



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 47</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Emerging Issues</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-3077</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NFIB (NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS)</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E. HIGH</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>Brad.Jones@nfib.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/7/2025 12:35 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANA FRESE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-893-5300</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS; MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT &amp; CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4700 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>dfrese@hsg-group.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 4:13 PM</b>	
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I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers and the Missouri Hospital Association. Not just manufacturers are subject to class action claims. Our hospitals have been subject to class action litigation brought by law firms from out of state soliciting clients in Missouri to file lawsuits based on virtually identical allegations for suits filed throughout the U.S. These suits are very expensive to defend even when the claimed individual damages are nominal. Requiring the court to make findings of fact and conclusions of law is reasonable and is done at the request of the parties in individual lawsuits. Permitting an interlocutory appeal of a class certification order is more efficient and avoids the expenditure of legal fees and expenses until the conclusion of the case to seek an appeal. The required appointment of class counsel provides for greater transparency regarding the qualifications of counsel, claimed attorney's fees, and the role of class counsel. There should not be a presumption to certify a class. Instead the party seeking class certification should prove all elements of class certification as a plaintiff must prove all the elements in an individually filed lawsuit. Senate Bill 47 strikes a reasonable balance, from a public policy standpoint, by imposing consistent standards for class certification in Missouri as compared to what the federal courts use nationwide. Missouri businesses and other defendants are at a disadvantage to businesses from other states if Senate Bill 47 is not adopted. Senate Bill 47 rightly seeks to make Missouri Rule 52.08 consistent with the current federal rule.



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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORGEN SCHLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-4876</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOC</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 E. CAPITAL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JC</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LUKE REED</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-3511</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>428 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-988-2257</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 WEST TRUMAN BOULEVARD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICH AUBUCHON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-1845</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE ASSOC; MO CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>112 E. HIGH ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RYAN ROWDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-9178</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>DIAMOND PET FOODS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>5111 TAYLORS RIDGE CT.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 11:56 PM</b>

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**This Bill need additional Vetting, Debate and Discussion. I want to ensure that all Protections of "Class-Action Lawsuits" are being given to the Missourian Residents and not other Special-Interests.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2025 8:47 PM</b>
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I urge you to oppose SB47 (Trent), which amends Supreme Court Rule 52.08 relating to class actions. The bill creates unnecessary barriers for everyday citizens, harm vulnerable populations, and erode the effectiveness of class actions, a critical tool for holding powerful entities accountable. The bill imposes a "rigorous analysis" standard for class certification, shifting the burden entirely onto plaintiffs. This makes it excessively difficult for individuals, especially in cases involving consumer fraud or environmental harm, to pursue claims against well-funded corporations. The requirement for specific findings and conclusions will also prolong litigation, delaying justice for urgent issues like defective medical devices or predatory lending. The bill repeals the current requirement for court approval and notice to class members before dismissing or settling cases. This risks sidelining class members, particularly in wage theft or discrimination cases, where workers may lose fair compensation. Allowing notice by electronic means may exclude elderly or low-income individuals who lack internet access. The bill also mandates appellate review of certification decisions, enabling defendants to exploit delays and increase costs. This disproportionately harms plaintiffs, especially in cases against pharmaceutical or pesticide companies. Additionally, the focus on appointing "interim counsel" favors well-funded firms, sidelining smaller or public interest attorneys who serve marginalized communities. While the bill claims to ensure "fair, reasonable, and adequate" settlements, they lack meaningful oversight. Class members may be bound by inadequate settlements without a new opportunity to opt out, and objections face unnecessary hurdles, undermining the democratic nature of class actions. The bill prioritizes corporate interests over ordinary citizens, weakening accountability and fairness. I urge you to reject SB47 to protect the integrity of our legal system and preserve class actions as a vital tool for justice.