



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 927		DATE: 3/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
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: LINDA REUTZEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK LUDWIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE SHERMETA		PHONE NUMBER: 727-244-8499	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MAN UP		TITLE: COO	
ADDRESS: 2352 DREW ST.			
CITY: CLEARWATER		STATE: FL	ZIP: 33765
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TIM MCCONVILLE		PHONE NUMBER: 317-287-4577	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MAN UP		TITLE: DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 2650 S. FRANCIS DR.			
CITY: BROOKLINE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65619
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 2:26 PM

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Statistics prove that children do better emotionally, economically, and educationally when there is a father present. While it may not be possible to mend every family, and reconcile every marriage, we can and should do what we can to encourage fathers to be involved in the life of their children – to the extent possible. This bill does that, and it should be adopted.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ZE'EV SMASON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-749-5271	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COALITION FOR JEWISH VALUES MISSOURI		TITLE: RABBI	
ADDRESS: 19 BON HILLS DR.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL: zsmason@cjvalues.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2025 6:28 PM

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Dr. Kathryn Kerns, a professor of psychological sciences at Kent State U. in Ohio, is one of a growing number of researchers creating new tests and techniques that have documented 'The Father Factor'; specifically, how fathers are invaluable in instilling confidence and encouraging their children. In an article in Scientific American titled "Do Fathers Matter? What Science is Telling Us about the Parent We've Overlooked," studies show that when a nurturing father is present in the life of his children there are positive effects on the reproductive development of his daughters. Additionally, research shows the father's positive impact on the cultivation of empathy in both his daughters and sons. In David Blankenhorn's book 'Fatherless America', the author suggests that there are really 'two Americas' -- not Blue vs. Red, Rich vs. Poor, White vs. Minority. Rather, an America with people who have a father, and an America with people who don't. Half of the children growing up today in America are doing so without the presence of a father. This idea echos the powerful observation made by Margaret Mead and others: The supreme test of any civilization is whether it can socialize men by teaching them to be fathers. Blankenhorn says that among the invaluable contributions of fathers, they are 'Sponsors': They transmit important values -- particularly, belief in God. The bedrock of our country is the citizens of this great nation, guiding by the principles, laws and guiding moral values transmitted by our Founding Fathers. The importance of the family unit in general, and of a father in the lives of his children in particular, has tragically become increasingly neglected. From an American, moral, and theological perspective, I heartily support and applaud Rep. Gragg's H.B. 927 on 'Fathership' that will serve to promote the value and importance of fathers for our great state of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AIMEE ROBERTSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: abaimerobertson@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2025 5:30 PM
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By royal decree (EO 25-18), MO no longer celebrates months that can be considered DEI. An entire month dedicated to honoring the importance of fathers fails to remember the importance of mothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, dog owners, cat owners, and obviously reptile owners. It would be like DEI for people with penises and ours is a state that proudly disallows all things DEI. Our Senate is also deeply dedicated to their newly established DOGE efforts to save money and dedicating funds to this month seems less than efficient or financially sound. For as much as I love the fun we could have decorating our Fathership Month trees (think 3-D printed penis and sperm ornaments!), I'm just not sure MO is quite ready for such an esteemed celebratory opportunity just yet.



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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: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2025 11:16 PM
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I am Opposed to this Month, when we already have "Father's Day" Annually and "Father's Day Weekend." This again growing our State Government with the Hiring of another Division Director Salary, Benefits, Pensions and other expenses. Where is this Appropriation going to come from, in additional to funding the Grant Program?



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cdeslp@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 9:24 PM
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Please oppose this bill it is a slap in the face to try to replace a DEI month designed to celebrate diversity equity and inclusion to day that would celebrate once again MEN. Would we be celebrating only the White fathers or ALL fathers? Talk about government waste. How much time has been wasted on this BILL



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WHITNEY MINOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: whitneysbooknook@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 11:20 PM
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Do we have a month that is Mothership Month? Do we have programs to help families gain the skills listed in this bill? If so, then why do we need this? If not, then why is it gendered? Shouldn't it be a program to equip both parents with skills? Ultimately, I am opposed to the Fathership Month and am opposed to limiting this assistance to only fathers.