pressure defendants into unfair plea deals. Determining whether someone intended to conceal their identity is inherently subjective, opening the door to bias rather than evidence-based decisions. Moreover, this bill dangerously conflates dissent with criminality. Masking during protests is not inherently harmful—it is a protective measure against persecution. Criminalizing it stifles free expression and shields authority from accountability. If lawmakers truly care about public safety, they should focus on addressing root causes of harm, such as poverty, lack of healthcare, and systemic inequality, rather than imposing punitive measures. Missouri deserves solutions that build trust and address the real issues facing our communities. HB 601 does the opposite, threatening our freedoms under the guise of safety. I urge you to reject this harmful legislation and uphold justice, equity, and the right to exist in public without fear.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 601</b>		DATE: <b>3/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Crime and Public Safety</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<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>3/12/2025 11:26 PM</b>	

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

I stand in firm opposition to HB 601, a bill that threatens civil liberties, targets vulnerable communities, and risks eroding the constitutional freedoms foundational to our democracy. While framed as a tool for public safety, this legislation is a punitive overreach that conflates anonymity with criminality, disproportionately harms marginalized groups, and undermines trust in justice. HB 601 enhances penalties for crimes committed while wearing masks or disguises, ignoring the myriad legitimate reasons individuals conceal their identities. Millions wear masks for health protection, religious observance, or cultural practice. Survivors of abuse, immunocompromised individuals, and protesters—exercising their First Amendment rights—often rely on masks to safely participate in public life. During COVID-19, masks saved lives; today, they shield activists from surveillance, doxxing, or retaliation in movements like Black Lives Matter. By equating masks with criminal intent, this bill risks branding ordinary, lawful behavior as sinister. The bill’s impact will fall hardest on communities already overpoliced: people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and dissenters. Law enforcement could weaponize this law to escalate charges against protesters, conflating peaceful assembly with criminality. Imagine a teenager in a hoodie during a misdemeanor—could their clothing now trigger a felony? Such subjectivity invites racial profiling and abuse, deepening systemic inequities. Procedurally, HB 601 is unworkable. Forcing separate jury trials for penalty enhancements will strain courts, delay justice, and coerce defendants into unjust plea deals. Determining “intent to conceal” is inherently subjective, empowering bias over evidence. This bill also chillingly conflates dissent with danger. Masking during protest is not a crime—it is a safeguard against persecution. Criminalizing it silences marginalized voices and shields authority from accountability. If lawmakers truly seek safety, they should invest in communities, not punitive escalation. Missouri deserves solutions that address root causes of harm: poverty, inadequate healthcare, and systemic neglect. HB 601 does the opposite, threatening freedoms under the guise of order. Reject this dangerous legislation. Uphold justice, equity, and the right to exist in public without fear.