



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 83		DATE: 2/19/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDY BRISCOE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: THE MISSOURI BAR		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 326 MONROE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CECILIA WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-315-5430	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ANGELS OF ADVOCACY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 165 HUFF LN			
CITY: BONNE TERRE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63628
EMAIL: angelsofadvocacy@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:10 PM

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My name is Cecilia Williams, I'm testing on behalf of Bentley and Mason's law. In April 2021 my son Cordell his wife to be Lacey and 4month old grandson Cordell the second were killed by a drunk driver in Jefferson County at Upper Byrnes Mill rd. In May I reached out to my representative Mike Henderson with a idea for legislation to help End impaired driving, and to help those families like mine who find themselves raising children again due to the actions of a impaired driver. Bentley and Mason are the surviving sons of Cordell and Lacey. Sense 2022 forms of this bill has passed in Tennessee, Kentucky, Maine, Texas,south Dakota, Utah and recently in the Cayman Islands and in Korea in 2022, may versions of this bill have and are being introduced across the United States and international. It is my belief that this will not only help the families of victims raising the children left behind but it also gives the offender or future offenders of this kind of crime accountability of their actions. Now we all know no one is going to get rich from this but it will help put food on the table and get the needed supplies for school and clothing, it will help with the financial burden that victims families will be faced with. Bentley and Mason's law is a great option for those who choose to use it versus going after a civil suit. It has been my goal from day one to advocate to make this nationwide. This bill started in Missouri my home state and is sweeping the nation, I pray Missouri is the next state to pass this important bill. I want to say thank you to the sponsor and co sponsors for bringing Bentley and Mason's law to this committee and thank the committee for allowing me to testify on behalf of such a important bill. Cecilia Williams Angels Of Advocacy Victims of Impaired Driving



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHAD STEBBINS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-438-2181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 802 LOCUST			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID KENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BANKERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: CHIEF LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 207 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: dkent@mobankers.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 10:57 AM	

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MBA supports the UFIPA provisions (Sections 214.330 and 469.399 to 469.487) in this bill. We are neutral on the remaining provisions.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2524	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 618 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: dave@moretailers.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 1:24 PM	
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The Missouri Retailers Association supports HB 83.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC D. JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-4726	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 207 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: eric.jennings@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 8:41 PM	
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The Judicial Conference of Missouri supports the proposed statutory amendments to sections 455.010, 455.035, 455.513, 478.001, 488.040, 494.455, and 509.520.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875	
REPRESENTING: INSTITUTE FOR FREE SPEECH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 E HIGH STREET, SUITE 200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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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: 2/19/2025 12:17 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN CHALLIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jchallis@kwm-law.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 5:04 PM

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

My name is John Challis, and I am an estate and trust attorney practicing in St. Louis and I also have the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the Missouri Bar Probate and Trust Division, which has over 1,500 trust and estate attorneys throughout Missouri. I am testifying in favor of three portions of HB 83, which are the portions that have been endorsed by the Missouri Bar. I would like to thank Representative Veit for including these important provisions in HB83 and I would like to thank Chairwoman Parker and the Members of this Committee for having a hearing on these issues. The first portion of this Bill that I would like to speak to are the changes to Chapter 469, which begin on page 27 at Section 469.399 and continues through Section 469.487 on page 70. This is the same language that is in HB608, sponsored by Rep. Thompson, which was heard last week in the Financial Institutions Committee and on which I testified in favor. Essentially, this modernizes the Missouri Principal and Income Act to allow for additional flexibility and potential tax savings for Missouri residents through their trusts and estates. The original Principal & Income Act was good when it was passed in 2001, but it has become outdated and even obsolete in many areas. This is based on the Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act, but this proposal takes all of the best parts of the revised uniform law and conforms it to Missouri law and policy. This legislation was drafted by the Missouri Bar Probate and Trust Division, approved by that Division and the Board of Governors. This Act has been introduced the last three years with unanimous support. It has passed through this Committee and others in years past and came very close to final passage in the Senate last year after being third read and passed in this Chamber. These changes are needed now. The Uniform act has been adopted by 9 states, including Arkansas and Kansas. And every year that we do not pass this, we fall further behind with fiduciaries and citizens looking for options in other states. The second portion of this Bill that I would like to testify in favor of is the Missouri Electronic Wills and Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act, and it begins on page 70 at Section 474.540 and continues through Section 474.564 on page 75. This is the same as HB176, sponsored by Chairwoman Parker, which I testified in favor of when it was heard last week in the General Laws Committee. I understand it passed out of that committee yesterday. This Act was also developed and drafted by the Probate Committee of The Missouri Bar. It was on the Uniform Electronic Wills Act, which was developed by the Uniform Law Commission, and then adapted to existing Missouri law. To be clear, this Act, if passed, would not force any change to the way that wills or estate planning documents are drafted and signed. What it does is create a new way to draft and retain electronic estate planning documents. Fourteen states and two territories allow electronic wills, and without our own statute, we are forced to deal with these documents executed in other states that may or may not comply with Missouri law. We adopted best practices from the Uniform Act and the other states, including extending this to all estate planning documents, addressing revocation, and other practical concerns of the Courts. This Bill was passed out of this Committee the last two years and was also third read and passed out of this Chamber last year. While it was not passed out of the

Senate, that was due to time constraints and not opposition. The final portion that I would like to speak in favor of adds a new Section 474.600 on pages 75-77. This is the same as House Bill 178, sponsored by Chairwoman Parker, which I also testified in favor of when it was heard last week in the General Laws Committee. I understand it was combined with HB176 and passed out of that Committee yesterday. This is a cleanup provision for documents executed during the Governor's emergency Executive Orders signed during the pandemic. There is a concern as to whether those documents are valid and a question as to whether the Executive Orders can override the Statute of Wills, which requires in-person witnessing. This statute allows the estate planning attorney to execute a certificate and then would remove any doubts as to their validity. Similar to the other provisions, this was passed out of this Committee last year, received third reading and passage by the House, and again we ran out of time in the Senate. None of these provisions are controversial or have ever had any opposition. But these are needed provisions to address outdated provisions of Missouri law. Missouri has always been on the forefront of estate planning, which is good for our citizens, our attorneys, and our financial institutions. But we are falling behind our neighbors. We need to modernize Missouri estate planning law so as to not fall even further behind. I would urge your support on these three provisions for passage this year. Should anyone have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will note that I am not taking a position on the balance of HB83.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LIBBY SNYDER		PHONE NUMBER: 312-450-6619	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION		TITLE: SPECIAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 111 N WABASH AVE, STE 1010			
CITY: CHICAGO		STATE: IL	ZIP: 60602
EMAIL: lsnyder@uniformlaws.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 3:00 PM	

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

Protecting children who are the most vulnerable in our community is our duty. House Bill 83 enacts the Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act and provides a needed statutory framework to prohibit unregulated custody transfers of children. • HB 83 addresses certain child custody transfers that might present dangers of various kinds to a child. An unregulated child custody transfer occurs when a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child or an individual with whom a child has been placed for adoption transfers custody of the child without state or court oversight to assure the new custodian is safe and appropriate for the child. • HB 83 protects children by prohibiting a parent from transferring custody of a child to someone beyond family members and certain other specified categories of individuals if the parent intends to abandon the parent's rights and responsibilities regarding the child. • Rather than providing examples of unregulated custody transfers that would violate the Act, HB 83 provides two methods for finding that a custody transfer is exempt from the prohibition of unregulated custody transfers: 1. The transfer of custody occurs through one of the following existing methods for transferring custody of a child: • Adoption or guardianship; • Judicial award of custody; • Placement by or through a child placing agency; or • Other judicial or tribal action. 2. The transfer is by a parent or guardian of the child to one of the following categories of individuals: • A parent or stepparent of the child; • An adult who is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, or who has legal custody or guardianship of the child; • An adult who, at the time of transfer, had a close relationship with the child or the parent or the guardian of the child for a substantial period, and whom the parent or guardian reasonably believes, at the time of the transfer, to be a fit custodian; • An Indian custodian of the child, as defined in ICWA; or • A member of the child's customary family unit recognized by the child's indigenous group under the laws of this state. • HB 83 does not penalize people who are acting in good faith. The Act provides that a person may not receive custody of a child, or act as an intermediary in a transfer of custody of a child, if the person knows or reasonably should know the transfer violates the Act, but that prohibition does not apply if the person, as soon as practicable after the transfer, notifies the Children's Division or law enforcement of the transfer or takes appropriate action to establish custody. • HB 83 is consistent with recommendations from a U.S. Working Group composed of representatives from several federal agencies, state child welfare organizations, and the National Association of Attorneys General. This act is supported by the U.S. Department of State. • HB 83 provides the Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services with authority to investigate alleged transfers in violation of the act, to enforce the act and other state law, and to punish violators. • The Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act been enacted in Colorado, Oklahoma, Washington and Utah and introduced in the District of Columbia, Missouri, and Texas.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LOCHE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-9180	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS		TITLE: COLE COUNTY PA	
ADDRESS: 311 E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK RHOADS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-0505	
REPRESENTING: LEGAL SERVICES OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 1162			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 417-988-2257	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 130 RIEF CT, UNIT B			
CITY: HOLTS SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65043
EMAIL: msmith@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:08 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PARKE STEVENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: parke.stevens@texascountypao.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 2:52 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN MARION		PHONE NUMBER: 573-418-7469	
REPRESENTING: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 421 E DUNKLIN STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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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: 2/19/2025 11:56 PM
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