



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1638		DATE: 4/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 11:52 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT BELL		PHONE NUMBER: 636-221-5717	
REPRESENTING: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1601 E. BROADWAY, #245			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 5:17 AM	
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This bill appears administrative on its face, but it makes structural changes that raise legitimate concerns about governance, accountability, and oversight.

The legislation expands the Alzheimer’s State Plan Task Force while simultaneously removing the requirement that gubernatorial appointees receive the advice and consent of the Senate.

That is not a neutral adjustment.

It is a direct reduction in legislative oversight over appointments to a body that influences statewide health policy, resource allocation, and long-term strategic planning.

When a task force is charged with shaping policy responses to a growing public health crisis, the integrity and vetting of its membership matters. Removing Senate confirmation weakens that safeguard.

Additionally, the bill extends the life of the task force through 2033. A long-term extension without corresponding increases in accountability mechanisms, performance benchmarks, or legislative review raises concerns about institutional permanence without measurable outcomes. If this body is to continue for nearly another decade, there should be clear standards for evaluating effectiveness, not just continued operation.

The expansion of membership, while framed as inclusive, also increases the complexity of the body without addressing how consensus will be achieved or how recommendations will be prioritized. Larger bodies often dilute accountability, making it more difficult to identify who is responsible for outcomes or lack thereof.

The reporting structure also warrants scrutiny.

While periodic reports are required, the bill does not strengthen enforcement, transparency, or consequences tied to those reports. Without meaningful mechanisms to ensure implementation or legislative follow-through, reporting risks becoming procedural rather than impactful.

Legislative Notice:

Let the record reflect the following:

This legislation removes Senate advice and consent for gubernatorial appointments to a state task force that exercises influence over public health policy, thereby reducing a traditional check within the separation of powers framework.

The extension of the task force through 2033, absent enhanced oversight provisions or performance accountability measures, may result in the continuation of a state entity without sufficient legislative review of its effectiveness or necessity.

The expansion of membership without corresponding structural reforms raises concerns regarding operational efficiency, accountability, and the ability of the task force to produce actionable, results-driven policy recommendations.

For these reasons, I stand in opposition.