



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1767</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:58 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>DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-600-6018</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1352</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. CHARLES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63302</b>
EMAIL: <b>dlb@missouriequity.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 1:36 PM</b>	

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

**MOEEP supports this bill. Though have consistently gone on record opposing Parents' Bills of Rights over five sessions, we think this is the right bill a the right time. Our opposition has been because previous bills send an adversarial message to educators, and seem to want to indoctrinate students. Since advocate for safe spaces for EVERYONE--students, educators, and parents--and this bill promotes a collaborative relationship among stakeholders which has been sorely lacking, we join in the support of HB 1767.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL WESTEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 10:39 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. I SUPPORT HB 1767.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE HARRIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>615-202-3579</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>407 S 6TH ST</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65205</b>
EMAIL: <b>mharris@msta.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>OTTO FAJEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3202</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI NEA</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1810 E. ELM STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JERE HOCHMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:31 PM</b>	
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Trust the teachers. Trust principals. Trust Districts. That which is valid in this bill is already established and followed by the professionals. They work with children, parents, and colleagues every day and no two days are alike! They and their systems make it work well! If not 100%, there are systems in place to address them.

1. Parents already retain every "right" listed in this bill.
2. What is your definition of "treatment"?
3. What is your definition of "immutable characteristic?" Why is this in the summary but not the law?
4. Why does the summary include "treatment" be equal about race, gender and other characteristics but the law SINGLES OUT race? The summary includes "immutable characteristics." A learning disability qualifies as an immutable characteristics (by definitions I could find). Can you reconcile that with the language as written? "Treatment" (?), then, as you state it would apply to children where the consequences of a circumstance may be dependent on its connection to the disability or not (not excuse the circumstance, but how to address it). Check with and trust the professionals.

The majority of this bill is covered in District policies as they should be and in DESE guidance. It is unnecessary and overreaching. The rest is vague with statements of assumptions that are invalid or misleading.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAVIS DEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-3785</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION</b>		TITLE: <b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST</b>
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 261</b>		
CITY: <b>MARYVILLE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64468</b>
EMAIL: <b>staff2@fhe-mo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 10:59 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**March 4, 2026**

**HB 1767**

**Introduced by Representative Ed Lewis**

**In this bill, page 1, line 15- 17, "parents" are identified as first "teachers" of their children.**

**Following, in the bill language, is listing of rights of "parents" and "teachers" (160.1053 and 160.1054)**

**This seems to create a confusion of definitions.**

**As a homeschool parent and teacher since 1985, I sometimes paid other teachers (tutors) to instruct my students in subjects such as music, science, math . Many homeschool families choose to participate in co-op type education opportunities.**

**For many of the "rights" described for the section (160. 1053) there is nothing implicit or explicit about such rights being applicable to ONLY public school settings.**

**I respectfully submit that it would be important to specify in HB 1767 that the teachers are public school teachers. Likewise, it is important to specify that the parents are those who have children enrolled in public school.**

**Thank you.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 7:09 AM</b>	
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HB 1767 creates statutory “rights” that are either already governed by existing law or are drafted in a manner that conflicts with established constitutional and federal education frameworks.

First, the bill declares that teachers possess a statutory “right” to exercise freedom of speech, religion, and expression of opinions while performing their duties (§160.1054). Public employees do not possess unrestricted First Amendment rights in the performance of official duties. Courts have consistently recognized that school districts retain authority to regulate employee speech made pursuant to professional responsibilities. By codifying a generalized statutory right without reference to those limitations, the bill risks creating a conflict between state statutory language and controlling federal constitutional doctrine.

Second, several provisions overlap with or potentially interfere with federal privacy and education requirements. Access to student records, data collection, and disclosure of information are already governed by federal statutes such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and related regulatory frameworks. Creating additional statutory “rights” without clearly subordinating them to federal law invites inconsistent interpretation and exposes local educational agencies to competing compliance obligations.

Third, the provision prohibiting any attempt to encourage a student to withhold information from a parent, except where disclosure could reasonably result in abuse or neglect (§160.1053), is drafted using vague standards.

Terms such as “encouraged” and “reasonably result” are not defined. School personnel subject to mandatory reporting obligations may face uncertainty regarding how to comply simultaneously with this statute and existing reporting requirements under Missouri law.

Fourth, the bill imposes content-based restrictions on training or strategies that reference race, gender, or similar classifications (§160.1055). Restrictions of this type raise potential constitutional concerns when they operate as viewpoint-based limitations on speech or instruction within public institutions.

In addition to these issues, the bill imposes new policy, reporting, and administrative requirements on every local educational agency without specifying funding mechanisms or clear implementation standards.

For these reasons, HB 1767 introduces substantial legal ambiguity and potential conflict with existing

constitutional and federal frameworks governing public education.

**Legislative Notice:**

**HB 1767 establishes broad statutory rights affecting student privacy, employee speech, and educational policy administration. Several provisions overlap with or potentially conflict with federal statutes governing student records, nondiscrimination obligations, and public-employee constitutional rights. Statutes drafted in this manner risk inconsistent application across local educational agencies and invite judicial interpretation to reconcile state provisions with controlling federal law.**

**The General Assembly should carefully evaluate these conflicts before adopting statutory language that may require judicial clarification.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT WOODRUFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>540-338-5600</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>37531 CURLE LN</b>			
CITY: <b>PURCELLVILLE</b>		STATE: <b>VA</b>	ZIP: <b>20132</b>
EMAIL: <b>scottw@hslda.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:48 AM</b>	

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Home School Legal Defense Association opposes this bill. While it is probably INTENDED to apply only in the context of public schools, the language is worded so broadly that it could be construed to apply where it is not intended--to home schools, FPE schools, private schools, home school co-ops, etc. We request an amendment to make it explicitly clear that it applies only to public schools. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VICTORIA ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN ATHEISTS</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE POLICY SPECIALIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>225 CRISTIANI STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>CRANFORD</b>		STATE: <b>NJ</b>	ZIP: <b>07016</b>
EMAIL: <b>vanderson@atheists.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 11:54 AM</b>	

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

Dear Chairperson Lewis and Members of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:

American Atheists, on behalf of its more than 1,800 constituents in Missouri, writes in opposition to HB 1767, a bill which would undermine education in Missouri public schools and needlessly endanger vulnerable children. Under the pretext of a concern for “parents’ rights,” the bill creates a host of draconian restrictions on teachers and school staff. We strongly urge you to reject this harmful bill.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. As advocates for nonsectarian public education, American Atheists supports students’ rights and opposes efforts to erode the quality of education they receive.

So-called “parents’ rights” bills place draconian restrictions on teachers and school staff, undermining the quality of education available to students. For example, HB 1767 would give parents “the right to review” the curricula being used in their children’s classrooms. Public school curricula are developed by experts professionally trained in education and curriculum development to ensure the best educational outcomes for students across the country. HB 1767 would invite parents who lack these qualifications to interfere with the normal operations of schools. Their personal objections to instructional materials would not only impact their own children, but supersede the will of other students and their families.

While parents have the right to make decisions for their own families, those rights do not include deciding what is appropriate for all families. Missouri’s public schools serve students from diverse backgrounds, encompassing a wide range of beliefs, values, and lived experiences. Classroom curricula should reflect and respect this diversity rather than being dictated by the preferences of the loudest or most domineering parents. Allowing one group of parents to impose their objections on everyone else undermines the core mission of public education: to provide an inclusive, equitable, and high-quality learning environment for all students.

HB 1767 would also harm LGBTQ+ students by denying them a safe place in Missouri’s public schools.

**The bill would potentially subject all state employees to disciplinary action if they even appear to encourage a student to withhold information from their parents, such as if a student is struggling with their sense of self and seeks guidance from a trusted adult at the school. In other words, a teacher or counselor could risk their job by offering any support to an LGBTQ+ student without informing the students' parents. This could directly threaten the well-being and safety of vulnerable students.**

**Missouri's public schools are meant to be a "great equalizer," safe and welcoming learning environments in which all students can receive a quality education. Lawmakers must not create an imbalance of power between parents' responsibilities to ensure the safety and well-being of their children and the fundamental rights of all students and guardians. We strongly urge you to reject this unnecessary and harmful bill.**

**Should you have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 1767, please contact me at [vanderson@atheists.org](mailto:vanderson@atheists.org).**

**Sincerely,  
Victoria Anderson  
State Policy Specialist  
American Atheists**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE LODEWEGEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3550 AMAZONAS</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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