



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1910		DATE: 2/25/2026	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BROOKE STEWART		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 9:59 AM
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Thank you for the opportunity to share how Bentley's Law has served as a vital lifeline for my family.

On August 25, 2023, my life was shattered when my husband, Shawn Stewart, was killed by a drunk driver with a .281 blood alcohol level who had been driving the wrong way for six miles. Shawn was more than just the provider for our four children; he was the heart of our home. He covered everything from our medical insurance to our daughters' sports and school activities. After such a horrific loss, finding out about Bentley's Law brought a sense of justice and immense relief. The restitution awarded ensures our daughters are supported and eases the heavy burden of being a single mother. I am certain this law would be a profound blessing to any family facing the sudden loss of a provider due to a drunk driver.

Respectfully,
Brooke Stewart



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CECILIA WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY UMFRESS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BYRNES MILL POLICE DEPARTMENT		TITLE: SERGEANT	
ADDRESS: 141 OSAGE EXECUTIVE DR			
CITY: BYRNES MILL		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63051
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORINN HAKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER ELDER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-694-9187
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MADD		TITLE: VICTIM SERVICE SPECIALIST
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER NELDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER WAMSGANZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:38 PM	
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Chairman and members of the Committee,
 My name is Jen Wamsganz, and I am writing in support of HB 1910, establishing Bentley and Mason's Law in Missouri. I would first like to sincerely thank Representative Cecelie Williams for sponsoring this important legislation and for recognizing the long-term impact impaired driving has on children and families.
 This issue is deeply personal to me. My cousin, David Weinstein, was killed by a drunk driver on May 11, 2011 — just three days after Mother's Day, which was the last time I saw him, and two days before his 30th birthday.
 Because of one selfish decision to drive while impaired, our family will forever live with a missing piece and an empty seat at our table.
 David left behind a daughter, Breonna, who was just 8 years old at the time of his death. In an instant, she lost her father — her protector, her provider, and the man who would have walked her through every milestone of her life.
 The driver who killed David plead guilty and served a short time in prison. However, a prison sentence does not help with school clothes or sports equipment. It does not contribute to college. And it does not replace the financial stability a parent provides.
 According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri continues to see hundreds of alcohol-related traffic fatalities each year. In recent years, roughly one in four traffic deaths in our state has involved an impaired driver.
 These are not statistics. They are parents. They are children. They are families like mine.
 That is why Bentley and Mason's Law matters.
 HB 1910 ensures that when impaired driving takes the life of a parent or guardian, the person responsible is also held financially accountable to the child left behind. It recognizes that the consequences of impaired driving extend far beyond the crash scene and far beyond a prison sentence.
 Breonna could have significantly benefited from Bentley and Mason's Law. It would not have brought her father back, but it would have ensured that the financial responsibility for her future did not fall solely on her grieving mother and family members.
 This legislation is about responsibility. If someone chooses to drive intoxicated and that choice kills a parent, they should have a piece of financial responsibility for the child whose life they changed forever. Bentley and Mason's Law sends a clear message that in Missouri, impaired driving carries lasting responsibility.
 For the sake of children like Bentley, Mason and Breonna, I respectfully and strongly urge this committee to vote do pass on HB 1910 - Bentley and Mason's Law.
 Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Jennifer Wamsganz
Victim/Survivor, MADD Volunteer**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTINE "TINA" WOHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:16 PM	
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I am in opposition to House Bill No. 1910, also known as "Bentley and Mason's Law."

While the intent to support children who have lost a parent to a tragic drunk driving accident is understandable, this bill represents a deeply flawed and potentially unconstitutional approach to providing that support. From a progressive perspective, this legislation uses the criminal justice system to impose a lifelong financial penalty that is decided not by a standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt in the criminal case, but by a civil petition process.

The core function of our criminal justice system is to adjudicate guilt and impose a sentence for breaking the law. That sentence typically includes incarceration, fines, and the loss of certain privileges. House Bill No. 1910 bypasses this established framework and adds a separate, potentially unlimited civil liability directly onto a criminal conviction. This conflates criminal punishment with civil restitution in a way that is arbitrary and punitive. It targets a specific class of offenders—those convicted of DWI causing death—for a financial obligation that looks and functions exactly like child support, but without the same underlying legal relationship that typically creates such a duty.

This bill creates a system where the amount of "maintenance" is not determined by the needs of the child or the means of the offender in a traditional family court setting, but is instead a mandated consequence of a criminal act. A surviving parent or guardian can simply file a petition, and the court "shall" order the person to pay until the child turns eighteen or twenty-one, with extensive and punitive conditions for educational enrollment. The person has no choice in this matter; it is an automatic add-on to their sentence, decided by a civil petition.

We must also question the practical and equitable enforcement of this law. The bill allows for wage garnishment and creates a complex system of oversight by the family support division. It imposes the same bureaucratic hurdles on these payments as traditional child support, including strict documentation requirements for education that can lead to termination of payments. For an individual reentering society after incarceration, finding employment and stability is already a monumental challenge. Saddling them with this automatic financial obligation from the moment of their release creates a significant barrier to rehabilitation and increases the likelihood of recidivism.

Finally, the provision allowing this court-ordered maintenance to offset any civil judgment is an inadequate substitute for a fair civil tort process. It essentially forces a person to accept this court-ordered payment plan as the primary remedy, potentially limiting their ability to seek a full and fair resolution through a separate civil lawsuit.

There are better ways to support children who have suffered such a tragic loss, such as strengthening our state's crime victims' compensation fund. We should not use the criminal code to create a new class of debtors based on a tragic event. For these reasons, I urge you to vote "No" on House Bill No. 1910.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:15 PM	
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