



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS OLEARY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: thepaingguy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 8:52 AM
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My name is Chris O'Leary and I'm a survivor of the Catholic sex abuse crisis. I'm here to offer my QUALIFIED support for House Bill 709. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, at the Church of the Immacolata in St. Louis, just up the hill from the Galleria mall, if you know St. Louis, I was sexually exploited, abused, and assaulted — ultimately RAPED — by a priest named Father LeRoy Valentine. Then things got REALLY bad. My abuse was WITNESSED and BLIND-EYED by then Father and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and, perhaps, the next Pope, who lived and worked with my abuser Fr. Valentine at Immacolata for two years, from 1977 until 1979. Worse still is the involvement of Missouri Attorneys General and now United States Senators... - Josh Hawley- Eric Schmitt ...in my case. Hawley's SHAM, Fall 2018 investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, launched in the aftermath of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report. An investigation I now know was a sham because — out of a naive hope — I tried to assist in it. Neither now Senator Hawley nor his team were interested in talking to me or hearing my story. I did manage to twice talk to Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt's team, but now U.S. Senator Schmitt killed the investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and his Catholic Church within days of my implicating Cardinal Dolan in late July 2019. And, I have to ask, is Conflict Of Interest no longer a thing? Why does the State of Missouri allow Catholics, like now Senator Schmitt, to "Investigate" — and protect — their own Catholic Church? It's bad enough that I have to deal with the consequences of my OWN abuse, and the abuse of the abused, at the hands of Fr. Valentine, Cardinal Dolan, and now United States Senators Josh Hawley & Eric Schmitt. What's WORSE is what my CHILDREN were subjected to, due to the State of Missouri's failure to prohibit the use of Non Disclosure, Non Disparagement, and other such Agreements that predatory institutions, like the Catholic Church and Kanakuk, use to silence survivors. I have four children, all of whom attended Kanakuk, starting in the Summer of 2010. I've done the Kanakuk pick up ritual, and attended Joe White's I think Friday evening cross presentation, at least five times. You can't imagine what it's like to be a parent and survivor of Child Sexual Abuse who sent his kids to Kanakuk, safe in the knowledge that they would be protected — Hey, it's Kanakuk! — only to learn, years later, that Kanakuk was absolutely CRAWLING with predators. Were my kids sexually abused as I was? I hope not. I don't THINK they were. There ARE a few things I wonder about. But I don't KNOW. I guess I'll find out in 10 or 20 years. What I DO know is that Joe White and others at Kanakuk used Non Disclosure Agreements to keep me, and parents like me, from finding out the truth about what was going on at Kanakuk. Joe White and all the folks at Kanakuk put my children at risk — SACRIFICED children, if not MY children — just as Catholics and the church sacrificed ME. Before I close, let me mention that all such bills must cover and prohibit not just Non DISCLOSURE Agreements but also Non DISPARAGEMENT Agreements and all Agreements of that nature. As we speak, the Catholic Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, at least, despite the U.S. Catholic Church making a show of banning Non DISCLOSURE Agreements, continues to silence survivors with Non DISPARAGEMENT Agreements. Same difference. I know that because I

know, personally, Catholic survivors who have been silenced. Finally, as I said, I'm here to offer my QUALIFIED support for Missouri House Bill 709, qualified because I can't help but notice that the bill continues the same restrictive timeframe language that — due to the efforts of then Bishop and now Cardinal Dolan — 22 years ago, nearly to the DAY, in the aftermath of SPOTLIGHT, created a Statute Of Limitations problem for me and my lawsuit against the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Language the fails to take into account the manipulation I experienced, first at the hands of Father LeRoy Valentine, who told me he was giving me the power to consecrate the Eucharist, which is why I failed to understand the weird stuff he did with and to me. Sure, the ritual got WEIRD at the end, but Fr. Valentine gave me the power to turn ordinary bread into the LITERAL body of Jesus Christ, so... On top of that are the lies, gaslighting and manipulation, perpetrated by then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan who, likely any day now, will be off to Rome to run for Pope. So, yes, I've heard it all. Seen it all. And all I can say is this. Show me. Chris O'Leary University City, Missouri February 26, 2025



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTA YANDELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: christayandell@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:10 PM
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My son, Logan Yandell became a sexual abuse victim at the age of 9. Pete Newman, employee of Joe White and Kanakuk Kamps, abused him until he was 13 yrs old. When we found out about this horrible, despicable act toward our son, we discussed with many people about options to hold Joe White, Pete Newman, and Kanakuk Kamps accountable. Because there was a coverup of information that wouldn't surface until many years later, we signed the NDA that was attached to our small and embarrassing settlement (given what we now know). We signed an NDA with Kanakuk Kamps and Ace Insurance Company. While at the time, we believed it was the only option, it wasn't until much later, years later, we realized, due to a huge cover-up that we were lied to and at that point, had no recourse except to break our NDA in order to give our son his voice. The effects of silence of his abuse for years was painful to see and experience first-hand. I'm thankful he is still alive because it's possible he could have died by suicide many times. Please don't silence victims any longer. They need a voice to heal, to release the pain, and mostly to live. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor. I see trauma victims weekly in my practice. The majority, over 75%, are unable to share their traumatic experiences of child sexual abuse until many years later. There is data showing the affects of adverse childhood experiences which many do not disclose until many years later. Once they feel comfortable and have grown mentally, physically, and emotionally enough to share, if an NDA is attached to their trauma, their voice is taken away. The only way healing occurs in trauma is to give the victim back their voice and freedom. An NDA protects the abuser, not the victim. NDAs have no place in sexual abuse cases. The voice and power should belong to the victims. Not the perpetrators.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GAETANO D'ANDREA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: gdandrea@laffeybucci.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:16 AM
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My name is Guy D'Andrea, and I am an attorney who has dedicated my career to representing survivors of child sexual abuse, including children in the great State of Missouri. I have spent years in courtrooms across the country fighting for justice on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society, namely children who have suffered unimaginable harm at the hands of abusers. I speak to you today not just as a lawyer, but in my individual capacity as someone who who has witnessed firsthand the lifelong consequences of child abuse and the devastating impact of forced silence through non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). For decades, powerful institutions, entities and individuals have used NDAs as a legal tool to suppress survivors' voices and shield perpetrators from accountability by keeping the unsuspecting public in the dark. These agreements do not protect victims; they protect abusers and the systems that enable them. They serve only one function—to ensure that the truth remains buried, that patterns of abuse remain undiscovered, and that future children remain at risk. Survivors of child sexual abuse carry their trauma for a lifetime. Many of them struggle for years, even decades, to speak out about their experiences. And yet, when they find the courage to come forward, they are often met not with justice but silencing hammer of an NDA. The enforcement of NDAs in child sexual abuse cases creates a dangerous cycle: They prevent survivors from warning others. If a survivor cannot publicly identify their abuser than the abuser remains free to victimize others. They silence patterns of abuse within institutions, specifically schools, churches, sports organizations, and other entities use NDAs to conceal systematic failures and repeat offenders. They create a culture of impunity. When abusers and the institutions that harbor them know they can buy silence, they are emboldened to continue their misconduct without fear of exposure. Child sexual abuse is not a mere private dispute—it is a matter of public safety. The justice system must never be used to silence survivors in favor of protecting predators and institutions. By allowing NDAs to be enforced in these cases, we are sending a clear and chilling message to survivors: Your pain is secondary to the reputation of your abuser. Survivors deserve dignity. They deserve autonomy over their own stories. They deserve the right to warn others, to seek justice, and to contribute to systemic change. No piece of paper should strip them of that right.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRETCHEN CARLSON & JULIE ROGINSKY/LIFT OUR VOICES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Gretchen.Carlson@LiftOurVoices.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 7:33 AM
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We are Gretchen Carlson and Julie Roginsky, co-founders of the nonprofit Lift Our Voices. After our personal stories of sexual harassment at Fox News in 2016, we realized there were two epidemics in American workplaces: sexual misconduct and the silencing of those who have the courage to come forward with mechanisms like non-disclosure agreements. As advocates in this space we provide education, conduct research and work to pass laws to eradicate such silencing mechanisms. At the state level we've been instrumental in banning NDAs for all toxic workplace issues in New Jersey, California and Washington state. We've introduced similar legislation in New York and Connecticut. At the federal level we spearheaded two bipartisan bills into law: The Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act and the Speak Out Act which eradicates predispose NDAs for sexual misconduct at work. We are wholeheartedly supporting HB 709 - Nondisclosure Agreements In Child Sexual Abuse Cases. As you know, this bill modifies Missouri law regarding childhood sexual abuse legal claims by extending and clarifying several key provisions. The bill defines "childhood sexual abuse" as specific sexual criminal acts committed against a person under 18 years old, and expands the statute of limitations for filing such claims. Specifically, victims can now file a lawsuit within ten years of turning 21 or within three years of discovering that their injury or illness was caused by childhood sexual abuse, whichever occurs later. Importantly, the bill adds a new provision that renders any nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) related to child sexual abuse claims null and void and judicially unenforceable, which means such agreements cannot be used to silence victims or prevent them from speaking about their experiences. The bill applies to actions commenced on or after August 28, 2025, and effectively removes previous legal barriers that might have prevented victims from seeking justice. The horrible facts: 1 in 8 children in our country are sexually abused. On average, child victims take an average of 20 years to come forward. Many delay disclosure until their 60's with many never disclosing at all. Institutions exploit the broad nature of NDAs to coerce victims and protect perpetrators. This vicious cycle of silence has run its course. It's time to give childhood survivors the power to own their own voices and experiences and stop protecting the bad actors. This is an apolitical issue. It's time both sides of the aisle come together to do what's right. Thank you, Gretchen Carlson & Julie Roginsky



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092	
REPRESENTING: MO NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1805			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 3:02 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOE ALARCON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN FREDERICK HOBBS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jhobbs007@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 3:14 PM
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My name is John F Hobbs and I am a long-standing survivor of childhood sexual abuse by former Blue Springs, MO Dr. Joseph T Mackey. I was abused from approximate ages of 14-25 and knew him since I was 11 years old. You can find more information about me by searching my name and Kansas City, Boy Scouts etc in addition to the guilty plea on MO Case Net of Mr. Mackey back in 2017. Needless to say, I have some knowledge on this topic and here regarding "Non Disclosure Agreements." I stand by proxy IN FULL SUPPORT of eliminating these wasteful, unnecessary, degrading and truly tragic "legal games," that some have chosen to attach to settlement proceedings. As you are aware from other testimony and stories today, this is a vital bill that must pass into MO LAW ASAP. Please contact me directly for more information and I look forward to seeing this and all other bills related to protecting children in the State of Missouri PASS INTO LAW IN 2025! Thank you. Sincerely and Best, John F. Hobbs jhobbs007@gmail.com 816-520-3009 Lee's Summit, MO



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DYGERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LOGAN GREGORY YANDELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lyand@acehandymanservices.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 9:59 AM
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Members of the Missouri Legislature, My name is Logan Yandell. I submit this statement as both a survivor of child sexual abuse and an advocate for those who have been silenced by legal constraints in Missouri. My ongoing legal journey (Case No. 23CT-CC00088 - Logan Yandell v. Kanakuk Heritage Inc. et al.) underscores the challenges many survivors face within our current system. House Bill 709 addresses a critical issue: the use of nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) in cases of childhood sexual abuse. This bill proposes that NDAs in such cases should not be judicially enforceable, ensuring that survivors are not legally bound to silence. The importance of HB 709 lies in its potential to empower survivors to share their experiences without fear of legal repercussions. NDAs have often been used to conceal abuse, protect perpetrators and prevent public awareness. By rendering these agreements unenforceable, Missouri can take a stand for transparency, accountability, and the rights of survivors. This legislation represents more than a legal amendment; it signifies a commitment to justice and healing for those affected by childhood sexual abuse. It acknowledges the courage required to come forward and ensures that our legal system supports, rather than hinders, that bravery. I urge you to support and pass HB 709 unanimously. By doing so, you affirm Missouri's dedication to protecting the vulnerable and upholding justice. Let this bill be a testament to our collective resolve to support survivors and prevent future abuse. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Logan Yandell



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA A. SALMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lisasalmon74@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:08 PM
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Child sexual abuse cases rightly deserve a high degree of confidentiality. Confidentiality should be exercised for the protection of the vulnerable. What if instead of protecting the vulnerable, this confidentiality has provided coverage for institutions and offenders? In August 2014, a three-year old male classmate of my son's disclosed that his Sunday school teacher anally and orally raped him during Sunday school. Despite our son being two and three-years old while he was under the supervision of this teen offender for more than one ministry year, we learned the alarming details of the case after a lawsuit was filed against the church via a news article in late 2015. Both he and dozens of other toddlers were completely left out of the investigative process. The church, police, and DCS relied upon my speech impaired toddler to disclose abuse to receive help and healing, something he was not developmentally capable of doing. In addition, upon learning of the exposure to the convicted offender, allegations, and that none of the parties could provide any assurance our child was safe from harm, the responsibility of investigating as to whether our son was abused fell upon us. After significant medical, psychological, and developmental evaluations, we approached the church with attorneys. We settled with the church alleging sexual assault in Williamson County Courts presided by Judge Deanna Johnson in November 2016. Prior to the mediation and court hearing, we expressed to our attorneys that we wanted to retain the right to speak publicly about our case both verbally and in writing. I also shared that I believe secret settlements for child sexual abuse cases are immoral. The church was also aware of our concerns as our attorneys shared a non-financial demand list and explained that it was more important than money. While reviewing our settlement paperwork, we struck out any language that would convey any sense that we were interested in keeping the overall situation confidential. In addition, I sent emails to our attorneys asking to confirm that the only the amount of the settlement was confidential. I also continued to share my concern that it was a public safety issue and desired to maintain the right to speak out publicly about the case. Following the mediation date, I began speaking with reporters from The Tennessean. I informed them of the attorneys with whom we worked and said that I had no problem with them speaking to the attorneys. The reporters also said they were interested in speaking with a witness who attended a meeting with us and church pastors in December 2015 as well as other church members. I contacted all these people either by text, phone, or email. None of my communications were secretive. For our court hearing on November 8, 2016, we went to a back conference room to sign paperwork. The court hearing lasted 10 minutes. We were told that we were signing paperwork we had already reviewed. However, unbeknownst to us, new paperwork was introduced with language that we had not reviewed beforehand. This made the confidentiality of the settlement very broad. We found out about the broad confidentiality after reporters called the church which led to the church giving us notice of the breach. We never intended to enter into an agreement and violate it immediately. We were frightened at what actions the church would take against us. As a result, we retracted any statements about the church and sought to address all issues through legal

means. Personally, after this experience, I had to seek out medical care for my extreme distress. I had an appointment shortly after the meeting with the attorneys and was prescribed medication for the anxiety, something I hadn't needed until that point in my life. After the new year, we reached out to and found other attorneys to resolve the legal situation as best as we could. In the Settlement Agreement and General Release that we signed, the confidentiality and non-disparagement not only applied to conversations with the media, but also medical personnel, therapists, teachers, and investigative authorities. This was important in our situation, since our son had ongoing medical tests and therapy, and the events at the church are relevant in his evaluations and treatment. Our son had additional medical evaluations in an out of state hospital. I re-initiated contact with Brentwood Police. I met with Chief Jeff Hughes, Assistant Chief Tommy Walsh, Captain David O'Neil, and Detective John Wood. Chief Hughes said that he was interested in looking at the results of the evaluation. During the time that I communicated with Brentwood Police, I shared that I spoke with a woman whose son was in the offender's two-year-old class and not his three-year-old class. She said she was not notified of any incident from the church. There is no guarantee that the parents in the convicted offender's two-year-old class would know their child was exposed to him. Due to the offender's juvenile status, his name and photo were never released. How would a family from his two-year-old class know their child was exposed to a convicted offender? This is a very large church with hundreds of children who attend, and not a small, family church where everyone is known. The police said they would seek out other possible victims and assured me that they were committed to giving the parents of children harmed the best possible information so they can properly care for their child. They also stated that if the investigation revealed enough evidence for additional criminal prosecution, they would present the information to the district attorney's office for prosecution. The police did not keep this commitment. Another police officer later informed me that the convicted offender received a plea deal which protected him from future prosecutions. I have sought to bring attention regarding these serious public safety issues to multiple law enforcement agencies, DCS, Brentwood city officials, multiple legislators, and child sexual abuse advocates. I have also reached out to multiple clergy as well as the Boys Scouts and Metro Nashville Public Schools to inform both organizations of the presence of a convicted sexual offender in their organizations. Between 2016 and 2019, I felt like I was making some headway in raising awareness and potentially resolving some of my concerns. However, it felt as if I ran into roadblocks. And, in some ways, it felt as if my efforts were counterproductive. In addition, it was a tumultuous time in the legislature. My state representative had resigned due to scandals, and my state senator was married to the judge for our case in which paperwork was introduced unbeknownst to us that made the confidentiality of our settlement overly broad. Through 2023, the case and corresponding issues came back into my attention more acutely. I felt strongly compelled to address the public safety issues and sought out legal assistance. In the fall of 2023, I contacted attorneys at Horwitz Law and retained them. Since then, I have been in ongoing litigation seeking a declaration that provisions of my settlement agreement with the church that have the purpose or effect of concealing the details relating to a claim of child sexual abuse are unenforceable under Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-34-103. I wonder if the church, police, and DCS would have responded more robustly and transparently initially in 2014 if NDAs for child sexual abuse were not an available silencing tool. It sounds unbelievable that community leaders from multiple organizations would callously ignore the care and protection of toddlers (many of whom are preverbal) under the supervision of an individual who allegedly committed a violent sexual attack against a classmate. NDAs provide excessive and unnecessary secrecy which often leads to more secrecy protecting evil and allowing it to grow. The church, police, and DCS all had prior ongoing relationships with each other. The police officers were on the church campus every weekend providing security for children's classes. In addition, the children's pastor had been involved with DCS on behalf of foster care and adoption advocacy initiatives. If there were a situation that I would have considered a "best-case scenario" for the three community organizations to come together on the behalf of the health and well-being of the children, this was it. However, they did not. Basic common decency and compassion for the vulnerable did not prevail. Adverse childhood experiences such as child sexual abuse can have a long-term impact on a child's mental and physical health and well-being. Inaction or under investigation of child sexual abuse allegations can be concealed via NDAs. The state and communities have an obligation to act on behalf of young children exposed to an alleged offender that has been in a repeated supervisory role over young children beyond simply removing him from a position of authority. If the investigative process for allegations of abuse in group childcare settings follows this pattern utilized in this childcare setting in the future, I consider that nothing short of government sanctioned cover up of child sexual abuse facilitated and concealed by NDAs. No more "hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil", all the while little children are thrown under the bus. What is more important — the convenience and protection of the powerful or protection of the vulnerable? Additional information may be found via my blog <https://janespeaksup.com/>.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA RALSTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ralston.melissa@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 8:59 AM
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I am a developmental scientist with nearly 20 years of experience conducting research on child abuse and family violence. The use of NDAs in child sexual abuse cases is appalling and protects only those who cause harm. Most importantly, the use of NDAs for child sexual abuse cases are in complete opposition to the decades of research that shows disclosure of abuse and healing from that harm is a long and nonlinear process. A few leading statistics: Children may disclose CSA right away, within a few days, weeks, months, or years, or never at all. However, many children do not disclose CSA in their childhood and researchers estimate that on average, it takes children 17 – 21 years to disclose CSA (Halvorsen et al., 2020). In a study of men aged 19-84 years, the length of time until first disclosure ranged from 0 to 63 years with an average of 21.45 years. The length of time until in-depth discussion (for those who reported ever having an in-depth discussion) ranged from 0 to 72 years with an average of 28.34 years. (Easton et al 2019) Most survivors who experience sexual abuse in an institution (e.g. summer camp) disclose when they are between the ages of 50 – 69, suggesting that institutional abuse may delay disclosure beyond average of 17 – 21 years (Allagia et al., 2019); (Child USA, 2024). While all survivors of CSA, regardless of gender, experience boundaries to disclosure, there are specific, gendered boundaries that may delay disclosure longer for boys compared to girls. Boys that experience CSA are more likely to delay disclosure late into adulthood or never disclose abuse compared to girls. Gendered boundaries for boys include conforming to masculine norms, shame or stigma against homosexuality (if abused by a male), perceived lack of resources (i.e. resources geared towards girls), and naming the experience as CSA (i.e. denial or “part of growing up”) (Easton et al., 2014). Researchers have identified factors that may influence, by either facilitating or impeding, disclosure. At the personal level, internalized victim blaming or shame may impede one’s decision to disclose. Similarly, doubting one’s own experience could also be a deterrent. (Collin-Vézina et al., 2015). At the interpersonal level, families with strict gender roles or with other forms of violence occurring in the house can impact a child’s likelihood of disclosing. Additionally, the social network around the child, either or supportive or unsupportive, may have an impact on a child’s likelihood of disclosing or not disclosing. (Guastaferrero et al., 2022) (Collin-Vézina et al., 2015). At the environmental level, the level of school involvement with the students can influence disclosure, with schools that are more involved being more likely to encourage disclosure (i.e. following up with behavior problems or poor academic performance). • At the sociocultural level, beliefs about gender roles and masculinity and/or trust of the legal system can influence disclosure (Alaggia et al., 2019). In summary, the factors surrounding disclosure and healing from child sexual abuse are complex. The research is clear that silencing a survivor of abuse through NDAs both replicates and compounds the trauma.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY GOTH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ngoth02@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 8:37 PM
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Victims are affected the rest of their lives. Their voices must never be smothered.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN MACRAE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: macrae.susan@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2025 9:57 PM
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I am in favour of bill HB 709 Nondisclosure Agreements in Child Sexual Abuse Cases passing in the state of Missouri. As a person with an NDA for childhood sexual abuse for the past 28 years, this legal silencing tool has affected all areas of my life, including my sexuality, my work, my creativity, my voice and my sanity. These NDAs are extremely powerful and destructive tools to silence victims and protect abusers. Indeed, it costs society a great deal more to have abusers hidden as it allows them to continue to abuse others. And other victims can not warn anyone else about the potential damage that could be inflicted on them because victims have been silenced. NDAs are unconscionable tools in the hands of abusers, and have literally destroyed many young people's lives. They must be banned.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 9:14 PM

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I support HB709 because in order for truth to be pursued, the truth of who is involved must be known. Anonymous claims, anonymous witnesses, anonymous anything has no place in a legal system that truly seeks justice.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 11:57 PM

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I am Opposed to this Bill. This is Bad Public Polity and not being Transparent. Defeat this Bill!



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 709		DATE: 2/26/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON KOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 220 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 6:21 AM
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The time to report should not be limited. Such trauma can take decades to surface.			