



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>AMY DECLUE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>aemd07@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 5:38 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I support HB 684



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRANDON BANKS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brandon@followmmc.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:08 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am writing in support of HB684 as I think the length of summary should be larger than fifty characters to accomplish a more wholesome explanation of larger issue laws and amendments seeking to be passed.



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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>2/10/2025 1:17 PM</b>

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

The Freedom Principle MO supports preventing courts from changing any ballot language especially language that has been carefully crafted by the Legislature. The legislature carefully researches their proposed constitutional amendments to verify they are following the law. We should not allow any judge to project their political beliefs on any ballot language that could impact how a voter perceives the intent of the ballot initiative. We believe that if there is a problem with the language, those elected, either the legislature or the Secretary of State, who are familiar with the intent of the ballot initiative should be the only people to change the language. We also support expanding the ballot language wording to 150 words to give the legislature the ability to explain what voters in detail what they are voting on.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CYNTHIA JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>singingblonde@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 3:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The General Assembly, the law-making body of Missouri, does not need the courts to re-write or edit ballot language or summary statements. I see this as a separation of powers issue. I support the word limit increase from 50 to 150, as ballot initiatives have been poorly explained to voters in the past because of the limited number of characters presently allowed in the summary statement.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL H. LEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-368-4242</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 142585</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63114</b>
EMAIL: <b>samuelhlee@mindspring.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:46 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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN KLEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-5110</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 651</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY S THOMPSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>seuss1988@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:23 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANNE CALVERT BETTIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>annecalvertbettis@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 10:11 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANNETTE TALBOT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>atgames99@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 7:08 AM</b>

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

**Citizen petitions would be held to a different standard! THIS IS WRONG FOR MISSOURI!!Citizens could not challenge the language because you're blocking courts from changing summary statements! THIS IS WRONG FOR MISSOURI!!We have seen misleading summary statements in the past TOO OFTEN, which have only been fixed by the court! THIS BILL IS WRONG FOR MISSOURI!!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF STATE PUBLIC ADVO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>B LANNING</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lanning102@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 4:59 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I oppose this legislation. This takes away the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments and keeps courts from changing summary statements. Trying to remove the judicial branch from General Assembly oversight removes the checks and balances of our courts. I would imagine the MO Supreme Court would not want to surrender their ability to make such weighty decisions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BECKY TRECCARICHE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>beckytrec@reecenichols.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:09 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Good morning. I oppose this legislation. This takes away our ability to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments and keeps courts from changing summary statements. Trying to remove the judicial branch from General Assembly oversight removes the checks and balances of our courts. I would imagine the MO Supreme Court would not want to surrender their ability to make such weighty decisions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BEVIN EARLY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bfearly@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:17 PM</b>	
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**I oppose MO Republicans attempts to overturn the will of MO voters through sneaky and backhanded means**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRITTANY KIEFER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brittany.kiefer@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 7:29 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I oppose HB 664. The courts should be involved in reviewing and rewriting ballot language that the court has found deceptive or misleading. This bill allows the Secretary of State and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. This is an attempt to take power away from Missourians and subvert the will of the people. The initiative petition process is already difficult enough without the legislature interfering in our constitutionally protected democratic process.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAROL A. SCHREIBER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>carolschrei@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 1:54 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I oppose these bills because their aim is to fool the Missouri voter. These bills remove the courts from oversight in protecting Missouri voters from having an unbiased summary of a constitutional amendment. Missouri voters deserve an accurate statement to help them decide how to vote. For instance, in 2022 we voted on an amendment that kept the Kansas City police department under state control that the ballot summary did not even include that information. After the election the courts threw out the result and had the amendment summary rewritten and put back on the 2024 ballot. Missourians were then able to make a decision on the central point of the ballot issue. I encourage the committee members to vote no on these bills. Sincerely, Carol Schreiber



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAROL ELLIOTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cello@socket.net</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:30 PM</b>

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

HB-414 and HB-684 weaken Missouri's Initiative Petition process by taking away power from the courts to rewrite official summary statements or ballot language and only allowing the General Assembly or Secretary of State to rewrite them. Missouri does not need more power concentrated in the legislative and executive branches. The courts (the judicial system) need to retain their authority for checks and balances as a co-equal branch of government. I oppose attempts HB-414 and HB-684, which attempt to weaken the initiative petition process by giving more power to the General Assembly. This weakens the people's ability to petition the government and removes checks provided by the courts. As stated in the Missouri Constitution's Bill of Rights, Section 9. Rights of peaceable assembly and petition, "That the people have the right peaceably to assemble for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances by petition or remonstrance."





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHERYL S BARNES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cacb816@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:21 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

These bills make citizens' initiative petitions held to a different standard of review by the courts than the legislature's proposed constitutional amendments. As important, it allows the legislature to write misleading language describing the constitutional amendment - in essence lying to the voters about what the amendment will do. When that occurs, the courts need the ability to accurately and fairly re-write and summarize the constitutional amendment. That needs to be able to be accomplished quickly without drawn-out court hearings and challenges.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTIE TYRENE DERBIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>christiederbin@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:21 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Increases politicization of ballot measure language and increases delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. Allows SOS and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. While these versions apply only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the senate version of the bill would include citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot.. Violates separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CLAUDE F PAGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>claudepage6@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:24 PM</b>

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

I am testifying in opposition to the current HB 684. HBs 414 & 684 would politicize the Initiative Petition process by prohibiting any court from editing the summary statement or ballot language of any ballot measure proposed by the General Assembly. Courts should have the authority to edit language of summary statements or ballot language that they find to be legally insufficient, deceptive or misleading. This provides important protection for voters to have access to accurate information about a pending measure. In the past, courts have found that elected officials have written biased and misleading ballot summaries. Voters deserve to have fair summaries as they are critical to our 100+ year history of direct democracy. HBs 414 & 684 could also create impossible delays that would harm the ability to educate voters about a ballot measure. Under HBs 414 & 684, if courts find that the summary language is flawed, rather than rewriting it, the court would have to send it back to the Secretary of State or state legislature to rewrite, causing unnecessary delays.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>COLLEEN TEPEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>colleentepen81@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 10:32 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

This bill allows the SOS and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures and violates separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. I take offense to the republicans repeated attacks on democracy and the voice of the people. We will not be silenced.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>COLLEEN TEPEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>colleentepen81@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2025 10:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**This bill is yet another attempt to silence voters. The rig is up. We see what you're doing and Missourians aren't having it. The petition process has worked for over 100 years in this state. Why are you so scared of democracy? Are you afraid the voters will actually have a say?**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CYDNEY MCKINNIE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cydneychurchwell@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:43 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>CYNTHIA MAHER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bfdaddy1981@icloud.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2025 1:11 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I oppose HB 684. This bill would override the will of the voters in Missouri. It gives the General Assembly too much control to change the language of a bill, other outcome of elections or initiative petitions. This is another attempt at preventing majority rule. I oppose HB 684.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>CYNTHIA MUELLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cndymllr@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 5:09 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Please stop making it more difficult for voters to see the **ACTUAL INTENT** of a piece of legislation. It is wrong for legislators who are supposed to act in good faith to load bill descriptions with ballot candy and misleading language. **STOP IT.** The courts should be able to ask for a rewrite if either side does this to try to trick voters into voting a certain way.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANA SANDWEISS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>danasandweiss@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:50 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I strongly urge all members to vote no on HB 684. To me, the existing system we have for citizen lead and legislatively referred constitutional amendments allowing the courts review the process is a right that should remain to ensure the process is accurate and allow a system of checks and balances to help protect the rights of all voters in Missouri and should not be diluted. I urge every member of the MO legislature to vote against these bills and and bills meant to dilute the rights of Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>DANY LACIO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dlacio84@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 10:06 AM</b>

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

My name is Dany Lacio, and I am testifying in opposition to HB 414 and HB 684. These bills would prohibit courts from rewriting summary statements on legislatively referred constitutional amendments that have been found to be deceptive or misleading, instead requiring the General Assembly or Secretary of State to rewrite the language. This legislation undermines the fairness and integrity of the ballot measure process by increasing the politicization of ballot language and delaying critical discussions on proposed amendments. By shifting the responsibility away from the courts—an impartial body tasked with upholding Missouri law—these bills allow political actors to manipulate the language of ballot measures, further entrenching partisan influence in what should be a transparent and accessible process. Furthermore, these bills create an unnecessary delay in the ballot initiative process, enabling the Secretary of State or legislature to stall signature gathering and certification efforts. While the current versions of the bills apply only to legislatively referred referendums, amendments in the Senate could expand these provisions to include citizen-led initiatives. Such a change would give politicians near veto power over citizen initiatives, allowing them to draft biased or misleading language indefinitely and obstructing the ability of Missourians to exercise their constitutional right to direct democracy. This legislation also raises serious constitutional concerns regarding the separation of powers. Courts serve a critical function in ensuring that ballot language is fair, clear, and legally sound. Stripping courts of their ability to correct misleading or unlawful language undermines their authority and prevents them from fulfilling their duty to uphold Missouri law. For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to reject HB 414 and HB 684. Missouri voters deserve a fair and impartial ballot initiative process, free from unnecessary political interference and delays. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Dany Lacio



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEBORAH JEANNE KITCHEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Djresisting@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:42 PM</b>

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

I am opposed to this bill. If either summary statement or ballot language is challenged in court, the courts should be the branch that corrects either one or both. Definitely not the SOS is General Assembly is out of session. We need to respect the branches of our state government. The General Assembly in Missouri is in a SuperMajority position and nothing would be fair or reasonable about allowing either body to rewrite summary statements or ballot language. The politicization in our state must end. The General Assembly needs to learn we have separation of powers and this, in my opinion, violates that separation, the courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates MO law!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DENISE LIEBERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-780-1833</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR &amp; GENERAL COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6047 WATERMAN BLVD.</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63112</b>
EMAIL: <b>denise@movpc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:20 PM</b>	

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

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) submits this testimony in Opposition to HB 414 and HB 684, which would prohibit courts from re-writing summary statements on legislatively referred constitutional amendments that a court has found deceptive or misleading. These proposals upend the balance of powers and allow partisan actors to delay and defy Missouri’s fair language mandates. Missouri law ensures that the summary statement of a legislatively referred referendum or citizen ballot initiative be sufficient and fair. To this end, Missouri law allows any Missouri citizen to challenge the summary statement and request the court prepare a sufficient and fair summary. 116.190 RSMo. This judicial check ensures voters to have accurate and non-biased information about a proposed petition or pending measure on their ballots. The proposed bills would require a court that finds a referendum summary statement to be legally unfair to send it back to the general assembly — the same entity that drafted the flawed statement in the first instance — to re-write the language through passage of a concurrent resolution, of if the legislature is not in session, to the Secretary of State to rewrite the language. It can take time for both houses of the legislature to agree on language of a concurrent resolution, certainly more so when the language they already proposed was found legally invalid. These proposals open the door to perpetuation of unfair and insufficient language. House Bills 414 and 684 would promote further politicization of the process by blocking a court from editing a legislatively referred summary statement or ballot language that it concludes violates Missouri law. Unfortunately, there is a long history of Missouri court rulings that found elected officials drafted biased or misleading ballot summaries - particularly in recent elections. This is why judicial checks on the legislative branch are so important. The separation of powers between the legislative, judicial and executive branches ensure necessary checks and balances, allowing courts to correct legally flawed language proposed by the legislature or Secretary of State (in the case of citizen initiatives). Courts should continue to retain their authority to edit the language of summary statements the Court concludes - based on evidence - to violate Missouri law. While this legislation is limited to re-writes of language of legislatively referred referenda a court finds illegal - a nearly identical bill in the Senate was amended *after* public hearing on the measure - to additionally prohibit courts from drafting fair language on citizen initiatives. See SCS/SB 22 (2025). This measure is currently on the perfection calendar in the Senate, and so we expect that the House will be asked to similarly amend these or similar bills. Doing so would allow near indefinite delays by partisan actors who disagree with citizen proposed measures, by repeatedly submitting insufficient summaries that a court could no longer make right - delaying indefinitely (and ultimately potentially denying) the ability of citizen advocates to undertake the signature gathering necessary to place their measures before voters. Unfortunately, we’ve seen examples of intentionally flawed summary language weaponized in recent elections in

order to keep draft language tied up in court, preventing advocates from seeking support from their fellow voters. Missouri voters deserve better. Missouri voters deserve to have fair summaries and fair ballot language. This ensures they know when signing a petition, what will be on the ballot. And it ensures that once on the ballot, Missourians know what they are voting for - without bias or misleading language. This is why our checks and balances have allowed courts to ensure that the language voters see is FAIR. Missouri voters deserve no less. Missouri is the Show Me State. We should continue to allow our existing checks and balances to ensure that Missourians have fair and accurate information on the measures proposed to them. Sincerely, Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel  
MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION  
denise@movpc.org (314) 780-1833 www.movpc.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DIANA KORNFELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dmkornfeld@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:27 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I heartily encourage the committee to vote No on these bills. Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. Do not forcibly remove the process that enables Missouri citizens to make decisions about policies that can affect their quality of life and health. This process is invaluable to make sure we, as citizens, do not suffer harm and indignity in our lives, but have a voice as a majority. Bills that would hand control to a minority of citizens have no place in a democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>EA FRANKLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>eafrank711@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 1:36 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Elizabeth Franklin, I am not a lobbyist and do not support this bill. The executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of government are to have equal power. Voters should expect to have accurate ballot measure language that fairly reflect the measures up for a vote. Trying to remove the judicial branch from General Assembly oversight removes the checks and balances of our courts. It is imperative that neutral judges have the ability to oversee and if necessary, correct and edit legally insufficient, misleading or deceptive ballot language. It's disingenuous for the General Assembly to exempt themselves from oversight by the judicial branch of government. I would imagine the MO Supreme Court would not want to surrender their ability to make such weighty decisions. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this misguided bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELLIE BLEDSOE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ellie.bledsoe@ppgr.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 9:24 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

let's not dilute the will of the people and remove the checks and balances in our current system. This feels retaliatory because the people keep having to do what the Legislature is too afraid to do, and when its not what you want, the legislature seeks new and inventive ways to dilute our voice.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY A. HORNSTRA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emlife@att.net</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 8:58 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>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>FREDA LAVON HOLLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>1lessntx@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:56 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote NO! As Missourians this is our right as voters, to have a voice in how our elections are conducted.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GINA MEYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jemeyer1955@comcast.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:35 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**My name is Gina Meyer from Lee's Summit. I oppose HB 414 because it discriminates against citizens by imposing the double standard of only shielding legislative amendments from judicial scrutiny, not citizens', and triples the number of words allowed for GA summary statements, but not citizens' initiative petitions. It removes the separation of powers, denies citizens the protection of checks and balances, and takes away our right to find remedy in the courts. Citizens have been victimized by unconstitutional official summary statements and ballot language many times in the past, especially most grievously, with SOS Ashcroft's highly inflammatory and illegal abortion ballot language. This bill is disrespectful to all Missourians, and a danger to our right of self-governance. Thank you.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREG CAMPBELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>gcampbell@hammondshinners.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 10:06 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**This bill violates the separation of powers.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREG WOODHAMS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>gjwoodhams@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 10:14 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am opposed to HB684. As written, this bill removes the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments by prohibiting courts from changing summary statements. To be clear, this is a restriction on the rights of citizens, as the courts are the only way citizens can challenge summary statements. Missouri has a history of misleading or unconstitutional language in summary statements as originally written.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HOLLY BERNSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 7:03 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I urge house members to vote **AGAINST** this bill. This bill would have the following negative outcomes: 1. Increases politicization of ballot measure language and increases delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. 2. Allows SOS and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. 3. While this bill applies only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the senate version of the bill would include citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. 4. Violates separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. Please vote against this bill!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB LAMPERT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jakelampert@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2025 5:16 PM</b>

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

Politicians want to rig the rules to end majority rule in Missouri and take away your rights. By changing the rules for constitutional amendments, politicians want to rig the rules so a small minority of Missourians can veto any statewide proposal. Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. Politicians are trying to trick you into giving away your rights. Legislators are trying every trick they can to confuse and distract voters from their real agenda. But we're not going to let that happen. The initiative petition process gives Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that will impact them and their families. The IP process provides Missourians a direct path to participate in our democracy. When out-of-touch politicians in Jefferson City ignore what voters and their families want, Missourians can take a stand and push for change directly. The process is an essential part of Missouri's democracy.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACQUELINE BLUNT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bluntjmb@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:39 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEANETTE ROUSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rousej153@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:05 AM</b>

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Provision only for legislatively referred constitutional amendments; citizen's initiative petitions would be held to a different standard of review by the courtsRemoves the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments by prohibiting courts from changing summary statementsMissouri has a history of misleading summary statements that have been rectified only through court action



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEANNETTE HISEK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>hisekjhisek@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:16 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
Please do NOT take away our power to present amendments to the Missouri Constitution



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEN BERNSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-993-5181</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE: <b>ADVOCACY MANAGER</b>
ADDRESS: <b>295 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>jbernstein@ncjwstl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:03 PM</b>

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

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in opposition to HB 684. My name is Jen Bernstein and I am the Advocacy Manager for National Council of Jewish Women, based in St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. Both of these bills increase politicization of ballot measure language and increases delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. They allow the SOS and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. They also violate separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. NCJWSTL is also concerned that this legislation would allow political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. This is bad for Missouri. NCJWSTL urges you to vote no on HB 684.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>JENNIFER SHIRLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jreimer78@hotmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 1:26 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**Please vote NO on HB 684. Please do not take away rights of MO citizens. Majority Rule has been a law in our state for over 100 years! Missourians should have the freedom to make decisions about policies that will impact them and their families.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>JOAN GENTRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>joangentry2012@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am opposed the HB 684. Where is the balance of power in this bill? Where is the will of the people in this bill? Citizens should be able to challenge unconstitutional and misleading language in summary statements whether the amendment originates in the legislature or is proposed by citizens. Missouri's history of poorly written and misleading summary statements is well documented and can only be corrected through court action. The Legislature is one of three branches of government and our system works best when there is a balance of power. Joan Gentry Springfield MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>JOLYNNE WALZ MARTINEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jolynnemartinez@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:50 AM</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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN SCHMID</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-652-3114</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>906 OLIVE ST. STE 1130</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63101</b>
EMAIL: <b>jschmid@aclu-mo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:15 AM</b>	

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

The ACLU of Missouri (ACLU-MO) submits this testimony in opposition to HB 684, which interferes with the separation of powers and system of checks and balances essential to our system of government. The ACLU-MO is the state affiliate of the national ACLU and works in the courts, legislature, and Missouri communities to defend and preserve the civil liberties of all Missourians. This bill purports to prohibit the courts from re-writing ballot titles for legislatively referred constitutional amendments that have been found to be inaccurate, deceptive, or misleading. The system of judicial review that this bill purports to upend traces to the foundational principle that “an act of the legislature, repugnant to the constitution, is void.” Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. 137, 177 (1803). In this case, if the legislature were to refer inaccurate, deceptive, or misleading ballot title language to the people for a vote, it is the Court’s role to step in and rectify that error. The ballot title language submitted to the voters should be subject to judicial review to ensure that the language fairly and accurately reflects the probable effects of the proposed amendment. Further, judicial review of this language prior to the election is essential. Absent this review, if the amendment were to pass, it would open the door to post-election legal challenges due to election irregularity. One could easily imagine a scenario where a ballot title is ruled inaccurate, the Secretary of State then rewrites the ballot title and such language is again ruled inaccurate or the time to challenge the language expires in the middle of litigation. In either of these outcomes, it is the people who lose out. The people lose out on language that fairly and accurately describes the changes to our foundational document. And the amendment could regardless be tied up in post-election legal challenges that, had the ballot title been fair and accurate, would be unnecessary. Though, in current form, this bill does not address the judiciary’s role in challenges to initiative and referendum ballot titles, any such amendment would not only upend the separation of powers but also impermissibly interfere with and burden the citizen’s right to initiative and referendum, as guaranteed by the Missouri Constitution. Accordingly, we urge to vote NO on HB 684.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>JUDITH CAMPBELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jacampbell314@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 9:15 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am opposed to any bill that prohibits courts from re-writing summary statements or legislatively referred constitutional amendments that a court has found deceptive or misleading. Voters should be able to understand the wording of all IPs. Thank you.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>KARI CRAUN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jkraun@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 6:52 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The Missouri legislature has a history of including intentionally misleading/confusing language in ballot language. The courts provide citizens their only recourse to ensure understandable and FAIR language on their ballots. Government should be by the people for the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>KATHRYN A CHIPPERFIELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kathrynachipperfield@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2025 5:25 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I do want the Courts to have the right to edit the ballot summary or ballot language on any measure proposed by the General Assembly.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>KATHY J MARINCEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kmarincel@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:30 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Provision only for legislatively referred constitutional amendments; citizen's initiative petitions would be held to a different standard of review by the courtsRemoves the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments by prohibiting courts from changing summary statementsMissouri has a history of misleading summary statements that have been rectified only through court action



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>KAY PARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kaypark122@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:22 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The Missouri General Assembly and the Secretary of State both have a history of using language that lies and misrepresents bills and amendments based on their political interests. This legislation denies a judge the ability to substitute misrepresentation with fair language. It is undemocratic to coerce people with unfair language.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>KELLY HEBER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>heberkelly23@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 5:21 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I oppose this legislation. This takes away the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments and keeps courts from changing summary statements. Trying to remove the judicial branch from General Assembly oversight removes the checks and balances of our courts. I would imagine the MO Supreme Court would not want to surrender their ability to make such weighty decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>2/11/2025 9:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I stand in strong opposition to HB 414 and HB 684, which seek to prohibit courts from rewriting summary statements or ballot language for legislatively referred constitutional amendments, even when a court has found that language to be deceptive or misleading. These bills undermine the integrity of Missouri’s ballot measure process, increase politicization, and violate the separation of powers. They also risk creating unnecessary delays and barriers to citizen-led initiatives, effectively silencing the voices of Missourians. Under these bills, if a court determines that the summary statement or ballot language approved by the General Assembly is legally flawed, the General Assembly—or, if not in session, the Secretary of State—must rewrite the language. This process politicizes what should be a neutral and fair system. It allows political actors to draft biased or confusing language, knowing that courts can no longer intervene to ensure clarity and fairness. This undermines the public’s trust in the ballot measure process and risks misleading voters. Worse still, these bills could be amended to include citizen-led initiatives, giving the General Assembly and the Secretary of State near veto power over grassroots efforts. By allowing political actors to indefinitely draft flawed or deceptive language, these bills could block citizen initiatives from moving forward, delaying or even preventing signature gathering and certification. This is a direct attack on the constitutional right of Missourians to propose and enact changes through direct democracy. It shifts power away from the people and into the hands of politicians, who could use this authority to stifle initiatives they oppose. Additionally, these bills violate the separation of powers by stripping courts of their ability to correct illegal or misleading language. Courts play a critical role in ensuring that ballot language complies with Missouri law and is fair to voters. By removing this oversight, these bills create a system where political actors can manipulate the process without accountability. In a state that prides itself on democratic participation, these bills are a step backward. They increase delays, politicize the ballot measure process, and undermine the rights of Missourians to propose and vote on meaningful changes. I urge you to oppose HB 414 and HB 684 and protect the integrity of Missouri’s democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>LAURA BURKHARDT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>laburkhardt3@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:42 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>LINDA KRAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lindakram@charter.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:09 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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>LINDA MARTIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lindam165@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:56 PM</b>

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

I oppose HB 414 and HB 684, because these bills increase politicization of ballot measure language and increase delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. These bills allow our SOS and the legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. While these versions apply only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the senate version of the bill would include citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. These bills violate the separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>LINDA SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Linda.k.smith1954@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 9:40 AM</b>

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

These bills reaffirm my belief that the Missouri Legislature assumes it is "above the law," and NOT servants of the public nor part of THREE branches of government. These bills violate the separation of powers by putting too much power in the hands of legislators, even those who are NOT abiding by their oath to serve the public. In summary, these bills: Increases politicization of ballot measure language and increases delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. Allows SOS and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. While these versions apply only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the senate version of the bill would include citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot.. Violates separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. I strongly urge lawmakers to oppose any such legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>LISA SCHLESINGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lisa.schlesinger.allen@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:36 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Separation of powers, established in the Missouri Constitution, provides for thoughtful and thorough development of Constitutional Amendments. Under current law, a proposed summary of a bill that uses misleading and/or deceptive language, as determined by the Court, must be rewritten by the Court. This bill would return the summary to the legislature and thereby deeper polarization, gamesmanship, and cynicism. I oppose this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>LORI A GREEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>green.collie@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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<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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAGGIE OLIVIA EDMONDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63110</b>
EMAIL: <b>maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:08 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MAHREE SKALA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>skalamahree@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:42 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**This bill would unfairly allow the legislature to write ballot language for constitutional amendments without oversight by the courts or the citizens. Courts would be prohibited from changing misleading summary statements, which have been used in the past to trick voters into misunderstanding the true impact of an amendment. Our constitutional system is based on the balance of powers for good reason, and this bill is probably unconstitutional.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MANDY NICOLE KOTRABA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mkotraba@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 5:39 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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARILYN MARCUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>marmarglen@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:40 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**Do not pass HB 684. The courts must retain the ability to correct misleading and confusing ballot language as protection for citizens to make the right choice decisions.**





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARILYN MCLEOD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-3708</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>
ADDRESS: <b>8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: <b>marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 8:41 PM</b>

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**-This would negate the power of the courts to ensure that ballot language put before the voters is not biased or misleading. -This would violate the separation of powers, ensuring the oversight of the courts, a cornerstone of the government. -It would increase politicization of ballot measure language and increase delays in presenting ballot measures to the public for their review prior to an election. -It would allow the Secretary of State and the Legislature to stall the gathering of signatures and certification of measures. If citizen initiatives were added to this measure, it would lead to giving political actors power to indefinitely draft biased or misleading language in ballot summaries and could indefinitely delay the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measures on the ballot. The League of Women Voters of Missouri goes on record in opposition to HB 684.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARSHA LERENBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>marsha.lerenberg@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:03 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I strongly urge this committee to vote no on HB 684. HB 684 would remove voter protections in current ballot language law. Current law requires ballot language that is "fair, accurately explains what a vote for and what a vote against the measure represents, requires that the ballot language be "true and impartial and statements of the effect of a vote for and against the measure in language neither intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice for or against the proposed measure. In addition, such fair ballot language shall include a statement as to whether the measure will increase, decrease, or have no impact on taxes, including the specific category of tax. Such fair ballot language statements may be challenged in accordance with section 116.190. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of the proposed statements."HB 684 Increases politicization of ballot measure language, allowing the Secy of State and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures causing unnecessary delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures.HB 684 violates the separation of powers. Our courts should have the ability to step in and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. Current law protects Missouri voters and HB 684 would remove those protections. A reminder of our state motto "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law." With those words and all due respect for Missouri voters in mind, I urge your no vote on HB 684"



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mccarthygarden@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:25 PM</b>

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

**We the people deserve a voice in shaping the Missouri Constitution. A simple majority of people have the right to decide what amendments are added to the Constitution and what are not added. The State Legislature serves the people, and the state Legislature should not interfere with the will of the people.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARY ANN WYNKOOP</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wynkoopm@umkc.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 4:58 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I oppose SB684 because of its proposal that prohibits courts from changing the summary for ballot summaries of petitions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARY K. (KAY) MADDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kay.madden4036@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:22 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

See statement submitted above to Senator Murphy's bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MARY LOU TOFT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>revtumc@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 9:21 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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>MELANIE D BUSSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>melbusse7@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 5:39 PM</b>

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 414. I was opposed to the bill in its original form. Then the committee changed it to include citizen's initiative petitions as well. This makes it even worse. The bill basically allows the legislature to violate the system of checks and balances. The bill would allow the legislature, or the Attorney General, or the Secretary of State, be the deciding voice on what would be considered fair and unbiased ballot language on all constitutional amendments, instead of the court. Since we have already witnessed the deceptive language that has been used by the Legislature and the others in the past, we know that the legislature and the Attorney General and the Secretary of State cannot be trusted to be fair and impartial going forward. It would also cause delays in the process that will be harmful, especially to the citizen's initiative process. It will also cause the process to be more expensive to citizens'initiative petitions if citizens have to file a lawsuit every time the deceptive or biased language is used.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-581-0561</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>UNIVERSITY CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 2:11 PM</b>	

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

Dear Chairman Reedy and Members of the Committee, The Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 684 would politicize the initiative petition process by prohibiting any court from editing the summary statement or ballot language of any ballot measure proposed by the General Assembly. Courts should have the authority to edit language of summary statements or ballot language that they find to be legally insufficient, deceptive or misleading. This provides important protection for voters to have access to accurate information about a pending measure. As such, we respectfully urge you to vote no on HB 684. Ensuring ballot summaries are straightforward and free of jargon is crucial for informed voting, HB 684 increases the risk of language that may still be ambiguous or insufficiently clear to voters. In the past, courts have found that elected officials have written biased and misleading ballot summaries. Voters deserve to have fair summaries as they are critical to our 100 + year history of direct democracy. HB 684 could also create impossible delays that would harm the ability to educate voters about a ballot measure. Under HB 684, if courts find that the summary language is flawed, rather than rewriting it, the court would have to send it back to the Secretary of State or state legislature to rewrite, causing unnecessary delays. In conclusion, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment asks you to vote “no” on HB 684 in order to ensure that all ballot measures are described in a clear, neutral, and legally sound manner. Thank you for your time and consideration.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>2/11/2025 9:46 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I stand in strong opposition to HB 414 and HB 684, which seek to prohibit courts from rewriting summary statements or ballot language for legislatively referred constitutional amendments, even when a court has found that language to be deceptive or misleading. These bills undermine the integrity of Missouri’s ballot measure process, increase politicization, and violate the separation of powers. They also risk creating unnecessary delays and barriers to citizen-led initiatives, effectively silencing the voices of Missourians. Under these bills, if a court determines that the summary statement or ballot language approved by the General Assembly is legally flawed, the General Assembly—or, if not in session, the Secretary of State—must rewrite the language. This process politicizes what should be a neutral and fair system. It allows political actors to draft biased or confusing language, knowing that courts can no longer intervene to ensure clarity and fairness. This undermines the public’s trust in the ballot measure process and risks misleading voters. Worse still, these bills could be amended to include citizen-led initiatives, giving the General Assembly and the Secretary of State near veto power over grassroots efforts. By allowing political actors to indefinitely draft flawed or deceptive language, these bills could block citizen initiatives from moving forward, delaying or even preventing signature gathering and certification. This is a direct attack on the constitutional right of Missourians to propose and enact changes through direct democracy. It shifts power away from the people and into the hands of politicians, who could use this authority to stifle initiatives they oppose. Additionally, these bills violate the separation of powers by stripping courts of their ability to correct illegal or misleading language. Courts play a critical role in ensuring that ballot language complies with Missouri law and is fair to voters. By removing this oversight, these bills create a system where political actors can manipulate the process without accountability. In a state that prides itself on democratic participation, these bills are a step backward. They increase delays, politicize the ballot measure process, and undermine the rights of Missourians to propose and vote on meaningful changes. I urge you to oppose HB 414 and HB 684 and protect the integrity of Missouri’s democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>NANCY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ndzeliff@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 2:04 PM</b>

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The petition process gives Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that impact them and their families. It's a direct path to participate in our democracy, when elected state politicians are not "in touch" to the needs of Missourians. Citizens and voters know what we need and have the IP process to make sure our voices and needs are heard and enacted. Changes to the IP process want to end the majority rule in Missouri and reduce our rights. Changing the IP rules will only continue to "do the will of politicians" and not the "will of Missouri citizens." Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. When politicians aren't happy with the "will of Missouri citizens" that have been passed by IP (expanding Medicare, right to work, abortion rights, increasing minimum wage/sick leave), they try to change the IP process instead. When you don't get your way, you want to change the rules! That is NOT Democracy!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>NANCY J AMES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>njoames@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 5:34 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am against the ballot measures contained in this bill. Our election process is created to support the rights of voters, not take them away.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>NANCY SACCONI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nlsaccone@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 4:23 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am a Missouri constituent and voter and I strongly oppose HB684 and similar efforts that seek to harm our long-standing, well-functioning, and valuable initiative petition process that allows the people's voices to be heard. I am a regular citizen who has volunteered for multiple initiative petitions, including both gathering signatures and talking with voters to inform them about the issues. HB684 would harm the IP process by prohibiting the courts from editing the summary statement or ballot language of ballot measures. The courts should have the authority protect voters by editing language when needed to ensure that voters have accurate information on a pending measure. We have already seen ways in which our courts have played a crucial role in correcting misleading or insufficient information. This bill would hinder efforts to inform and educate voters about ballot measures. I urge you to reject HB684 and the harm it would do to our initiative petition process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>PATRICIA M OROARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>poroark@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:30 AM</b>

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 414 and HB 684 because these bills would prohibit courts from re-writing summary statements on legislatively referred constitutional amendments that a court has found deceptive or misleading. It is an inherent power of a court to impose a remedy to designed to correct a situation that it has identified as being unlawful or unconstitutional. Furthermore, these bills are flawed in several other ways:• They increase politicization of ballot measure language and increase delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. • They allow the Secretary of State and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures and by doing so kill the right to direct democracy. • While these versions originally applied only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the bills now includes citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, namely, then initiative petition process, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. • Finally, these bills violate the separation of powers that is integral to our state constitution. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. These bills allow the state legislature to do indirectly what they cannot do directly. Quite frankly, I am ashamed of the proponents of these bills and all those who support them. I urge you in the strongest terms possible to refuse to report these bills out of committee. Thank you. P.S. I am resending this testimony since I did not receive a confirmation that the testimony was submitted.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>PATRICIA M OROARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>poroark@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:03 AM</b>

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

Oposing Testimony on HB 414 and HB 684 Feb 11 25 I am writing in opposition to HB 414 and HB 684 because these bills would prohibit courts from re-writing summary statements on legislatively referred constitutional amendments that a court has found deceptive or misleading. It is an inherent power of a court to impose a remedy to designed to correct a situation that it has identified as being unlawful or unconstitutional. Furthermore, these bills are flawed in several other ways: • They increase politicization of ballot measure language and increase delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures. • They allow the Secretary of State and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures and by doing so kill the right to direct democracy. • While these versions originally applied only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the bills now includes citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, namely, then initiative petition process, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. •

Finally, these bills violate the separation of powers that is integral to our state constitution. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. These bills allow the state legislature to do indirectly what they cannot do directly. Quite frankly, I am ashamed of the proponents of these bills and all those who support them. I urge you in the strongest terms possible to refuse to report these bills out of committee. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>PATRICIA O'ROARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>poroark@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:13 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am submitting testimony opposing 414 and HB 684, as they have been amended by the Committee to apply to the initiative process, which bills are essentially corroborative for the following reasons: they both prohibit courts from re-writing summary statements on legislatively referred constitutional amendments that a court has found deceptive or misleading – a clear violation of the separation of powers of the three branches of our government. (Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law.) These bills transfer to the Secretary of State and the legislature, consisting of politicians, who then can stall signature gathering and certification of measures and effectively block direct democracy altogether. The initiative petition process is in the state constitution as a measure to allow the people to make law and modify the constitution on issues that are important to them when the legislature will not respond to issues that are important to them. If the legislature can intercede with powers to delay the initiative process indefinitely, the initiative petition process is essentially gutted.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>RAYMOND JAMES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>raymondjames552@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:47 AM</b>

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

We need the Citizen Initiative Petition process . It is working well and should not be changed. The only thing I see as a problem, is the legislators ignoring the will of the citizens and questioning Did the Voters know what they were voting on. Attempts to revote the Women's Reproductive Health Care Initiative and add anti trans wording is example A. Are we going to revote or make changes to sports betting ? Leave the Citizen Initiative Petition Process alone.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>RIVA CAPELLARI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rivacapellari@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 5:00 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Oppose HB 684 The ballot language of ALL contitutional amendments should be challenged if the language is deceptive , incorrect or misle.ading. There should be no double standard between citizens petitions and those of the legislature.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>ROBERT BLISS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wyllys@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 3:36 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**A democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. Governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RON BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-537-2239</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 722</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>RUSSELLA LEVIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rubescentdesign@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:31 PM</b>

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

**Violates separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>SARAH FELTS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sarah.felts@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:13 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>SARAH L STARNES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>starwal@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 6:41 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Missourians of any political party can initiate amendments to the Missouri Constitution through the Initiative Petition (IP) process, and they have. And the party affiliation of those who hold statewide elected office and who hold majorities in either chamber of the MO legislation can and do change, over time. When the Secretary of State of any party intends to confuse voters about what they are voting for on an initiative petition (IP) measure on the ballot, then that other branch of government, the courts, must be able to exercise their constitutional authority and rewrite the ballot language, to make it fair and consistent with what the petitioners intended. Sending it back to either the legislature or the executive branch (SoS) to rewrite the ballot language would be like having the fox guard the hen house. In Missouri, as in the U.S. Constitution, we are supposed to have checks and balances between our branches of government, separation of powers. Please oppose these bills that would undermine the will of the people and violate our the state constitution's separation of powers, to ensure that no one branch has too much power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>SCOX</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sandy@merrylegsfarm.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 5:43 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Chairperson and Members of the Committee, I strongly oppose HB 684. This legislation undermines the ability of citizens to challenge unconstitutional or misleading language in legislatively referred constitutional amendments and prevents courts from ensuring that ballot summaries accurately reflect the measures they describe. By attempting to remove judicial oversight from the General Assembly's actions, this bill threatens the foundational system of checks and balances that upholds fair governance in Missouri. The judiciary serves as an essential safeguard against political manipulation of ballot language, ensuring that voters are presented with clear, honest, and legally sound information. I would imagine the Missouri Supreme Court would not willingly relinquish its critical role in protecting the integrity of our democratic process. For the sake of transparency, accountability, and the rights of Missouri voters, I urge opposition to this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>SHERYL ROSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sherylrosetl@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 8:52 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Courts should have the power to amend misleading or inaccurate ballot language. All the power should not rest with one body. Separation of powers is fundamental to democracy.**





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 6:44 PM</b>

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

**As the majority party has proven time and time again their unwillingness to write fair and truthful ballot language, please oppose HB 684.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 12:44 PM</b>

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

**As the majority party has proven time and time again their unwillingness to write fair and truthful ballot language, please oppose.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>TARA HALLMARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>THE REV. DR. TERESA DANIELEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-503-7415</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI; MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE</b>		TITLE: <b>MISSIONER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3887 WYOMING STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>publicadvocacy@diocesemo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 1:01 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Please do not change the grassroots ballot initiative process. We have had it for over 100 years. Leave it alone. Your legislation would increase politicization of ballot measure language and increase delays, preventing discussion on ballot measures and allow the Secretary of State and legislature to stall signature gathering and certification of measures. While these versions apply only to legislatively referred referendums, an amendment to the senate version of the bill would include citizen-lead initiatives, which would give political actors near veto power to indefinitely draft biased or confusing language and block movement of citizen initiatives, indefinitely delaying the ability of citizens to gather signatures to get their measure on the ballot. These bills would also violate separation of powers. Courts should have the ability to stop and correct illegal language that violates Missouri law. Quit trying to mess with the ballot initiative process. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>TWILA J LOY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>twilaloy@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 9:29 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am opposed to any bill that limits majority rule in Missouri.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>WILSON RUHE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wilsonruhe@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 1:46 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote no HB 684.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</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>WINIFRED COLWILL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Colwillw@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:14 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GAY M DUST</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>gdust2030@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 2:45 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 684</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGAN LEMKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>c.w.ryder544@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

These bills are a blatant attempt by the legislation to spend the checks and balances provided for in the constitution by the separation of powers between legislation and the judiciary. It is an attempt to disenfranchise voters who do the work to get their measures on the ballot by giving the legislation the power to use politically charged and inaccurate ballot language to confuse voters and place the agenda of the legislation over the will of the constituents they are meant to represent.