

BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTON WASHING	TON		PHONE NUME 913-240-4	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CREATIVE INNOV			TITLE: CEO/EXE	CUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 7325 TROOST AVI	E			
CITY: KANSAS CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 64131
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 774			DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ F	OR INFORMAT	TONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
NDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BAHIYA HIBA SHAKUR		PHONE NUMBER	:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bhshakur@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DAT 4/1/2025	E: 5:46 PM

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

Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. These bills would create independent prison oversight in Missouri. This is important because there is a lot of abuse, neglect, violence, understaffing, and lack of programming inside our state prisons. These poor conditions affect incarcerated people, correctional staff, and the families of both negatively. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. Thank you. STUDY THE NORWEGIAN PRISON SYSTEMS! THEY STUDIED OUR SYSTEMS, FOUND THEY DIDN'T WORK AND THEY CHANGED THEIR SYSTEMS!!! THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS BETTER THAN THESE DRACONIAN SYSTEMS WE INSIST ON PERPETUATING!



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA CAMPBELL AND STANLEY CAMPBELL			PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			•		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: campbellbk45@gr	nail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 10:42 AM	

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

Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB603, HB729, and HB774. These Bills would create independent prison oversight in Missouri. These are important because there is a lot of abuse, neglect, violence, understaffing, and lack of programming inside our state prisons. This creates negative conditions for incarcerated persons, correctional staff, and the families of both. For instance, we are personally aware that facility staff impede the ability of family to communicate with the appropriate staff to help resolve issue(s) impacting the incarcerated persons. This is accomplished by incorrectly referencing MDOC policy and/or refusing to connect us with the appropriate staff. We have been lied to and ignored in their attempt to discourage our involvement. PLEASE VOTE YES on HB603, HB729, and HB774. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: BRICE WOODCOO	CK		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bricewoodcock@g	gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 4/1/202	OATE: 25 3:29 PM
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Accountability measures are needed to address systemic health and safety conditions in Missouri's prisons.



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TESTIFYING : ✓IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ F	OR INFORMATION	ONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERE BURTONHARTZELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: chere.burtonhartzell.cbh@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 2:	38 PM

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

04/02/2025 @ 9:26 a.m.To Whom It Concerns:My name is Chere BurtonHartzell, I'm a concerned mother of an inmate at one of these prisons in Missouri. I am aware of everything at goes on at these prisons and the prisoners. These prisons are not fit for anyone to live in them, they are over crowded, black mold in them, abusive to the prisoners and the C.Os.. I support these following House Bills, HB 790, HB 874, HB 603, HB 774, HB 729. These bills are to improve and make the Department of Corrections take responsibility of their actions. These bills will also give the inmates the right to vote after they get out of prison.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFFTON DAVIS			PHONE NUME 573-590-1	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI JUSTION			TITLE: ORGANIZ	ER
ADDRESS: 1512 BUSINESS 70	0 W			
CITY: COLUMBIA			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 4/2/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFTON DAVIS			PHONE NUME 573-590-1	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MOJUSTICE	DN NAME:		TITLE: ACTIVIST	S
ADDRESS: 4608 DERBY RIDG	SE DR			
CITY: COLUMBIA			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: cliftonx19@yahoo	com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 4:20 AM

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

Statement in Support of HB 774/HB 603 and HB 729: The Missouri State Corrections Ombudsperson ActAs concerned citizens, we must ensure that our criminal justice system operates with transparency, accountability, and fairness. HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729 represent a critical step forward in protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of both incarcerated individuals and correctional staff within Missouri's prison system. For too long, reports of abuse, neglect, unsafe conditions, and lack of oversight have plagued our correctional facilities. The creation of an independent State Corrections Ombudsperson is not only a necessary reform—it is a moral obligation. This bill will establish an independent body with the authority to inspect prisons, investigate complaints, and ensure accountability without fear of retaliation. Furthermore, the Corrections Oversight Committee will ensure that this new office remains independent, nonpartisan, and focused on meaningful reforms. By including lawmakers, former correctional staff, medical professionals, prisoner advocacy groups, and formerly incarcerated individuals, this committee will ensure that all voices are heard in the pursuit of a more just and effective corrections system. Transparency breeds trust and change. By implementing regular inspections, requiring corrective action plans, and making reports publicly available, this bill shines a light on the conditions behind prison walls, ensuring that Missouri's correctional facilities meet basic human rights standards. Beyond accountability, HB 774/HB 603 and HB 729 are smart policy. Improving prison conditions reduces violence, promotes rehabilitation, and enhances public safety by preparing individuals for successful reintegration into society. Supporting this legislation is not just about improving prisons—it is about investing in safer communities for all Missourians. We urge our legislators to stand on the right side of history and pass HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. By doing so, Missouri will take a bold step toward a fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice system.Respectfully submitted, Clifton Davis MOJUSTICE 04/02/2025



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSE	ES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: CRYSTAL VANCE			PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:			<u> </u>		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: wizardcl@yahoo.c	com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/1/202	DATE: 25 12:22 PM	
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FOR	MIS PUBLIC PECOP	D LINDED CHY	DTED 610 DCM	

I have or several friends and or family housed in Missouri DOC. I agree that oversight. Is a must for those locked up and as well as those that work in the DOC. I've had to call medical and case workers several times before the inmates in need got any actions brought to attention.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA KIMMEL			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kimmel_cindy@ya	lhoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	OATE: 5 11:12 AM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FORI	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.

Things need to change in the department of corrections I have dealt with them for years and they are definitely not about rehabilitation they are so corrupt give out free cases not having things tested by a laboratory punishing inmates just because they can it's not right



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: DEB WATSON			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: debwatson59@icl	oud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 11:17 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FORM	I IS PUBLIC RECORD	UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: DENA NOTZ			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			•	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cccforchange24@	gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 3/27/20	ATE: 25 8:03 PM

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

Greetings, I would like to submit my testimony in support of an independent oversight committee for the Missouri Department of Corrections. It has become abundantly clear that they are not able to oversee themselves, nor should they be. Loved ones and prison residents deserve to see accountability and transparency when it comes to their concerns and complaints. The Missouri Department of Corrections has promised to keep those under their care safe and secure. The prison residents will tell you they feel anything but safe and secure. As a former employee of the Missouri Department of Corrections, nothing I saw during my employment seemed like safety or security was a priority for staff or inmates. I wholeheartedly support this bill. Missouri needs this! Thank you for allowing me to testify.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPO	SES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ELOISE ROWAN			PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:			•		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: eloiserowan.1@gr	nail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/1/202	DATE: 25 2:03 PM	
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I am a family member of 3 inmates that have died incarcerated at Eastern Reception Diagnostic and Correctional facility, Bonne Terre. My voice has gone unheard for years, as well as my other family members. The inhumane treatment and conditions at this facility is deplorable. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend, but let this testimony be heard.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ERICA WILLIAMS			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/2/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSE	S
		WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:				
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH ADAMS			PHONE NUME 417-456-2		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO MISSOURI PRISON			TITLE: COMMUN ORGANIZ	ICATIONS ER	
ADDRESS: 1820 S MINNESOT	A AVE				
CITY: JOPLIN			STATE: MO	ZIP: 64804	
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM	
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TESTIFYING: ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ F	OR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES		
	WITNESS NAME				
NDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: HEATHER WALLIN					
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:			
ADDRESS:					
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:		
EMAIL: wallinhe@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 4/2/2025	TE: 0 10:42 AM		

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

Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. These bills would create independent prison oversight in Missouri. This is important because there is a lot of abuse, neglect, violence, understaffing, and lack of programming inside our state prisons. These poor conditions affect incarcerated people, correctional staff, and the families of both negatively. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. Thank you



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COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions				
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES	3
		WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:				
WITNESS NAME: JEFF SMITH			PHONE NUME 314-323-0 9		
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI APPLE	SEED		TITLE:		
ADDRESS: 5380 MAGNOLIA A	AVE.				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139	
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 15 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.	



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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JERIKA WHITE			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMPOWER MISSO			TITLE: CRIMINAL MANAGE	JUSTICE POLICY
ADDRESS:				
CITY: ST.LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63033
EMAIL: jerika@empowerm	nissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/2/202	DATE: 25 4:09 PM

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

Date: April 2, 2025To: **Chairman Mayhew and Members, Corrections and Public Institutions** CommitteeFrom: Jerika White, Criminal Justice Policy Manager, Empower MissouriRE: 774, 603, 729 As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since its inception. Empower Missouri has prioritized addressing the criminal justice system and its impacts, advocating for stronger Department of Corrections (DOC) oversight and a more effective accountability system.I am testifying on behalf of Empower Missouri to support HB 774 by Rep.Bill Allen, HB 603 by Rep. Bill Lucas, and HB 729 by Rep. Kim Collins. These bills would establish an Office of State Ombudsman within the Department of Corrections. The Office will provide information to those who are incarcerated, monitor prison conditions for the purpose of helping to ensure the adequacy of care received by those who are incarcerated, improve the quality of life experienced by them, and establish a state-wide reporting system to collect data. These bills will also increase transparency and accountability in the Missouri state prison system and help all those impacted by this system. It is important to have external accountability for any institution that is tasked with providing services for the public. The correctional department provides the day-to-day needs of people who are incarcerated however we do not have the accountability foundation. An independent oversight system is necessary to help root out the abuse and overall corruption that occurs within the prison system. Most importantly, it is there to protect the well-being of all those who live and work inside of state prisons. This is a definite need, especially in our state, as Missouri prisons have a long legacy of abuse, harassment, and medical negligence, coupled with a pattern of misinformation regarding deaths in custody. In Missouri, there are well over 23,000 residents living in the 19+ facilities across the state. Severe staffing shortages in recent years have made existing problems more frequent, and the number of in-custody deaths hit a record high in 2024 with 139 deaths total. Othel Moore Jr.'s family made his final cries for help publicly viewable by releasing the footage of his murder, and it was gut-wrenching to watch the overall neglect and actions of the DOC. Many more are experiencing similar conditions, and both residents and workers are at risk of being victimized by failures within the system. The Missouri Department of Corrections has an 830 million dollar budget in 2025. To date, Missouri has paid over \$75 million in lawsuit settlements and verdicts since 2020. These costs are being borne by MO taxpayers and residents. Our research found that the range of settlements varied from hostile work environments, numerous sexual assaults, employee discrimination, and overall poor conditions within the facilities. Both past department employees and formerly incarcerated individuals have sought lawsuits against the state for these reasons. In the fiscal note it states that the general revenue will be over \$500,000. The DOC is already spending more than that with the ongoing lawsuits and monthly

expenses within the facilities. As taxpayers, it is important to know where our tax dollars are being spent. Many Missouri residents and families of both correctional workers and residents are left in the unknown about what occurs within the DOC facilities. In conclusion, having independent oversight will provide the transparency necessary to move forward. Oversight alone will not fix the entrenched issues, but it will provide steps towards creating the accountability system necessary for residents within the facilities, correctional staff, their families, and the community. For these reasons, I encourage the committee to support and vote Yes on HB 774, 603 and 729.



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TESTIFYING : ✓IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICAH DONEHUE		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		·	
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessicahdalton448@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/1/202	DATE: 25 5:01 AM

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I have witnessed first hand the abuse and retaliation of staff members to myself, others, and my husband. A guard took it upon himself to make my minor (14) daughter uncomfortable and embarrassed by "calling her out" for not sitting straight enough in her chair with her hands on the table. They have purposely made myself and other visitors that speak up wait in visitation for an hour before they bring our loved ones in without explanation. It is never a pleasant visit when my children and I get to see my husband/ their father. It seems as if their goal is to separate families and make them miserable during visits so they will not come as frequently. When it comes to my husbands medical care they ignored him and even tried to put him in the "hole" when a guard who didn't do his job properly sent my husband to medical. They have ignored his requests for medical treatment and only started addressing the issue when I called and informed them I was a nurse and I knew his rights. They are not there to rehabilitate they are there to torture, especially when they are having bad days. I'm scared to know how they treat my husband when I'm not around.



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TESTIFYING : ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐	FOR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES		
	WITNESS NAME				
NDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: JOANNE HAGLOF PHONE NUMBER:					
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:			
ADDRESS:					
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:		
EMAIL: jhh816719@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 4/1/2025	ATE: 5 11:01 AM		

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Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. These bills would create independent prison oversight in Missouri. This is important because there is a lot of abuse, neglect, violence, understaffing, and lack of programming inside our state prisons. These poor conditions affect incarcerated people, correctional staff, and the families of both negatively. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐	FOR INFORMAT	IONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: JUDY DIANE POPE PHONE NUMBER:					
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:					
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: otwomiata@yahod	o.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE 3/31/2025	6:47 PM	

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

Thank you Mr. Allen for taking this important step toward reform. I am in support of the legislation. The department of Corrections has had over 139 deaths in 2024. Modoc has lost millions of dollars in lawsuits due to these deaths. Modoc could be spending that money to run their prisons for true rehabilitation not trauma from other inmates and correctional officers. Modoc is understaffed . New Correctional officers aren't required to be drug tested upon hiring. Some Wardens are being fired for allowing drug trafficking by their family members who work within the same facility. Nepotism shouldn't be allowed within the Modoc. Medical care is denied to those who are suffering from tooth aches to cancer. I witness each month visitors being scanned while staff isn't. I read each month where a staff person is being walked off (not charged) for inappropriate behavior with the residence. Everything from sex to bringing the residence deadly drugs to be sold. I spend at least 400\$+on Jpay for commissary due to the food that is labeled not fit for human consumption in the chow hall. I've spent money on phone calls that have absolutely horrible service. The camp blames the provider, the provider blames the camp. I've spent money for shoes, etc. only to have them lost when transferring to another camp. The water isn't fit to shower in causing skin burns. We have very elderly residents who couldn't kill a flea but remain there taking up space causing overcrowding. Modoc is a corrupt institution and definitely needs an overhaul with oversight of someone who isn't getting their pockets padded by the families of the residents. Residents who've caused zero trouble being first offenders need to have a completely different camp to reform. The board needs to follow through allowing these first offenders release after serving their time given instead of sending them to higher level camps which gives the first offender nothing but problems possibly getting charges and having to remain longer. Thank you Mr. Allen for taking this important step toward reform of the Missouri Department of Corrections. You are a wonderful man to have gave notice to a institution that has horribly gone wrong.



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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: KAREN BACKUES	S KEIL		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: KAREN FOWLER			PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: paydenn0306@yal	hoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/1/202	DATE: 25 1:41 PM
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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: KAREN HEITKAMI	P		PHONE NUMB	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: thewaxprincess@	gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/2/202	DATE: 25 5:01 PM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DAT 4/2	E: /2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions			•	
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INF	ORMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:				
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN PARISH	1			E NUMBER: 277-7670	
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AS				RD MEMB	ER, MISSOURI OF CRIMINAL
ADDRESS: 3407 JEFFERSON	, #128				
CITY: SAINT LOUIS			STATE MO	:	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: kay@carlyleparish	ılaw.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		JBMIT DATE: /2/2025 9:2	9 PM

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Dear Chair Mayhew and Committee Members:I regret that I could not be present to testify today, but wanted to express my and theMissouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' support for increased DOCoversight. I do a lot of work with clients in the state's jails and prisons and it seems likeevery other week, I am hearing different stories of lack of health care, abuse, and otherissues. I often find myself concerned for the health and safety of my clients.I appreciate the attention that Reps. Collins, Lucas, and Allen are bringing to the issueand their efforts to implement reforms. I have been following Rep. Collins' work closelyparticularly in this regard, and am so heartened to see a legislator giving this issue andthe people we house in our prisons, who are in reality some of the most vulnerable peoplein our society, the care and concern that is merited.I am happy to consult on any particular aspects of the various proposals or speak moreto any member of the committee individually about my experiences and the experiencesof my clients. I hope that this Committee will take seriously the need for increasedoversight of our corrections institutions.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DEN HOLL	ANDER		PHONE NUME 202-853-0	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CHRISTIAN COAL			TITLE: NATIONA	L FIELD DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 37030				
CITY: WASHINGTON			STATE: DC	ZIP: 20013
EMAIL: Keith@cc.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/1/202	DATE: 25 6:23 PM
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The Christian Coalition is in support of this bill.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KHANIKA HARPE	R		PHONE NUMB 314-530-8	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION JUSTICE FOR ALL			TITLE: EXECUTIV	VE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS:				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63147
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 4/2/202	DATE: 2 5 12:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions				
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES	;
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY WALL	ıs		PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: kimberly.t.wallis@	gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 3/31/20	DATE: 125 12:22 PM	
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This bill would strengthen the oversight and accountability for Missouri's prisons. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure the health and safety of those that our justice system has put into prison. Our goal is justice - not torture or neglect. Our goal is the eventual successful re-introduction of people back into our society.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: LINDA D. SALSMA	AN		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: linsalsm@aol.com	1	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/1/202	DATE: 25 1:09 AM
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THESE PEOPLE INCARCERATED ARE TREATED INHUMANLY AND NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET ASAP. PLEASE HELP!! THANK YOU.



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COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	Public Institutions			
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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lindakram@charte	er.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 3/31/20	DATE: 125 2:13 PM
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	WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: LISA STRADER		PHONE NUME	ER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:				
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: lisa.shafter@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 3/31/20	ATE: 25 12:23 PM	
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Reforms and additional oversight will be beneficial to all.



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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LUCAS CALDWEL	L-MCMILLAN		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMPOWER MISSO			TITLE: CHIEF OF	POLICY
ADDRESS: 3407 S JEFFERSO	N #105			
CITY: ST LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA GOELLNER	र		PHONE NUI 717-945 -	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO FAMM	N NAME:		TITLE: SENIOR POLICY	DIRECTOR OF STATE
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 11			·	
CITY: ERIE			STATE: PA	ZIP: 16512
EMAIL: mgoellner@famm.	org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/1/20	T DATE: 025 1:12 PM

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Thank you to Chair Mayhew, Vice Chair Cook, Ranking Minority Member Collins, and members of the Committee for considering this written statement in support of HB 774 by Rep. Bill Allen (R-17), HB 603 by Rep. Bill Lucas (R-115), and HB 729 by Rep. Kim Collins (D-77). FAMM is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates sentencing and prison policies that are individualized, fair, protect public safety, and preserve families. The Conservative Political Action Committee (CPAC), the Christian Coalition, current and former correctional officers, FAMM, and many others support this policy. It would increase transparency and accountability in the Missouri state prison system by establishing an independent corrections ombudsperson's office and a corrections oversight committee with power to receive and investigate complaints, inspect prisons, and recommend improvements. This legislation will benefit Missouri correctional staff, incarcerated people, and families of both. The Missouri Department of Corrections (MDOC) is a very large agency with an \$830 million dollar 2025 budget. By their nature, prisons are closed environments. It is difficult for the taxpaying public, let alone impacted families, to understand what happens behind the walls. Yet MDOC employs over 10,000 people. incarcerates 23,000, and affects an untold number through the ripple impact on the families of those who live and work in its 19+ facilities. FAMM routinely gets reports of violence, abuse, neglect, understaffing, and lack of programming from correctional staff and incarcerated people. These reports cut through racial and geographic lines and emanate from the whole state. In fact, Missouri has paid over \$66 million in lawsuit settlements and verdicts in the last four years alone, according to a study by Empower Missouri . Families and taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability from this huge agency. This legislation is a way for the legislature and public to say "show me." Missouri has a good roadmap for oversight legislation. In response to dire conditions in the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), United States Congress passed the Federal Prison Oversight Act by 392-2 in the House of Representatives and by unanimous consent in the Senate. It became law in 2024. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Jon Ossoff and Rep. Lucy McBath with co-sponsors Sen. Mike Braun (R-Indiana) and Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R - North Dakota At Large). Every member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation voted for this oversight law. It was supported by correctional staff, the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Faith and Freedom Coalition, the National District Attorneys Association, and more. The Federal Prison Oversight Act contained two main provisions. First, it allows an independent Inspector General to conduct comprehensive, risk-based inspections of facilities. Second, it allows targeted investigations by the ombudsperson. These features are contained in this legislation. Americans understand the value of increased transparency and accountability in prisons. In a national poll, 82 percent of Americans agreed that every prison system should have independent oversight. Oversight can prevent expensive lawsuits and settlements paid for by

taxpayers. It would also help lawmakers assess MDOC's budget and other needs more accurately. An independent ombudsperson could provide intelligence for the legislature, presenting unbiased, reliable, and accurate reports on the state of facilities and repairs, staffing needs, programming and food shortages, security risks, and dangerous conditions for staff and incarcerated people. This information could inform and guide lawmaker choices about how to improve MDOC and ensure that it operates on a sound and sensible budget. Lawmakers need this steady feedback and insight to appropriately fund a large agency that is often opaque, in part because it is spread all over the state through thousands of employees. Independent oversight benefits everyone it touches. Corrections staff deserve a safe, healthy work environment and need a place to go with complaints that, for whatever reason, are squashed, unanswered, or ignored by the administration. Incarcerated people have a constitutional right to a safe, healthy, humane prison environment and need a place to go when the prison grievance process breaks down or they have no safe place to turn to for help. Families of incarcerated people need someone to call when they cannot get help for their loved one despite following all the rules. Oversight encourages increased professionalism at every level of an agency and has proven successful in several states, e.g. Indiana and Nebraska. FAMM is happy to provide technical assistance and facilitate connections to ombudspeople in other states. We also encourage you to visit a state prison and talk to correctional staff and incarcerated people. Please reach out to mcharles@famm.org and mgoellner@famm.org or (717) 945-9089 for more information or to discuss this matter further. Citations available upon request.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MARIA LINDBERG	SH .		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:				
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mariaddonnici@g	mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/1/202	DATE: 25 9:43 AM
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There is a need for accountability measures to address systemic health and safety measures in Missouri's prisons.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 774			DATE: 4/2/2025	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		•		
TESTIFYING:	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ I	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES	
	WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MARIE CATHERINE MILLER		PHONE NUMB	ER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:				
ADDRESS:				
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: grandmarockks1969@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 4/1/202	ATE: 5 6:45 PM	

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My Name is Marie Miller, I have 2 Sons in Moberly.my son Matthew has 11 yrs in . 6 yrs write up free, He has completed ITC program has been involved in Launch code also worked the Metal plant and is in the Art program also involved in Prid program. Guards see him every day. On 12/10/25 guard placed my son in a cell with his back to cell mate while they took off his cuffs, before he could turn around the cell mate bashed my sons face off metal bed, he got stitches and maced ASST Warden/ FUM Rash Lied to me said she seen my son and he didn't have stitches, When Medical called me they told me about my sons stitches, Now being retaliated against because I keep reaching out for Help, When Matthew was being attacked my other son yelled for Sargent and they put him in a cell with nothing but boxers, Guards watched him suffer coldest day on Camera Co asked to help my son and higher up denied help. Cruel and inhuman treatment My sons Actions show their true self, My Son was attacked by a guard in Licking and they covered up and tortured them in the hole for a year,, I'm emotionally and Mentally Drained Watching the abuse of Power, Please Everyday there's another Family getting a call. Thank you for your time, LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS



BILL NUMBER: HB 774			DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		·	
TESTIFYING: ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW CHARLES		PHONE NUMB 573-616-98	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FAMM		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1100 H STREET NW SUITE 1000			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20005
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/2/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 774			DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING: ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		MATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA ANN RHEIN		PHONE NUM	IBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melissabacon5550@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 3/30/2	DATE: 025 9:15 PM

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Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you today to address a pressing issue that affects not only the incarcerated individuals within our state but also the integrity and fiscal responsibility of Missouri as a whole: the urgent need for independent prison oversight. Rising Inmate DeathsIn 2024, Missouri's Department of Corrections reported 139 inmate deaths—the highest number on record and an average exceeding 10 deaths per month over the past five years. While many of these deaths are attributed to disease within an aging prison population, concerns have been raised about the quality of medical care provided. Advocates report that inmates often do not receive treatment for both minor and severe medical issues, highlighting systemic deficiencies in healthcare services within our correctional facilities. Missouri IndependentStaffing Shortages and Safety ConcernsSevere staffing shortages exacerbate these challenges. Some Missouri prisons operate with less than half the necessary staff, compromising the safety and well-being of both inmates and correctional officers. This shortfall leads to increased lockdowns, restricted access to medical appointments, legal resources, and rehabilitation programs, further deteriorating conditions within our prisons. Empower MissouriFinancial ImplicationsThe financial burden of these systemic issues is substantial. Since 2020, Missouri has expended approximately \$70 million in settlements across 139 lawsuits related to the Department of Corrections. These lawsuits often stem from inadequate medical care, abuse, and misconduct within our prisons. Implementing independent oversight could proactively identify and address such issues, potentially reducing costly litigation and ensuring taxpayer dollars are utilized more effectively. Missouri IndependentEmpower MissouriPublic Support for OversightPublic sentiment strongly favors independent prison oversight. A 2022 survey revealed that 82% of Americans believe both state and federal prison systems should have external accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, 73% advocate for inspections conducted by professional, independent inspectors, and 58% support more frequent inspections, exceeding once per year. Empower MissouriLegislative Efforts and RecommendationsRecognizing these concerns, Missouri lawmakers have proposed the establishment of an independent oversight panel to monitor state prison conditions. This initiative aims to enhance transparency, improve inmate and staff safety, and ensure the efficient use of state resources. The proposed oversight body would have the authority to conduct unannounced inspections, review documents, and address grievances from inmates and their families. Missouri IndependentConclusionThe implementation of independent prison oversight is not merely a corrective measure; it is a proactive strategy to uphold human dignity, ensure fiscal responsibility, and maintain public trust in our correctional institutions. By establishing such a body, Missouri can lead by example, demonstrating a commitment to justice, transparency, and the well-being of all its citizens. Thank you.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA WRIGHT	7		PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mamwright@gmai	il.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 3/31/20	DATE:)25 11:40 AM
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Accountability measures are needed to address systemic health and safety conditions in Missouri's prisons.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYE	₹		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail	l.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 4/2/202	OATE: 5 10:45 PM
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I support oversight for Missouri Department of Corrections – accountability measures are needed to address systemic health and safety conditions in Missouri's prisons.



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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ML SMITH			PHONE NUME 314-301-9	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI JUSTIC			TITLE: FOUNDER	R/DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 300563				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mojusticecoalition	@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 10:26 PM

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In seven of the previous eight years, more than 100 individuals have died in the custody of the Missouri DOC. This is in spite of the fact that Missouri prisons hold one third less people today than they did a decade or more ago. The reason why in-custody deaths have increased so drastically is because there has not been any type of independent oversight, investigations, or accountability focused on the myriad issues inside of these prisons, so the problems have festered and over time become more dire. In 2024, 139 individuals lost their lives while in custody of the MoDOC. There has been only one case where criminal charges have been brought - that of Mr. Othel Moore Jr who was killed by staff on Dec. 8, 2023 at the JCCC facility. Any institution that wields power over others should not be able to investigate itself and hold itself above accountability. Mr. Moore's case is not the only one that deserves consequences. The more than 100 in-custody deaths per year need to be investigated. Although people are incarcerated, that does not mean they lose their humanity and that should not mean they lose their lives. I support these bills because oversight of the MoDOC is needed and necessary.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MONICA MORGAN	ı		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			<u> </u>	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mmrgn12@gmail.o	com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT E 3/31/20	OATE: 25 12:15 PM
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my son died by hanging in January 2025 while on Suicide watch, He was left hanging for over 14 minutes before someone got help TOO LATE



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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: NAOMI KELLY-BA	ATES		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: naomikelly@sbcg	lobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/2/202	DATE: 25 4:56 PM
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Help provide more transparency abd oversight of the correctional system so inmates are safe in their environment.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE BARROW	IS		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NIMROD CHAPEL	JR.		PHONE NUME 816-309-5	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI NAACP			TITLE: PRESIDE!	NT
ADDRESS: 111 W HIGH ST				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING : ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ F	OR INFORMA	ATIONAL PURPOSES		
	WITNESS NAME				
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA KNIGHT		PHONE NUMBE	ER:		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:			
ADDRESS:					
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:		
EMAIL: wakeupmissouri@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 3/31/202	ATE: 25 10:46 PM		

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I am writing to express my strong support for independent, non-partisan oversight of the Department of Corrections. Issues such as drug use, tobacco smuggling, inappropriate favors, and instances of cruelty continue to persist within our correctional system. Without proper accountability, these concerns are often overlooked, undermining both public trust and the integrity of the institution. Much like officer-involved shootings, internal investigations within the DOC create an inherent conflict of interest, making it far too easy for misconduct to be ignored or minimized. An independent oversight body would ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and that the DOC operates within the boundaries of the law. Transparency and accountability should be top priorities, especially in an institution that holds such significant power over individuals' lives. I urge you to advocate for and support legislation that establishes independent oversight of the Department of Corrections. A fair and just correctional system benefits everyone by improving safety, reducing corruption, and ensuring that the law is applied equally to all. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DAT 4/2	TE: 2/2025
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INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ORVILLE MCDON	ALD		PHONE N	JMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK D. PURT	TLL		PHONE NUM 757-903-	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO UNIFY.US	ON NAME:			IVE VICE PRESIDENT RAL COUNSEL
ADDRESS: 402A SOUTH CAP	ITOL STREET SE			
CITY: WASHINGTON			STATE: DC	ZIP: 20003
EMAIL: ppurtill@unifyus.u	ıs	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/1/20	DATE: 125 10:19 AM

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On behalf of Unify.US, I am writing in support of the three prison oversight bills currently before the Corrections and Public Institutions Committee (HB 603, HB 729, and HB 774), all of which would establish an "Office of the Department of Corrections Ombudsman" and include provisions relating to oversight of the Missouri Department of Corrections. Unify.US is a new addition to the public policy community and is engaged in work across the country to strengthen our economy, our families, and our communities. A merger of economic and faith driven conservatives, we were formed by former principals of the American Conservative Union (better known as "CPAC") and the Faith & Freedom Coalition. The founders of Unify.US have more than 50 years of collective experience as grass roots activists and a significant record on criminal justice policy. Unify.US' President, Timothy Head, was one of the key staffers in the Texas legislature that developed the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a policy framework that changed the way conservatives have dealt with crime, punishment, and incarceration in 33 states across the country. Our Chief Operating Officer, David Safavian, was formerly the long-time general counsel and executive vice president at CPAC. He served in the George W. Bush White House and as a chief of staff for a Republican Member of Congress from Utah who was senior on the House Judiciary Committee.For the past ten years I was Director of Legislative Affairs for the Faith & Freedom Coalition where I worked with the first Trump Administration to craft and pass the First Step Act to reduce criminal recidivism and promote public safety. Prior to that I spent three years as Special Assistant to the U.S. Deputy Attorney General where I managed drafting and implementation of regulatory reforms and pilot grant programs and served on the Attorney General's Prisoner Reentry Working Group, the President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative Group, and the Strategic Management Council's Subcommittee on Violent Crime and Gangs. Given our backgrounds, we want to recommend passage of HB 603, HB 729 and/or HB774 because any of these bills would provide greater oversight and accountability in the state's prison system. Last year, we worked at the federal level on similar legislation covering the U.S. Bureau of Prisons that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support (including every member of the Missouri Congressional delegation) and became federal law last July. We believe legislation of this type is important for three reasons. First, greater transparency and oversight would, in our opinion, improve safety for both prisoners and Missouri Department of Corrections (MODOC) staff. In this regard, the challenge before you and your fellow policymakers is significant. Our organizations fully appreciate that there is no "silver bullet" for improving the dangerous climate in which these individuals are housed or work. But we believe this approach is a step in the right direction and will also help with the retention of correctional officers who are under enormous pressure and prone to attrition at high rates. Second, as safety increases in a prison, the MODOC is better positioned to advance pro-social, rehabilitative programming for those inmates open

to amending their lives. It also makes it easier to utilize volunteer and community resources to advance these goals. All of this is directed toward improving public safety in the long run by reducing the recidivism rate of inmates returning to our communities. We are not naïve enough to believe that you can eliminate recidivism altogether, but even small decreases can have an outsized impact on public safety. Third, taking steps to improve transparency and accountability is the best way to prevent the federal courts from stepping in and mandating actions that may end up being harmful. A smart approach now will help Missouri avoid what happened in California where a federal judge ordered a mass release of prisoners to address that system's overcrowding and violence. Preemptively adopting a prison oversight bill is a responsible mechanism to help prevent that type of intervention and release in the future. This balanced approach is designed to provide much-needed oversight and accountability that will help improve conditions for incarcerated individuals and staff alike and position the MODOC to better advance rehabilitation and public safety in the face of federal intervention. We also believe the office of corrections ombudsman would be a great help to the Committee in its oversight role. We urge you to favorably report HB603, HB 729 and/or HB 774. We believe Missouri will benefit from taking this proactive and proven step. If you have any questions or if there is anything that Unify.US can do to support you in this effort, please do not hesitate to contact me at ppurtill@unifyus.us.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK PLEIN			PHONE NUME 202-347-9 3	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		DIRECTOI FOR JUST	R - NOLAN CENTER
ADDRESS: 1199 N FAIRFAX S	ST.			
CITY: ALEXANDRIA			STATE: VA	ZIP: 22314
EMAIL: pplein@conservat	ive.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 3/31/20	DATE: 1 25 2:14 PM
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: RASHEEDA MAXV	WELL		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rmaxwell1200@gr	nail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	OATE: 25 11:25 PM
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Hello my name is Rasheeda Quarles I am in support for the bills HB-603 and also HB 774 and HB 729. We are in need of the support from the outside to take on issues that our family members are having inside of the walls of these prisons. Within these facilities there are family members working as the warden, assist warden and the wife of assist warden that are case managers to be able to reject the IR's that the inmates bring fourth for it just get dismissed without care. Thank you for listening and I ask that you please hear what we are speaking on and about.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774					TE: 2/2025	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions						
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		WITNESS NAME				
INDIVIDUAL:						
WITNESS NAME: RASHEEDA QUAR	RLES		PH	ONE NUMBER:		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TIT	LE:		
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EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12		
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025			
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES			
		WITNESS NAME					
INDIVIDUAL:							
WITNESS NAME: RAYMOND JAMES	5		PHONE NUME	BER:			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:				
ADDRESS:							
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:			
EMAIL: raymondjames552	2@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 3/31/20	OATE: 25 12:31 PM			
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With out oversight things always go badly.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 774			DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING : ✓IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REGINA MILLINER		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: reginamilliner@myyahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/2/202	DATE: 25 10:44 AM
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Please vote yes, on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. These bills would create independent prison oversight in Missouri. This is important because there is a lot of abuse, neglect, violence, understaffing, and lack of programming inside our state prisons. These poor conditions affect incarcerated people, correctional staff, and the families of both negatively. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 774, HB 603, and HB 729. Regina Milliner



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions		·	
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM			PHONE NUMB	ER:
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL	LIBERTIES UNION OF	МО	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE #1130				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/2/202	ATE: 5 12:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025	
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN SOLOMO)N		PHONE NUME	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	_
EMAIL: stevesol@hey.com	n	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 3/31/20	DATE: 125 1:40 PM	_
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Oversight for Missouri Department of Corrections – accountability measures are needed to address systemic health and safety conditions in Missouri's prisons.



BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025		
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		WITNESS NAME				
INDIVIDUAL:						
WITNESS NAME: TABITHA VELTRO)P		PHONE NUMB	ER:		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:			
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		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY REED			PHONE N	UMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:		ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:		MIT DATE: 2025 12	:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 774				DATE: 4/2/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	Public Institutions		·	
TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HO	NEST-ABE' DIENOFF		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
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