



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 804 | | DATE: 1/27/2025 |
| COMMITTEE: Insurance | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ADAM MCBRIDE | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-384-2508 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PREVENTED | | TITLE: DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY |
| ADDRESS: 9355 OLIVE BLVD | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63132 |
| EMAIL: amcbride@prevented.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 4:55 PM |

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

PreventEd, a non-profit organization dedicated to substance misuse prevention, education, and advocacy in eastern Missouri, strongly supports HB 804. This legislation is a crucial step in addressing the ongoing opioid crisis and prioritizing patient safety. Opioid misuse has devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. By ensuring that health insurance plans prioritize non-opioid alternatives for individuals with an elevated risk of substance misuse, HB 804 will:

- Reduce the risk of substance use disorder: By limiting unnecessary opioid prescriptions, this bill helps prevent patients from becoming dependent on these highly addictive drugs.
- Improve patient outcomes: Non-opioid treatments often provide effective pain management with fewer side effects and a lower risk of dependency or overdose.
- Align with best practices: This legislation reflects the growing consensus among medical professionals that non-opioid options should be considered, when possible, for pain management.

PreventEd asks the committee to favorably consider HB804. This legislation represents another strong step forward in protecting the health and well-being of Missourians who are at risk, without requiring a higher level of cost sharing.



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| 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: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 11:54 PM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CHRIS FOX | | PHONE NUMBER: 202-466-8700 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: VOICES FOR NON-OPIOID CHOICES | | TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: 750 9TH STREET NW | | | |
| CITY: WASHINGTON | | STATE: DC | ZIP: 20001 |
| EMAIL: chris@nonopioidchoices.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 8:23 AM | |

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

Dear Members of the Missouri House Insurance Committee,Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (“Voices”) applauds Representative Melanie Stinnett (R-113) for introducing legislation designed to prevent opioid addiction in Missouri. Voices would like to extend our full support for Missouri House Bill 804, Insurance Coverage of Alternatives to Opioid Drugs. For too long, our response to the opioid addiction crisis focused solely on opioid overdose death prevention. Such a focus misses the opportunity to prevent addiction where we can, including by reducing and minimizing unnecessary exposure to opioids. One opportunity to do this is to increase the availability of non-opioid pain management approaches. In doing so, HB 804 will prevent opioid addiction for many Missourians and save lives.Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (www.nonopioidchoices.org) is a national, non-partisan, and nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC dedicated to preventing opioid addiction. Our coalition boasts over 20,000 advocates and 200 member organizations from across the country representing the leading patient, provider, and public health advocacy organizations. All told, Voices’ members represent millions of Americans affected by the U.S. opioid epidemic.Despite years of attention to combatting the opioid epidemic, the crisis persists. Last year, we lost 81,000 Americans to an opioid-related drug overdose. This means that, on average, we lose more than 200 Americans every day to an opioid-related drug overdose.Missouri is not immune from this national epidemic. In 2023, there were 1,465 opioid-related overdose deaths, accounting for 77.1% of all drug overdose fatalities in the state. For many, the path towards addiction begins after being prescribed opioids to manage an acute pain incident, such as for postsurgical pain, an accident, or sports injury. In Missouri, there were 47 opioid prescriptions written for every 100 persons in 2023. Fortunately, this is a path to addiction that can be prevented by ensuring access to non-opioid approaches.Prescription opioids are frequently used to treat acute pain. In fact, as many as 90 percent of all surgical patients in the United States receive a prescription for opioids to manage postsurgical pain. It is easy to understand why prescription opioids are frequently used – medical professionals are trained to treat pain with opioids, they are seen as effective ways to treat pain, and, perhaps most importantly, generic prescription opioids are incredibly cheap. As such, health insurers frequently make generic opioids available to patients at little – or no – charge to the patient.This inadvertently incentivizes patients – and their healthcare providers – to treat pain with prescription opioids. We must change this care paradigm.HB 804 would do just this. This legislation prohibits health benefit plans from prioritizing opioid drugs over non-opioid alternatives for enrollees with an elevated risk of opioid misuse, requiring coverage of non-opioid drugs without mandating the prior use of opioids or imposing higher cost-sharing.HB 804 would not put prescription opioids out-of-reach for those patients who want – or require – those treatments. Rather, the legislation would ensure that Missourians would have full access to the full suite of safe, effective, and FDA-approved pain management approaches, including both opioid and non-opioid

options. There are currently some FDA-approved, safe, and effective non-opioid pain management products on the market with more in the pipeline. These include nerve blocks which provide regionally-specific pain relief and are commonly used during oral and soft tissue surgeries. There are also brand name non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that are used in a variety of other acute pain incidents, such as sports injuries, migraines and other short-term pain incidents. Finally, there are other physician-administered products that are used instead of fentanyl for cataract surgeries. All of these products greatly diminish reliance on prescription opioids, provide effective analgesic support for patients, and reduce quantities of opioids prescribed and consumed in the United States. These are products that would be made more accessible through HB 804. On top of these currently available products, HB 804 sends a strong market signal to innovators developing novel therapies. There has been a good deal of innovation in the non-opioid market that is starting to bear promise, and several non-addictive approaches may be approaching the market over the next year or so. This signal is clear: if you are successful in bringing new, innovative products to market that can treat pain without relying on opioids, patients will be able to access them. There are several of such products that may soon come to market from several manufacturers. There are solutions on the market and there are more on the way. However, all of this work, innovation, and advocacy will be for naught if we do not ensure that patients and providers can easily access these products. HB 804 is an important patient safeguard and a commonsense solution to an opioid addiction crisis that gets worse every year. In short, HB 804 would go a long way towards preventing opioid addiction by ensuring robust access to non-opioid pain management approaches. The legislation accomplishes this by making sure that health insurers are not putting up barriers that inhibit patient access to these products. The legislation being considered today mirrors a federal bill, the Alternatives to Prevent Addiction in the Nation (Alternatives to PAIN) Act, which was introduced last year in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and will soon be reintroduced in the 119th Congress. Simply put, we must ensure that all patients can easily access non-opioid pain approaches across all care settings. Voices for Non-Opioid Choices urges the federal and state government to continue to work hand-in-hand to solve the opioid crisis currently taking place in Missouri, and throughout the country. For too long, prescription opioids have been the default method for managing pain – and insurance company practices have reinforced this reality. This puts patients at unnecessary risk for misuse and addiction. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls on health professionals to utilize non-opioid pain management approaches as “first-line therapy” for acute pain patients. This legislation would enable more patients to have access to non-addictive products and would improve care for the tens of thousands of Missourians who experience an acute pain incident every year. Voices applauds the advancements proposed in HB 804 and would like to see these efforts come to fruition. Once again, thank you for making the time today to recognize and examine the importance of expanding access to non-addictive opioid alternatives throughout Missouri. Sincerely, Voices for Non-Opioid Choices



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DAVID WINTON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| REPRESENTING: BJC, COX BRIGHT, GATEWAY, JEWISH FEDERATION, NASW | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65102 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KELLY GILLESPIE | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-9267 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI BIOTECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX 148 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: kelly@mobio.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 8:52 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: REBECCA LOHMANN | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-1514 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PREVENTED | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: COLUMBIA | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65203 |
| EMAIL: becky@csga.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 8:52 AM | |
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PreventEd, a non-profit organization dedicated to substance misuse prevention, education, and advocacy in eastern Missouri, strongly supports HB 804. This legislation is a crucial step in addressing the ongoing opioid crisis and prioritizing patient safety. Opioid misuse has devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. By ensuring that health insurance plans prioritize non-opioid alternatives for individuals with an elevated risk of substance misuse, HB 804 will:

- Reduce the risk of substance use disorder: By limiting unnecessary opioid prescriptions, this bill helps prevent patients from becoming dependent on these highly addictive drugs.
- Improve patient outcomes: Non-opioid treatments often provide effective pain management with fewer side effects and a lower risk of dependency or overdose.
- Align with best practices: This legislation reflects the growing consensus among medical professionals that non-opioid options should be considered, when possible, for pain management.

PreventEd asks the committee to favorably consider HB804. This legislation represents another strong step forward in protecting the health and well-being of Missourians who are at risk, without requiring a higher level of cost sharing. Sincerely, Adam McBride Director of Advocacy PreventEd



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: HAMPTON WILLIAMS | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 220 HIGH STREET, SUITE B | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LISA DAMICO | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: boatgirl1965@gmail.com | | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 9:42 AM |

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I am in opposition to HB804-Stinnett. I am a chronic pain patient. I suffer every day from physicians having opioid phobia. This phobia is destroying my life. This bill creates more burden on the Dr. It also intrudes on the sanctity of the Dr/patient relationship. The environment that we are living in has caused more chronic pain patients to leave the work force, turn to the streets, die from withdrawals, be bed bound and suicide. I am nearly bed bound because my physician is doing a taper to put me on opioid alternatives. I have a 13 year old daughter that is suffering due to the opioid phobia within Mercy. My long term physician was hired by Mercy and then terminated within 2 months because he prescribed opioids. I was "lucky enough to find a Mercy physician to taper me instead of a hard withdrawal. I went from a functional mother to being nearly bedridden. I have tried opioid alternatives and they do not work for my chronic pain. It is barbaric that our government is allowing this to happen to the citizens of this country. Please do not allow legislation that we do not need.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MARY CREMER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: marycremerjc@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | | SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 5:12 PM |
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I am in opposition to HB804-Stinnett. Opioid phobia is actually a real problem to Drs and patients. This bill creates more burden on the Dr. It also intrudes on the sanctity of the Dr/patient relationship. The environment that we are living in has caused more chronic pain patients to leave the work force, turn to the streets, die from withdrawals, be bed bound and suicide. Please do not allow legislation that we do not need. Thank you, Mary Cremer



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER | | PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432 | |
| REPRESENTING: AMERICA's HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 12:00 AM | |
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