



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AARON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABBEGALE CORDRAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 7:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL STEPHENSON (MINOR)		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AIDEN ENGLISH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALBANI DOWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 6:25 AM

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

This could save several lives to have so much more to experience if given the chance.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALBERTO AND SYLVIA BARRERA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
For the children and adults with disabilities!!			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEXA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEXIS Y		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. in favor of this bill!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALICIA WINTERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Alicia Winters, and I am a special education teacher. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 1840, establishing the Purple Alert System and expanding specialized training for first responders working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

In my classroom, I work with students who have developmental disabilities, including autism. One of the most serious safety concerns we face is wandering, also known as elopement. When a child or adult with a developmental disability wanders, they are not simply “missing.” They may be nonverbal, have limited awareness of danger, or be unable to respond to their name. Every minute matters.

We currently have Amber Alerts to protect abducted children and Silver Alerts for vulnerable seniors. House Bill 1840 fills a critical gap by creating a Purple Alert System specifically for individuals with developmental disabilities who are at risk. This will allow for quicker notification, coordinated response efforts, and increased public awareness in the crucial early moments when outcomes are most dependent on time.

Equally important is the bill’s focus on specialized training for first responders. Individuals with developmental disabilities may not respond to commands in typical ways. They may avoid eye contact, engage in repetitive behaviors, or react to sirens and flashing lights with fear rather than cooperation. Proper training equips law enforcement and emergency personnel to respond safely, calmly, and effectively — reducing the risk of misunderstanding and increasing the likelihood of a safe return.

As an educator, I see the anxiety families carry every day knowing how quickly a wandering incident can occur. This legislation not only improves response times but also provides peace of mind to families who already navigate extraordinary challenges.

House Bill 1840 is a practical, compassionate, and necessary step forward in protecting some of our most vulnerable community members.

I respectfully urge you to support and pass House Bill 1840.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALISON MOOS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 1:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALMYRA SANDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 9:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYNNAH WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:38 AM

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I have an autistic son and this would be beneficial for not only my family but several other families with children with disabilities



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSA OLVERA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 8:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I believe when anybody goes missing from a child to an adult or elderly person that we must be aware and on the look out for them. This would help so many people and families when their world feels like it's falling apart that other people are helping them without even knowing them personally. During our current times sometimes a little help from someone can go a long way for another individual without even knowing. And that's why I'm in support of bill HB 1840



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSIA STOVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:39 AM

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

As a parent of a level 3 child with autism, my child eloping and going missing is a very real and heart-stopping concern. He has eloped in the past and I feel relief that a system to find him is being proposed and fine tuned. I believe this will help keep many children alive.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA BURNAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:02 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA GERHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:21 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA HARTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. MO			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER VOGEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This letter of support confirms my support of the Special Needs Alert Missouri House Bill 1840. This legislation helps ensure that first responders have access to important details such as communication needs or medical considerations for any person who may have developmental or intellectual disability. That kind of awareness can prevent misunderstandings, reduce unnecessary escalation, and ultimately save lives. Families of individuals with disabilities deserve peace of mind knowing that law enforcement and emergency personnel are better equipped to respond appropriately and compassionately. Missouri House Bill 1840 promotes safety, dignity, and informed response by strengthening trust between families and public safety agencies while creating a more inclusive and responsive system for everyone.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY FULTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:29 PM

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

We have a friend who lost their 4 year old autistic son who drowned in a pond.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 1:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
It could save lives			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY WIRSIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The fact that this isn't in place already is shocking. Time is of the essence when a person with special needs is missing and the ability of first responders to know how to respond in these situations is crucial. ALL first responders should have basic training in situations for individuals with special needs.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDRES GARCIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:59 PM
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I've had a baby cousin lose their life from drowning in a lake because he was lost.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDRIA BERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:08 PM
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This letter of support confirms my support of the Special Needs Alert Missouri House Bill 1840. This legislation helps ensure that first responders have access to important details such as communication needs or medical considerations for any person who may have developmental or intellectual disability. That kind of awareness can prevent misunderstandings, reduce unnecessary escalation, and ultimately save lives. Families of individuals with disabilities deserve peace of mind knowing that law enforcement and emergency personnel are better equipped to respond appropriately and compassionately. Missouri House Bill 1840 promotes safety, dignity, and informed response by strengthening trust between families and public safety agencies while creating a more inclusive and responsive system for everyone.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGIE KENNEDY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:11 PM
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This letter of support confirms my support of the Special Needs Alert Missouri House Bill 1840. This legislation helps ensure that first responders have access to important details such as communication needs or medical considerations for any person who may have developmental or intellectual disability. That kind of awareness can prevent misunderstandings, reduce unnecessary escalation, and ultimately save lives. Families of individuals with disabilities deserve peace of mind knowing that law enforcement and emergency personnel are better equipped to respond appropriately and compassionately. Missouri House Bill 1840 promotes safety, dignity, and informed response by strengthening trust between families and public safety agencies while creating a more inclusive and responsive system for everyone.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTHONY JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTOINETTE REDMOND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 5:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Imagine you are in the grocery store and suddenly your child is gone. You call their name. Landon, Ledger, Michael, Emily, Hanna, Elias, Henry, Win, Claire, Benjamin, Brenden, Nancy, Sarah, Rachel, Tiffany, Matt, Brayden, and Brooklyn.

No response. Your heart races. Your palms sweat. Panic sets in.

You raise your voice in hopes your child will recognize you are unable to locate them.

Now imagine your child cannot respond to their name. They cannot tell someone their address, their parent's phone number, or even that they need help.

This is not a fictional story. For families like mine and for thousands across Missouri wandering is not rare.. It is a daily reality. This is why I am in support of this Missouri House Bill 1840.

Children and adults with developmental disabilities may leave safe environments without understanding the immediate danger, without the ability to communicate their vital information, and without the instinct to seek help from strangers. In these situations, every second matters. As a mom of two children with special needs and daughter of a Kansas City Fire Captain, I understand how quickly receiving critical and accurate information is during an emergency.

This bill is not about creating something new. It is about strengthening our existing alert system. Buzz Buzz, when you phone buzzes uncontrollably, we have been conditioned to understand an Amber Alert has been issued. Our societal vigilance heightens in order to locate these children.

In 2024, 189 AMBER Alerts were issued nationwide involving 236 children. 188 cases resulted in recovery, and 47 children were recovered directly because of the alert. This proves alert systems save lives. The Amber Alert system does not reflect the unique risks for individuals with disabilities or special needs, which is why a specialized alert system would ensure first responders and public have critical information. .

This legislation is about prevention. It is about response time. And most importantly, it is about saving lives.

Families should not have to fear that their loved one's disability will delay the urgency of a search. By strengthening and clarifying the alert system, Missouri can demonstrate that the safety of individuals with disabilities is a priority not an afterthought.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill and provide families with the protection, visibility, and rapid response we deserve. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY HOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:10 PM
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This would greatly benefit the safety of all disabled people. Please pass.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY QUIGG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:23 AM
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I support this bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLINN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:04 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BAILEY JEFFRIES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BILLY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:48 PM

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

I think this is very important as someone who has family members with disabilities. I think this would help us become a safer and more responsible community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BOBBI QUICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son had a diagnosis of Autism in the early 90's. I was told he could possibly escape my home during a sleep state. This is the worst nightmare of all parents. No matter your kids diagnosis. I was a lucky my child never tried to leave home. Autistic children love water. My son had access to a pool at his grandparents house so he became a adequate swimmer. Those that do not have access or lessons still seek out pounds or lakes. They love water. We need a better system to alert if a child with a disability is is missing. Amber alerts go out after 24 hours. That is too late for a disabled child. It should respond immediately!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDY WELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 12:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This alert system is a wonderful idea and will help so much in the event someone's loved one turns up missing. I've seen several stories over the years where at risk adults and children with developmental disabilities have gone missing (most times wandering off) and some were found safe, but others were found injured or even worse, deceased. I have several friends who have children who have a developmental disability and I know how much this means to them. This alert will not stop someone from wandering off, but it will help get the word out quickly and allow for there to be extra sets of eyes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIANNA SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTNEY WINTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 12:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BROOKE OWENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 3:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BROWNELL ALYSSA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:19 AM

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Speaking mostly on behalf of children with Autism, they deserve the same attention and support. When a child with autism goes missing the first place responders should be looking is body's of water.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAITLYN HAYES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMRYN KENNEDY HOLLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAREN HAYES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARLEE LANDE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 10:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 6 year old with autism is also drawn to water and I do everything I can to keep him from eloping but things happen so quick. He is the sweetest boy, but it was put in his iep that he is easily manipulated by others into dangerous situations, because he doesn't understand and he is just that oblivious to all the dangers. My greatest fear is if he wanders and the what ifs that could happen to him. I also work for the Belton School District and the loss of RJ, who was in my son's class, devastated our community. Our most vulnerable need protection and safety just like everyone else. We can achieve that with the help of our community and the color purple.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARRIE PHELPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a mother of a child with profound autism. If he was even out of my sight for 5 minutes, he could be in grave danger. As he gets older that could also pose a risk to others not because he would mean to but he needs constant supervision. I have submitted his information to local authorities with a description of him and our property when he was very young. It would be a great idea to have an option for parents and caretakers to submit this information with a current photo so it could be released immediately. I for one would be frantic and need to release information immediately. Too many autistic children wander or bolt and it takes too long for someone to find them. If people were aware to look out and notice it may save some of these children and adults with autism. Seeing a teenage boy walking around even if oddly would not get peoples attention by itself.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CASSANDRA NEWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

i agree with this!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CASSONDRA STONER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHY BUNGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 2:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
There is no time to waste when a child/person with a disability is missing! So very important!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHAD MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

With children that have developmental disabilities, it's absolutely critical should they go missing that everyone locally is notified so they can be on the lookout. Even a few minutes can mean the difference between life and death. This legislation could prevent serious injury and death among children who are more vulnerable than their peers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES ROBERT BRANSCOMBE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA SIMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE NICHOLS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 4:24 PM

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This is important and needs to be passed. Children who are autistic, for example, are often drawn to water. Knowing this and focusing searching efforts might save lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER RICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 9:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I support this bill			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY WEILERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:49 PM

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

Different disabilities each have their own things to look out for. With this alert, people can be told if it's a specific disability, and they'll know better about what to do. For example, Autism draws the person to water. If there was a warning to go out, and everyone was made aware the child was autistic, everyone would know to look around and watch their ponds or pools.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CIARA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:05 PM

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

I am submitting testimony in support of the purple alert bill. Purple alert is an amazing idea and would provide more support for those in our community with disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CIARRA TAVARES-GIRSBACK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:52 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
This can save so many children's lives			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONSTANCE BREIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 12:01 PM

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As a parent of a child with disabilities and as a parent who has witnessed two families in my life experience loss of a child, I believe this is very important.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CRYSTAL WARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 1:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAKOTA JACK TRABUE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:28 AM

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

I have a 5 year old son about to turn 6 this April he is level 3 autism spectrum disorder. He is non verbal he doesn't sense danger he elopes from time to time on us. This would help not only us but other families that have kids with asd



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE ROCHA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning, Chairman Holly Jones and committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Danielle Rocha, and I live in Cass County, residing in Peculiar, Missouri. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1840, which establishes a new special needs alert system. I am the one who brought this alert system proposal to Representative Sherri Gallick.

I am the mother of two beautiful young boys named Kyrie and Kodi. Kyrie and Kodi are identical twins, both diagnosed with nonverbal autism. As I have learned to navigate the autism world with my boys, it has come to my attention that there are no designated alert systems or adequate resources to help locate missing individuals with intellectual disabilities in the state of Missouri. Both of my boys are drawn to bodies of water and lack an understanding of dangerous situations, such as street safety and stranger danger. Neither understands basic commands like "stop" or "come here". If they were to ever elope from my care, they would be at high risk of injury or worse. I know firsthand the terror that strikes at even the thought of a loved one wandering off and going missing. This bill helps close the gap in Missouri's safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

In Cass County, we recently lost a young nonverbal, autistic boy to elopement. He was reported missing around 2 pm but was not found until 10:30 pm. He had drowned in a nearby pond. An Amber alert was not issued because he was not considered a kidnapped person. The family had to rely solely on social media to alert the community of their missing child. This new alert system would enable critical information to be disseminated to the community immediately, resulting in the quicker assembly of search parties and essential resources to prevent this tragedy from happening again. This new alert system will change lives by improving rapid communication efforts to find missing individuals, increasing safety in the community for those with disabilities, and saving countless lives by intervening in elopement cases immediately. While the Amber Alert is for children who have been abducted and the Silver Alert is for seniors, those with intellectual disabilities fall into an underserved segment and do not qualify for current alert systems. This new alert system would ensure that law enforcement and the public are notified immediately using a system already proven to save lives. Additionally, Bill 1840 includes vital crisis intervention team training to help law enforcement acquire the tools to de-escalate and assist individuals who are missing and at risk of harm in getting to safety. This isn't just a concern for families; it is a statistical emergency. There has steadily been an increase in autism diagnoses in recent years. In April 2025, the CDC announced a rise in autism diagnoses, increasing from 1 in 38 children to 1 in 31 children. That's a 3.2% increase since 2022. Children with autism, like Kyrie and Kodi, are at higher risk for elopement than their average peers and 160 times more likely to drown while missing. Drowning accounts for 91% of all deaths following wandering incidents. About half of children and youth with autism spectrum disorder were reported to wander. Of those children, 1 in 4 were missing long enough to cause concern and were most commonly in danger

of drowning or traffic injury. While we often view wandering as a childhood behavior, adults with autism are at risk, too. Nearly 22% of autistic adults elope at least once. Adults with autism often retain a sensory-seeking attraction to water and lack danger awareness, posing a risk of drowning before recovery. In Missouri, there are thousands of miles of unmonitored shoreline, ponds, and rivers making drowning while eloping a real threat to safe recovery. The new alert system would be more than just a notification; it's a life-saving intervention program for both youth and adults.

For the reasons I have shared in my testimony, I urge the committee to vote "Do Pass" on Bill 1840. This life-saving measure will protect the most vulnerable citizens and give their families peace of mind. Thank you for your time and service to this state. I am happy to answer any questions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DARIEN BLAKENEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:08 AM

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I believe such a system is a tremendous need when at-risk individuals don't meet the required criteria for other alerts, this would provide a similar means of community support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVIN SAMUELSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:51 AM

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special needs and is in honor of Joey Halls grandbaby who passed 8 months ago.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE REED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 5:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,
Our names are Debbie and Kevin. We are the grandparents of RJ, the four-year-old who went missing last year and passed away.
There is no greater joy than hearing your grandchild call you Grandma, Granny, Poppy, or Grandpa. That is one of the most precious sounds in the world. RJ was a beautiful, fun-loving little boy, and we will never hear those words from him again.
The night he went missing was the most horrific night of our lives. We saw people from every walk of life come together to help — hundreds of them. As soon as they heard the news, they came searching. They walked, rode ATVs and horses, and called his name.
But it was too late.
It took too long for the news to spread. If those hundreds of people had received an instant alert, maybe one of them would have known he might run toward the nearest pond. Maybe, just maybe, that awareness could have made the difference.
We cannot bear the thought of another family experiencing what ours has endured. From the depth of our hearts, we respectfully ask you to pass this bill and do everything possible to protect vulnerable children and ensure faster response when every second matters.
Respectfully,?Debbie and Kevin



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBRA NEUHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 6:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have a grandson on the spectrum and I believe it is important to educate first responders how to handle their needs. Often times searching for lost or missing children that are neurodivergent have a tendency to fall to harm. PLEASE pass this bill to protect the special needs children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA EGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 8:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DORIS CLUTTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 2:55 PM

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

I am in full support of this bill to protect this precious, innocent and vulnerable population!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DREW LAFFERTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 5:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DUSTIN EGERSETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: EARL SIMMS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-289-4303	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PARAQUAD		TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63376
EMAIL: esimms@paraquad.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:07 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Testimony in Support of HB 1840

To: The House Committee on Children and Families

From: Earl Simms, Paraquad Communications and Public Policy Manager

Date: February 17, 2026

Re: Support for the Establishment of the Purple Alert System

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Paraquad champions equity and independence for people with disabilities through services, partnerships, education, and advocacy. As an organization where more than 50% of our board and staff are people with disabilities, we speak from a place of lived experience and professional expertise.

Paraquad strongly supports HB 1840, which would create the Purple Alert System within the Department of Public Safety. This legislation addresses a critical gap in our state's emergency notification infrastructure by providing a dedicated tool to assist in the location of missing individuals with developmental disabilities.

While Missouri successfully utilizes Amber Alerts for children and Silver Alerts for seniors, individuals with developmental disabilities—including those with autism, Down syndrome, or intellectual disabilities—often fall into a dangerous middle ground. These individuals may wander or become lost due to their disability but may not meet the age criteria for existing systems.

For many in the disability community, "wandering" is a serious safety concern. A person with a developmental disability may be unable to communicate their needs, recognize traffic hazards, or identify a safe person to ask for help. In these cases, time is of the essence. The Purple Alert System ensures that law enforcement and the public are mobilized immediately when a "credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm" is identified.

At Paraquad, our mission is to ensure people with disabilities can live independently in their own

homes and communities. True independence requires a safety net that recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of our community. By integrating the Purple Alert System with the State Highway Patrol, MoDOT, and local law enforcement, this bill provides a proactive solution that protects the lives of Missourians while respecting their right to live in the community rather than in restrictive settings.

We appreciate that this bill requires the Department of Public Safety to coordinate with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services. This cross-departmental approach ensures that the system is designed with a deep understanding of developmental disabilities. Furthermore, the fiscal analysis suggests that the Highway Patrol already has much of the necessary infrastructure in place, making this a common-sense and efficient expansion of public safety.

The Purple Alert System is more than just a notification—it is a commitment by the State of Missouri to value the lives and safety of its citizens with developmental disabilities. It provides families and caregivers with peace of mind and provides the disability community with a vital protection.

Paraquad urges this committee to vote "DO PASS" on HB 1840. We look forward to working with the General Assembly to ensure Missouri remains a leader in disability rights and public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Simms
Communications and Public Policy Manager
Paraquad
5240 Oakland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELI BARRERA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 5:03 PM

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

I Fully support this bill as a proud Missourian and hope it comes to pass. This legislation is much needed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY THIBODEAUX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMMANUEL AMOAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMME		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:58 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
In support of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EUGENE CANALES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 10:35 PM

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

Necessary alterations of the systems for missing persons with certain disabilities, public awareness, and updated police training.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FELIX GRIFFIN JR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 1:17 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRED REISS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 11:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER: 219-229-1104	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS; PHOENIX HOME & HOSPICE CARE; WOODHAVEN, INC.		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1219			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Phoenix Home & Hospice Care strongly support this legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRACE FONSECA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:50 PM

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

I have a special needs son who elopes if given the chance, and he has gotten away once and I will forever hold that fear in my heart. I pray this bill can be passed to help with that.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HALEY ROTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HALI RAUER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER MAHLBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 11:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY HALE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 1:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I support this bill.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOPE SKEENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:07 AM

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Cannot attend in person, but I fully support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAANA HODGES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 2:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACKELINE NEWSOME		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I am in support of this new Bill.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAIME DIAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 2:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES PERRIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in total support of updating the standards requirements of HB1840. I believe that the enhancements will hopefully prevent another tragic event like RJ's. Please pass the legislation in hopes of preventing another tragic loss.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAYMEE LAKEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNI MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 8:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BLIVEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 9:24 AM

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

As a professional that personally works with young children with development disabilities this is a long overdue necessity and will help save lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CASIDA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA TOLLIE TOLLIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My family suffered the loss of precious Raymond Mikel O'Keefe Jr. He was an autistic 4 yr old boy that wandered off and drowned. Our family will never be the same. It is important to have actions in place when this happens and check near water first. With love and respect.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSTHOMAS III		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 11:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL WHITELEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Every minute counts when a loved one goes missing, particularly when that individual has a developmental, cognitive, or intellectual disability and may not be able to call for help, navigate environmental dangers, or communicate with first responders.

Currently, gaps exist in our emergency alert systems that leave vulnerable members of our community, such as children and adults with autism, brain injuries, and other cognitive impairments, without a tailored, immediate response when they disappear.

I strongly support the establishment of the Purple Alert System (as proposed in PA HB 1840/similar initiatives). This critical legislation will provide a dedicated alert system that bridges the gap between Amber Alerts (for abducted children) and Silver Alerts (for senior citizens), addressing the specific needs of vulnerable individuals with disabilities, ensure rapid notification to the public, law enforcement, and local agencies to initiate search efforts immediately, rather than waiting for extended periods, and implement necessary, proactive measures—inspired by tragic cases to ensure that families do not have to feel helpless when a loved one with special needs goes missing.

By creating the Purple Alert System, we are providing law enforcement with better tools to save lives and give peace of mind to families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOEY HALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Losing my grandchild child with autism is a loss of profound depth, where the silence left behind is as unique as the beautiful, complex world they inhabited. It is the loss of a soul who saw the world through a different lens, teaching those around them a language of love that didn't always require words.

This journey is also marked by the loss of the "future-that-was": the specialized plans, the hard-won progress, and the unique light they brought to a world that isn't always built for them. I will love you forever RJ



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN LOPEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:21 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN JAMES SHILEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN WILEY PACKARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning and thank you to Chairman Jones and the Committee for taking the time today to hear about the severe needs and incredible impact that the Purple Alert System can make for the State, and our communities. My name is Jonathan Packard; I am a resident of Cass County and the father of 2 boys. My oldest son, Lochland, has severe autism and is non-verbal, with recent seizures. Lochland has elopement behavior and has a diminished sense of fear and danger, which has put us, and our community, in difficult and very scary situations. Over the last 6 years, Lochland has had elopement attempts at school, our home, and in public, putting him at risk of danger. Lochland's school, for instance, has 2 playgrounds. The front playground is fenced in for preschool and kindergarten classes, but the back playground is open and backs up towards a tree line. There is a retention pond before the trees, and 2 large ponds past the trees, and every year we must ensure his IEP reflects, and that all staff knows that Lochland can only attend recess at the front playground, regardless of age, with his aid. The distance to the bodies of water could be met by him in as little as 10 minutes or sooner depending on where he is on the school property.

Lochland has a high pain tolerance (hyposensitivity) and when paired with his diminished sense of fear and danger, this can be problematic because if he does end up in a dangerous situation, there isn't a prominent fight or flight process to indicate to himself that he is in danger and needs to evacuate, this is why you see Autism recoveries where they are still in a dangerous situation when found. That person is seeking sensory regulation and stimulus, and that drive overpowers the dangers that are present. House Bill 1840 is a critically urgent measure; it's a piece of remedial legislation that is designed to fix a missing gap in our alert systems and specialized response trainings for first responders to be able to retrieve better and safer outcomes for those involved. Jefferson City Police Department as an example, has a Crisis Intervention Team to better serve citizens with developmental disabilities, but this is solely a volunteer training is not something uniform across all police agencies in the state of Missouri.

As we learn more about developmental disabilities, and their growing presence in our country, we must strengthen our tools and abilities to help protect, react, quickly and safely, and promote increased education and resources in all aspects. With that, the evolving changes in technology play an ever-growing part in providing faster response time, critical data to the responders, and more open communication channels with the public, to assist in providing quick aid to someone in need. Bill 1840 and the Purple Alert System is just that. It is the first step in the right direction to ensure we can help all our community members when they need it. Response time is critical; being able to keep the range of travel for someone who has eloped, to the least amount of area possible, is critical. Knowing how to communicate or de-escalate someone with developmental disabilities is essential.

By having this alert system in place, it allows all first responders to know at a faster pace, allowing for more coverage as applicable to available officers, etc. But the key element is letting the public know. The community is a resource that has shown itself extremely valuable in Silver Alerts and Amber Alerts; we believe it is an important resource for the Purple Alert System. Many times, there is not a physical difference in many people with developmental disabilities, especially those with Autism. So, to have a community lookout for any person in the age range of what's alerted in the relative areas of where the alert is applicable, with any disseminating information provided, can help save a life. Thank you for your time and consideration, and your service to the state. I urge you to vote "Do Pass" on Bill 1840. I am happy to answer any questions



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOPXILIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 3:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Ensuring the safety of children and individuals with disabilities is of utmost importance. As a teacher who works closely with children with disabilities, I understand how frightening it can be when a child elopes during school hours. Even if the child remains within the building, the situation can quickly escalate and create significant concern among staff and families.

In my town, there was a tragic incident in which a child eloped and later passed away. The entire community mobilized through social media in an urgent effort to locate the child. While the collective response was powerful, it also highlighted the need for a more structured and immediate alert system. I strongly believe that implementing a formal alert system for elopement situations could help prevent similar tragedies in the future. Such a system would ensure rapid communication, immediate access to resources, and a coordinated response, significantly increasing the likelihood of locating a child quickly and safely.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JORDAN BOYD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:33 AM

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I support this bill and have witnessed this happening at school. The bill would help the community and first responders work together when situations arise.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOY SWEENEY		PHONE NUMBER: 818-606-3660	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOODHAVEN		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 1405 HAWTHORNE PL.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN BARRAGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 7:04 PM

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All children and their safety matter. There is no reason this has not been implemented before now.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN STRATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

With multiple friends and family members having developmental disabilities an alerting system much like the silver alert, which helps bring awareness of a victims special needs to both bystanders and emergency personnel is critical to quick and proper care if and when they are found.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAI BERGER - ON BEHALF OF HILDE B FOUNDATION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 4:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the House Children and Families Committee,

On behalf of the Hilde B Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing interpersonal violence and strengthening safety systems for vulnerable individuals, we write in support of HB 1840.

Individuals with developmental disabilities face elevated risks of exploitation, abuse, and harm. When such individuals go missing, rapid coordination between law enforcement, media, and regional agencies can significantly reduce the risk of injury or prolonged danger.

HB 1840's proposed Purple Alert System represents a practical and focused approach to improving response times and interagency communication. We particularly commend the inclusion of training provisions to support effective and de-escalation-focused interactions between law enforcement and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Strong public safety systems depend on preparedness, coordination, and awareness. HB 1840 moves Missouri in that direction.

We respectfully urge the Committee's favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
Kai Berger
Founder & Executive Director
Hilde B Foundation



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAIRA PETIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAITLYN WINTER GONZALEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:29 AM
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My son is autistic and elopes so I love this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARI KELLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 6:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in strong support of implementing a local alert system specifically designed for special needs children.

Recently, our community experienced a devastating loss when a four-year-old child with special needs wandered from his home and tragically drowned. While family and friends responded, it took social media to spread the word for aid in the search, valuable time was lost. An alert system tailored for vulnerable children could help mobilize search teams, law enforcement, and community members immediately—when every minute matters most.

Children with special needs, particularly those who may wander or have limited awareness of danger, are at significantly higher risk in emergency situations. A rapid-response alert would not only improve coordination among first responders but also raise immediate community awareness, increasing the chances of a safe recovery.

This system would provide families with reassurance that their community is prepared to act quickly and decisively in moments of crisis. I urge town leadership to consider the life-saving potential of such a program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARINA MEJIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 11:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARLA HUFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 8:02 PM

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

I am in support of a bill that would send alerts about missing persons with disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATELYN COOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY RHEA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Mom's and Dad's need help with their autistic children. Can you imagine not even being able to run to the bathroom or change your clothes without worrying that something might happen to your child while your eyes are not on them for even for a few moments? Please pass this bill to prevent future tragedies .
Thank you.
Kathy Rhea



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 186S			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAYLEIGH ALFREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAYLI NICHOLE RELLIHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:49 AM

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

I support this bill to be alerted when a person goes missing that has a disability.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELSEY CARR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 7:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELSIE BAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 8:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in support of this bill because it is crucial for families with special needs children to have extra resources should they go missing. Every moment matters when searching for a special needs child, and with this alert can only bring benefits. Children and families deserve this extra layer of protection. If this bill could save even one child's life, then it was worth all of the effort in the world.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KHRISTIE BLACKMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIA WALSH		PHONE NUMBER: 816-506-5252	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SHERWOOD AUTISM CENTER		TITLE: PRESIDENT AND CEO	
ADDRESS: 8030 WARD PARKWAY PLAZA			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64114
EMAIL: kwalsh@sherwoodcenter.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Bill Number: HB 1840
Committee: Children and Families Committee
Position: In Support

Name: Kia Walsh
Title: President & Chief Executive Officer
Organization: Sherwood Autism Center
City/State: Kansas City, Missouri

Statement in Support of HB 1840 – Purple Alert System

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1840, establishing the Purple Alert System within the Department of Public Safety to aid in the identification and recovery of missing persons with developmental disabilities who face credible danger.

Sherwood Autism Center serves children and young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities through therapeutic education and community-based supports. For the families we serve, safety is foundational to quality of life.

With the permission and encouragement of his parents, I share the name of a student we lost last year — Mario Myers. Mario wandered away from home just after 3:00 a.m. and later lost his life after being struck by a vehicle on I-70. His family has asked that his name be shared in honor of his memory and the impact he continues to have.

Wandering is a documented and serious risk among individuals with developmental disabilities. When a person with autism or another developmental disability goes missing, the risk of injury or death escalates quickly. These situations require immediate, coordinated communication across law enforcement and public safety systems.

HB 1840 provides a structured and practical mechanism to improve response in such emergencies. By creating the Purple Alert System, this legislation strengthens coordination, improves timeliness of information, and provides families and law enforcement with an essential tool when credible danger

exists.

While no system eliminates all risk, this bill meaningfully increases the likelihood of safe recovery and demonstrates Missouri's commitment to protecting vulnerable residents.

Sherwood Autism Center strongly supports HB 1840 and stands ready to assist as a practitioner resource during implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kia Walsh
President & CEO
Sherwood Autism Center**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY TOPOLSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:02 PM

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

It's time someone stand in the gap for these children/persons!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTY IVES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLE HARSHA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 12:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLEY HAMILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:19 AM

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

I am in support of this system and it should be implemented as soon as possible



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYRA BIANCHI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello all, I am Kyra Bianchi and I am in support of this bill. I have 2 nonverbal autistic children, one boy age 11 and one girl age 4. It is one of my biggest fears that one of my children would leave our home one day without us knowing, and end up in a dangerous situation. I too live in Belton MO and I think of sweet RJ and his parents everyday. His story definitely hits close to home, as my daughter went to the same school as RJ. If I can do anything to help get the ball rolling on this bill, I know it would help ease the anxiety of so many special needs parents. It is hard to be a parent to special needs children, so this bill would lighten the anxiety some knowing that there would be a plan in place for when our children elope. I cannot be there in person but I 100% support this bill and think it would help parents in Missouri tremendously. Thank you,
Kyra Bianchi



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYRA SNOWBARGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning, Chairman Holly Jones and committee. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to you all today. My name is Kyra Snowbarger, and I live in Kansas City, MO. I am here today to testify in support of Bill 1840 for a new special-needs alert proposal, as this bill directly impacts both my personal and professional life greatly.

I am currently a Program Manager of the Behavioral Intervention Program at Foster Adopt Connect, and many of the children I work with have an intellectual or developmental disability. I hold a Master of Science focused in the Nonprofit sector with much of my studies focused on disability rights and accommodations. Prior to my time at Foster Adopt Connect, I ran a residential program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as spent time as a high school teacher focused on integrated arts education with classrooms of both SpED and non-SpED students. I have worked with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities daily for my entire professional career. Additionally, I am a late diagnosed autistic individual with 3 autistic children at home, two of which are elopers. The third might be too; it might just be too early to tell as he is only 2. I have been in the shoes of a caregiver of a disabled individual who has been missing more times than I count, both in my career and at home. The feeling of not knowing where the person you are taking care of has gone, knowing they do not have the ability to make it home on their own and knowing they don't fully understand the dangers of the world around them is the most terrifying experience I have ever had. I have cried at home for every parent that has lost an autistic or IDD child due to them being missing too long because I know one day that could be me. There is not a current system in place that helps urgently alert the community and first responders that a disabled individual is missing outside of an amber alert if it is a child or a silver alert if they are elderly, but those alert systems weren't created with the infrastructure in mind to attempt to prevent these individuals from accessing bodies of water or highways. Many of these individuals take medication that cannot be given at alternative times and help prevent dangerous self-harming behaviors, so finding them is even more time sensitive than a usual missing person's case. First responders are not trained on how to communicate around these individuals if they are found. The level of urgency needed for these individuals is simply not possible with the current alert systems. Autistic individuals are estimated to have half of the life expectancy of adults without autism, and over a quarter of those deaths are attributed to an accidental injury, with over 80% of mortality in autistic children being due to accidental injury, such as drowning. As our society learns more about autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, we must continue to adapt our systems and infrastructure to protect those who need it most. This bill will not only allow for us to have a system of urgency when these individuals go missing, but those with the boots on the ground taking care of our communities will finally have the proper training and supports in place to take care of them when those individuals are found.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote 'Do Pass' on Bill 1840. Thank you tremendously for your commitment to serving Missouri. I am now happy to answer any questions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LACEY WEST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:29 AM

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

This change would likely save lives and should be implemented in Missouri as soon as possible.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA NAVA-TORRES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I know of two families with children who have a disability. One family has had their child walk out of their home without notice. When the police are called the family is looked at like it's their fault. They treat them like bad parents for losing their disabled child. The other family sadly lost their 5 year old when he walked out of their home. There needs to be more urgency when a call is made of a missing disabled child and better training for the officers; they need to know the challenges these families live with and they need to be treated kindly when their child is missing. Please pass this bill. These families need all the support they can get.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEIGHA SIMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 2:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE ALFREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDSAY MUSTAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We desperately need this. So many autistic eloper including my child. It makes no sense to not have an alert system for children other than if stolen! Any child for that matter. The autism population in our state and in general is only increasing we need more planning and more services to prep for the increased need our special needs families deserve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LONA FORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 12:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. MO			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORRI B WILLMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LUCY HAYS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LULA MAE PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:04 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Children with social, mental or physical disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE HELM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 4:05 PM

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

There needs to be a better way to help get the word out of the special needs people that get lost. This would be amazing



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE SCHLOSSER		PHONE NUMBER: 913-461-8724	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOP MANAGERS		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 1521 PEPPERWOOD DRIVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: lynneschlosser@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MACEY RENAE PACKARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:43 PM

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

I am in support of HB 1840. This is an urgent need in the state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MADISON FARNAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAHLORIE VAHLICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 4:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:46 AM

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

So many autistic kids wander n go missing same w old people!! We need better ways to be aware, notified , and locate humans!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIAH DICKERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK S. JENSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:19 AM

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

I feel that raising public awareness of a missing person with special needs may be a crucial step in helping to bring the person home safely.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHAL PHILLIP CATRON JR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 7:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have a sister in law who is special needs and we need this alert. My sister in law lives in a group home and the other women with various levels of intellectual disabilities. It is heartbreaking knowing how many of these people have their lives cut short when a simple alert could possibly bring them home to their families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARTHA TASSI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Please! Pass this bill!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY ANNA KANEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 7:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA HART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELODY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I watched a childhood friend of mine lose her son in the most heartbreaking way. RJ was a beautiful soul, a young autistic boy who lost his life after he eloped from his home.
I watched their life crumble, only miles from my house. There wasn't enough of a response from our officials, there wasn't enough training to know how to search for children like RJ.
He could've been saved. He could still be with his mom, making Valentine's Day cards and heart shaped cookies. But instead she lives on life without her son.
A loss no mother should have to endure.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MENDY GRAHAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MIA BRINEGAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 11:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE GREGOIRE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:15 AM

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

I support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE STALONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 10:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SULLIVAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:49 PM

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

Seconds are everything in the search for a missing child, especially one with disabilities. I am for this bill of a special alert for these children and families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISSY FARRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 12:20 AM

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

I strongly agree with this bill it needs to pass... even if one life can be saved it is worth it???????



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISTINA SCOFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:14 PM

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

Hope and Ray are our family. They lost their precious boy who was autistic when he wandered off and ended up drowning in a pond. There was more that could of been done. It look hours to reach people on social media. This should (and could with this bill) go straight to an alert to news radios anything to get the word out. It could of helped save this sweet little soul. The special needs community is often forgot about or pushed to the side and they need us more than ever to be a voice, to be their voice. Their lives matter just as much anyones if not more. It kills me Hope and Ray have to navigate life without their little boy, their first born, the light to their world. This bill is for Baby RJ!!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MONICA BUSTILLOS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 8:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

For RJ



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MORGAN STIPANCICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 10:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Testimony in Support of Alert System For Missing Persons of Certain Disabilities in Honor of RJ.

Good [morning/afternoon],

My name is Morgan Stipancich, and I write today not just as a constituent, but as family. I'm here as the cousin of a beautiful, special child named RJ — my baby cousin — who means more to me than words could ever fully express.

RJ is not just a name. He is laughter. He is innocence. He is love in its purest form. He is also a child with special needs. And like so many children with special needs, RJ sees and experiences the world differently. That difference is beautiful — but it also makes him more vulnerable.

When a child with special needs goes missing, the situation is often far more urgent than people realize. Some children may be nonverbal. Some may not respond to their name. Some may be drawn to water or traffic without understanding the danger. Some may trust strangers without hesitation. In those moments, time is not just important — it is everything.

We have systems like Amber Alerts to mobilize communities quickly when a child is abducted. Those systems save lives. But there is a gap when it comes to children with special needs who go missing and may not meet the strict criteria for an Amber Alert. Their vulnerability alone should be enough to trigger immediate public awareness.

That is why I am asking you to support this bill — a Special Needs Alert — in honor of RJ.

This bill is about recognizing that vulnerability should matter. It is about giving law enforcement another tool to act quickly. It is about alerting communities so that neighbors, drivers, and businesses can become extra sets of eyes when every minute counts.

This bill is not just legislation. It is protection. It is awareness. It is compassion turned into action.

RJ represents so many children whose safety depends on how fast we respond. By passing this bill, we send a clear message: children with special needs matter. Their lives matter. Their safety matters. Even without a voice, they can still be heard.

I never want a family to experience the fear of not knowing where their child is — especially knowing that child may not understand how to protect themselves. If this alert system can save even one life, prevent even one tragedy, or reunite even one family faster, then it is worth it.

Please stand with RJ. Stand with families like ours. Stand for protection, urgency, and equity.

Thank you for your time, your compassion, and your commitment to keeping all children safe.

Community helps community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MYSTIKA MIDDAUGH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:09 PM

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

as a mother to an autistic daughter i highly am in favor of this. we can only watch and hover our children so much and with autism some children may thrive alone. but to have your child elope is a parents worst nightmare. especially an autistic parent. our child won't come to strangers they won't come to unfamiliar voices. we have to advocate for our children because they can't. they deserve this



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY PACKARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My grandson is 6 and severe autistic and non verbal. If he slopes from family or school he can't identify himself. There needs to be an alert to help families to quickly find these individuals before an accident occurs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NAOMI ROSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 10:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a speech-language pathologist who has worked with non-verbal, young children for 23 years now, this is a no brainer in my opinion! This could be a critical system in getting kids home quicker and safely. Bringing awareness to all in sensitive situations where communication is a barrier for many of these children and adults!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAIGE BELOATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:23 AM

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

I know first hand how this effects the child, the family, and the community. This would make it easier and safer for children on the spectrum and not.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAM CROSBY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 8:12 AM

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

**I have worked in Special Education for 20+ years spending the last 4 years in an autism classroom.
Anything to make people aware of the child's needs is critical.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA TORRES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:48 PM

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

As a special needs parent with a teenage son who elopes, I think this alert system is imperative. This alert system can be a life saver and I am in favor of this going into law.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATIENCE HOPE ARNDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Hope Arndt, and I am the mother of Raymond O'Keefe.

Raymond was four years old.

On May 16, 2025, my son went missing from our home in Belton, Missouri.

Raymond had been formally diagnosed with autism. For families of children with special needs, "eloping" is not running away. It is not misbehavior. It is a neurological response. Many children with autism wander. They are often drawn to water. And when they go missing, every second matters.

When Raymond went missing, the City of Belton responded. Officers searched through the woods. They checked cameras. They did everything they could.

But here is the part that still keeps me up at night.

Many people found out my son was missing because of a Facebook post.

A Facebook post.

In a world where we can send emergency alerts to every phone within seconds, my four-year-old child's life depended on social media shares.

There was no automatic alert system specifically for vulnerable children like Raymond. No immediate notification to the public. No structured broadcast stating:

"A four-year-old autistic child is missing. He may be drawn to water. Check your property. Check your ponds."

Instead, we relied on hope.

Hope that someone would see a post.
Hope that someone would check their backyard.
Hope that someone would look.

Raymond was missing for nearly eight hours. He was later found in a pond near our property.

I cannot change what happened to my son.

But you can change what happens next.

An alert system for missing children with special needs — similar to an Amber Alert — would give families a fighting chance. It would give communities immediate information. It would give children precious minutes.

I respectfully ask you to vote yes.

Not just for policy.

But for children like Raymond.

For vulnerable families.

For the seconds that matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully,
Hope Arndt
Belton, Missouri**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAYTON MEEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PHALICITTY MCCARL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 7:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RAMANDA BROCKETT, BC-DMT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 10:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in support of this bill as both a current clinician and a future parent. I am a Board-Certified Dance-Movement Therapist who works full-time in inpatient pediatric psychiatry in Kansas City, MO, and one of the many grieving cousins of R.J.'s Grandfather. I cannot see any reasonable objections to this bill being enacted. This bill will prevent and/or decrease the potential for severe accidents, injuries, and loss of lives. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The soul of a nation is shaped by how it treats its weakest members." Children with developmental disabilities are undoubtedly some of the most vulnerable citizens of our nation. Statistics show that children with developmental disabilities experience much higher rates of accidents, abuse, neglect, and bullying. Most devastating to consider is that children with autism are 40 times more likely to die from accidental drowning. Similar to a 'pink alert' at a hospital, the more adults who are aware and in action to find a missing child, the fewer minutes it takes to find them. It simply makes sense to create a public tool for families to immediately receive the hands-on support of neighbors and friends in critical, rapid-response situations. This bill will help my family's healing process by knowing that other families will have better chances at preventing a few stressful minutes from turning into a permanent injury or loss.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 7:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RAYMOND MIKEL O'KEEFE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBA SHAHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:50 AM

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

I have an adult family member with special needs. He is high functioning, but you never know.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD OKEEFE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 6:51 PM

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

I lost my grandson who is autistic and this would be a great bill to pass to get emergency service on route looking for a special needs child rather than waiting 24-48hrs



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROSA ABNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 7:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom it May Concern, I am writing this in support of my friends Lara and Ezra. My time spent with them as members of Special Olympics Missouri has opened my eyes to the needs of those specifically with elopement issues. During events, it is imperative that Ezra have constant supervision as he can get easily distracted or agitated and desire to leave immediately. Please reconsider any moves to dissolve any sort of help for people with disabilities.

Sincerely
Rosa M. Abney



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RUTH JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:17 PM

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

As an engaged grandparent of two autistic and special needs girls, I am highly in support of this bill. There are very specific things a first responder should know that will help them in their search of children like mine. This is a much needed and highly overdue issue.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RYLEE WEBER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMANTHA BAUGHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Support			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDY BRIGGS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 8:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDY HALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:20 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 10:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a mother of an autistic child, one my my worst nightmares would be something happening to my child. I fully support this bill to help keep our children more protected. I think it is so important to take more steps to protect our children and have more steps in place in order to do that.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH MEAKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 3:03 AM

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

This is definitely something I believe our state needs. Persons with disabilities need a more in depth alert system with different protocols in play for their safety.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH TODD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:20 PM

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

Our son is autistic level 3, nonverbal, global developmental delays. He is also an elopement risk. This would help our local community to know that he has special needs and to keep their eyes open. Also that he may not respond to danger or when name is called.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELBY ARENA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELBY DILLON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY MUNDY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:24 PM

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

This is needed to help find these individuals faster. These alerts are in place for other groups and have proven to be helpful.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRI HUONKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:17 PM

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

I am a family friend of a young couple who's autistic child wandered off and drowned. a system ALERT for disabled children is not wanted it is NEEDED.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACI HARVEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE DANNAHOWER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:22 PM

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

As a fellow autism mother, aunt, and sister, I fully support this bill and I'm so incredibly proud of my best friend for putting her efforts into this!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:57 PM

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

My family lost a 4 year old with autism last year. A notification like this can help save lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER JOSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY MATTAIR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 6:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I think this is a great idea! I have a handicapped daughter myself and she had went missing once. Thankfully a local law enforcement officer knew her and quickly helped us look for her. Instead of making us wait. Thankfully she was found quickly. And safe. But every second matters when looking for children whether handicapped or not. Everyone needs to be quicker at this and not hesitate or wait. Our children are our future. We must protect them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TARYN REYNOLDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 8:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been an educator in the state of Missouri for 5 years, in classrooms for over a decade, and have worked with children my whole life. In this time, I have been exposed to students and individuals with a variety of backgrounds, abilities, and differences. Many of these include autistic, nonverbal, speech- and mentally-delayed, and medically complex children. I know it only takes one second for a child, or even adult, to wander off.

The sweet Cass County 4 year old boy that went missing last year was the child of a life-long acquaintance of mine. I knew of his disappearance almost immediately, thanks to social media and my grandmother living nearby. Not everyone in the area had access to the same information that I did.

If an alert system like this one had already been implemented, as evident by the success of the Amber Alert system, I do believe more residents would have been aware and able to provide assistance in this case. The wide spread of information could be what saves the next missing 4 year old or an eloping student.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERRENCE HANCOCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is another tool for protecting those that cannot protect themselves. I was surprised to hear that this was even necessary. Seconds make a difference in finding these children that suffer from Autism that have been, for whatever reason, separated from their families. Please vote yes. Thanks you!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS JOSHUA PRESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 6:06 PM

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I support this bill. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACY SALMONS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 3:45 PM

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

I am in full support of altering the alert system for missing persons with certain disabilities. There was a child that went missing around our area and although less then a half a mile away we were never alerted by our local system. Unfortunately he passed away. This may have been able to be avoided if people were alerted sooner.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRE ALT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tre Alt, and I am writing in strong support of the proposed Special Needs Alert system.

I have worked directly with developmentally disabled individuals, including those who are autistic, medically complex, and medically dependent. I have seen firsthand the vulnerabilities they face — not because of who they are, but because our systems are not designed with their unique needs in mind. When one of these individuals goes missing, every second matters in a way that is difficult to fully capture in words.

For many families, the unthinkable is not a distant fear — it is a daily reality. Individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities are at significantly higher risk of wandering. Many are nonverbal. Many cannot respond to their name. Some are drawn to water without understanding the danger it presents. Tragically, drowning remains one of the leading causes of death among individuals with autism who wander. These are preventable tragedies — if we act quickly enough.

Right now, when a child or adult with special needs goes missing, families are often left to rely on social media posts and word of mouth to mobilize help. Amber Alerts are reserved for confirmed abductions. Silver Alerts are designated for missing seniors. There is no structured, statewide alert designed specifically for individuals with special needs who may be medically vulnerable, nonverbal, or unable to seek help.

That gap is not theoretical. It is real. And it costs precious time.

The Special Needs Alert proposal is not simply another notification system — it is a life-saving tool. By providing an approximate location, mobilizing community awareness immediately, and strategically positioning responders near bodies of water, we dramatically increase the chances of a safe recovery. Including optional medical and diagnostic information at the family's discretion ensures that first responders and the public understand the urgency and the specific risks involved. Deploying scent-tracking dogs for nonverbal individuals further strengthens the response.

This proposal recognizes something critically important: missing individuals with special needs require a different kind of response. The risk profile is different. The timeline is different. The outcome often depends on how quickly and intelligently we act.

I have worked with families who live in constant vigilance because they know how quickly a situation can escalate. They install extra locks. They monitor doors. They rarely sleep deeply. Yet even the most attentive caregivers cannot eliminate every risk. When a wandering event happens, the entire community should be ready to respond — not just a parent scrolling through their phone hoping someone shares a post.

A Special Needs Alert system sends a powerful message: these lives matter, and we will mobilize to protect them.

This bill is about equity. It is about closing a dangerous gap in our public safety infrastructure. It is about ensuring that autistic individuals, medically complex children, and medically dependent adults receive the same urgency and organized response that others already receive under existing alert systems.

Most importantly, it is about time. Minutes can mean the difference between a close call and a tragedy. A structured alert system ensures that those minutes are not wasted.

I urge you to support and implement the Special Needs Alert system. Families should not have to rely solely on social media and hope. They deserve a coordinated, immediate, and strategic response when their loved one is missing.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this critical proposal.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER SIMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 1:03 PM

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These situations are extremely delicate and this bill would help further safety measures to reduce, and hopefully one day stop, elopements ending in tragedy. To be against this is inhumane.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VALERIE SCHULTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill needs to be passed. It will be a huge service for those with certain disabilities. The ability to get help immediately would be life saving. I ask for strong support for this bill. A yes vote saves life's of our most vulnerable. As a grandmother to someone with these types of disabilities, I ask you to support our children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VERONICA CROW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 7:13 PM

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

If we aren't focusing on our children, what are we even doing? Children are vulnerable enough in today's society, let's stand together and show up and out for our future ... our children!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WALTER "WALLY" BURKART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 2:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Please vote yes for HB 1840!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YVONNR MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 5:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZOE MUNDY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:20 PM

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

Eloping can happen quickly and children can be fast, this could be life saving!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1840		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 9:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

This bill seeks to establish a new statewide “Purple Alert System” for missing persons with developmental disabilities. The intent is compassionate. The structure, however, is unnecessary and potentially counterproductive.

Missouri already operates multiple alert mechanisms, including the Endangered Person Advisory, which can be activated when a missing individual faces credible danger.

Nothing in current law prevents activation when a missing person has a developmental disability.

The creation of a new alert category raises three primary concerns:

1. System Fragmentation

Public alert systems work because they are clear and recognizable.

Every additional color-coded category risks confusion, slower activation, and public desensitization.

Alert proliferation weakens urgency.

If eligibility criteria can be incorporated into existing frameworks, duplicative systems should be avoided.

2. Alert Fatigue

Emergency notification systems depend on public trust and attention.

The broader the activation base, the more frequent the alerts.

If the definition of “developmental disability” is as expansive as drafted — including cognitive, emotional, and physical disabilities — activation thresholds could vary widely between jurisdictions.

Frequent alerts reduce responsiveness. That is not speculation — it is behavioral science.

3. Operational and Fiscal Expansion Without Clear Need

The bill mandates coordination across:

**Department of Public Safety
Highway Patrol
Department of Transportation
Department of Health and Senior Services
State Lottery
Local law enforcement**

Yet no evidence has been presented that current systems are failing to address these cases.

Before creating a new statewide program, the legislature should require:

Data on missing persons with developmental disabilities

Data on response failures under current alert systems

Cost analysis of duplication

Policy should follow demonstrated gap — not symbolic expansion.

Compassion must be matched by structural coherence.

Creating another alert category where existing systems already cover the same ground risks fragmentation, confusion, and diminished effectiveness.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge opposition unless the bill is amended to integrate within existing emergency advisory frameworks.