



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1769</b>		DATE: <b>2/2/2026</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>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY DECLUE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 6:41 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BEV EHLEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 11:59 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BYRON KEELIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-402-0655</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM PRINCIPLE</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 2</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63022</b>
EMAIL: <b>freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2026 5:22 PM</b>	

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On behalf of the Freedom Principle and our members, we strongly support House Bill 1746, the "AI Non-Sentience and Responsibility Act," because it is essential for our laws to explicitly recognize and protect the unique value and dignity of human beings in the face of rapidly advancing artificial intelligence technology.

As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated, capable of simulating human-like cognitive functions and decision-making, there is rising confusion—and, at times, deliberate conflation—between machine reasoning and genuine human consciousness. HB 1746 wisely reaffirms that AI systems are not sentient and cannot hold legal personhood or enjoy rights reserved for human beings. By doing so, our state draws a clear boundary between the creators and users of technology and the technology itself, preserving the fundamental principle that only living individuals possess inherent dignity, consciousness, and autonomy.

Protecting human dignity means ensuring that persons—by virtue of their humanity alone—may never be equated with, replaced by, or supplanted by artificial systems, regardless of how advanced those systems become. HB 1746 ensures that legal status, such as marriage, property ownership, or corporate authority, cannot be granted to AI, preserving these foundational roles for people alone. Furthermore, the bill holds human individuals and entities responsible for the actions and impacts of the AI systems they develop, own, or deploy. This not only safeguards public welfare but also prevents the dangerous precedent of shifting blame or liability onto non-sentient machines.

At its heart, this legislation is about accountability: it reinforces that all technological innovation must remain subordinate to human interests and moral responsibilities. It requires oversight, risk assessments, transparent lines of responsibility, and prohibits the use of corporate structures to evade accountability when harm occurs. In this way, HB 1746 is a necessary and timely affirmation of our shared commitment to uphold the dignity, safety, and rights of every person.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB 1746 and to stand in favor of clear, principled protections for human dignity in an era of rapid technological change.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELIZABETH KAYSER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-893-8065</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>KAYSER AND ASSOCIATES LLC</b>		TITLE: <b>ATTORNEY – TALK SHOW HOST – ENTREPRENEUR – SPEAKER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1843 DOUGHERTY TERRACE DR.</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63021</b>
EMAIL: <b>attykayser@kayserlawfirm.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 7:30 AM</b>	
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I am a legal spokesperson and thought leader on AI and make this a focus on my talk show on Newstalk Stl.

I have also stood up and founded an AI roundtable that consists of several Missouri state reps, a Senator, and the director of AI at Washington University. Governor Kehoe's AI task force leader is also on the AI roundtable. We are drafting AI hyper scale infrastructure guidelines.

I have had other AI thought leaders on my talk show and AI experts.

I'm also an attorney and I strongly support that AI never be given legal personhood status. That liability lands squarely on the developer and deployer of the AI tool. That no AI immunity should ever be granted. Our existing product liability law should apply.

That human beings are always in control and that human beings are always accountable for any damage that AI creates.

I support this bill as it also preserves innovation and keeps the state of Missouri competitive.

I can be reached at 636-893-8065

Elizabeth Kayser, Esq.  
Attorney/AI policy analyst  
Host of talkshow "Straight Lines". NewstalkSTL



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KELLSY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 9:47 PM</b>
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I am in support of this bill. We have historically taken a very long time to regulate newer technologies and I appreciate the proactive nature of defining AI as non-sentient. The sections about marriage, managerial replacements, and corporate shielding from responsibility are paramount in today's age of scapegoating responsibility and heavily reliance on untrustworthy technology. Thank you for protecting people.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEVIN HERTEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RILEY MCEVOY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2026 10:33 PM</b>
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Thank you for working to regulate AI. With the, what feels like, rapid implementation of this new technology, it is good to know our lawmakers our working to protect our interests. My only criticism is that this law feels very broad and perhaps leaves many problems unresolved and works to address problems that haven't come up. If for example the issue of AI being made an administrator for a company is happen I am glad it is being regulated. However I have not heard of such things, I have mostly heard about the layoffs caused by an AI efficiency increase.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TIMOTHY FABER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 9:49 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>WALTER HAYES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2026 3:31 PM</b>
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I'm submitting written testimony in support of House Bills 1746 and 1769. I believe these bills wisely declare artificial intelligence (AI) as non-sentient tools, denying them any form of legal personhood, marriage rights, corporate roles, or property ownership. This prevents legal entanglements and ensures AI remains under human control, avoiding scenarios where machines could evade accountability or disrupt societal norms.

The legislation assigns clear liability to developers, manufacturers, owners, and users for AI-caused harms, mandating safety mechanisms, oversight, and risk assessments. By piercing corporate veils in evasion cases and requiring notifications for severe incidents, it promotes ethical innovation while protecting public welfare, property, and safety.

In a time where AI is quickly invading every area of our lives, these measures safeguard against misuse without stifling progress. They align with Missouri's values of responsibility and prudence, ensuring humans—not algorithms—bear the consequences of technology. I urge passage of these forward-thinking bills.



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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>2/1/2026 8:58 AM</b>	

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**HB 1769 constitutes an improper legislative encroachment on the judiciary and exemplifies a growing pattern of duplicative bill introductions used to obscure scrutiny rather than improve lawmaking.**

**Missouri courts already possess and routinely exercise the authority to determine liability, negligence, fault allocation, and veil-piercing under settled common-law principles applied to specific facts.**

**By attempting to statutorily predefine liability outcomes, impose vague and indeterminate duties, and authorize veil-piercing in advance, HB 1769 intrudes into functions constitutionally reserved to the courts, violating separation-of-powers and due-process principles.**

**Compounding this defect, HB 1769 is substantively duplicative of other AI-related bills introduced this session, differing in form but not in legal effect.**

**Reintroducing the same proposal under multiple bill numbers does not cure constitutional infirmities; it documents an effort to diffuse accountability and normalize judicial encroachment through repetition.**

**Courts assess substance over volume, and this pattern will be evaluated cumulatively, not excused procedurally.**

**The real violation is structural: the General Assembly is attempting to legislate judicial conclusions while multiplying identical bills to avoid focused constitutional review. HB 1769 should be rejected.**

**Footnote**

**State ex rel. Diehl v. O'Malley, 95 S.W.3d 82 (Mo. 2003).**

**(Under Missouri's separation-of-powers doctrine, the legislature may not encroach upon the judiciary's authority to apply and develop common-law doctrines—including negligence, fault allocation, and veil-piercing—on a case-by-case basis.)**