



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1946		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AUDREY KAUFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-338-0816	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CENTRAL MO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 503 E NIFONG BLVD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: BRAD THIELEMIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-5853
REPRESENTING: RECYCLING GRACE WOMEN'S CENTER		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2512 STONE RIDGE DR		
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63901
EMAIL: bradthielemier@jbtconsultinggroup.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:48 PM
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Support bill		



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CRISSY CARSTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:29 PM	
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I knew a young man that was full of life. He always had a smile on his face. I watched him play soccer as a young boy and thru the fall of his sophomore year. That fall he volunteered to coach an under 8 team. He taught those kids skills but most importantly a love for the game. Those little kids looked up to him. A few short months later he took his precious life because of sextortion. It shook everyone who knew him. It shook our entire community, and our soccer family. Little kids that adored their coach had to see the bad of our world... just because of greed. No family, child, or community should have to experience this. We must hold those accountable that prey on our children. Evan was an inspiration to many of us. He was a light. I stand with his family, friends, and community in support of Evan, as well as Sophie's Law. We must do better and we must protect our children.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DAN ENGEMANN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-7725
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY
ADDRESS: PO BOX 899		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID BARNES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-5544	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ENA COUNCIL		TITLE: MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 5870 N HAWK ROAD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY BARLOW		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-6463	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 308 E HIGH STREET, SUITE 105			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jeff@mjja.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:43 AM	

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The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) has historically supported this bill and supports the training the committee created in this bill would be responsible for.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SEITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-415-6228	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 520 DIX RD, SUITE C			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NEIL GETZLOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:57 PM	

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My name is Neil Getzlow. I am the Men’s Education Director at ReHope, where I lead a class for men who have been arrested for soliciting prostitution. This program goes beyond a traditional “john school.” We educate men on the realities of human trafficking and exploitation, the harms of pornography, and we encourage them to make healthier decisions for themselves and their families.

I am also a certified sex addiction coach in Kansas City, where I counsel men struggling with sexual integrity issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I am testifying in support of HB 1946, and I want to speak specifically to the importance of strengthening Missouri’s laws so that men think twice before buying sex.

I’m grateful that this committee is taking up this bill so early in the legislative cycle. This is the third time I have shared my testimony with this committee, and I am hopeful that this is the year Missouri takes meaningful action to fight human trafficking and sexual exploitation across our state.

Frankly, we don’t have a choice in 2026 — and I want to highlight three important reasons why.

First, research from Demand Abolition shows that one in four active buyers purchases sex at least once a month — often weekly. That 25 percent of buyers accounts for approximately 75 percent of total demand. This is why increasing penalties for purchasing sex is so critical. These laws directly target the men creating demand.

For too long, our system has focused on arresting and punishing victims. It is time to flip the script — to stop targeting those being exploited and instead hold accountable those driving the exploitation.

Second, this summer the World Cup is coming to North America, with six matches hosted in Kansas City. These events are expected to bring more than 650,000 visitors to the region over two months — roughly the equivalent of four Super Bowls descending on a Midwestern city. Will this bring traffickers from out of state? Possibly. But what is far more likely is that women already in Missouri will face increased demand and increased exploitation as the event approaches.

This summer represents a defining moment for our state to move beyond awareness and take concrete action to disrupt the demand that fuels trafficking. Missouri needs to send a clear message: buying sex is not welcome here.

Third, the Kansas Legislature is currently debating a similar bill, which I expect will become law before the end of their session. If Kansas makes purchasing sex a felony and Missouri does not, the result will be predictable.

Those of you who represent communities along the state line will see demand migrate from west to east, as buyers simply cross the border to avoid consequences. Missouri cannot afford to become a safe haven for sexual exploitation.

Research consistently shows that a perceived risk of arrest reduces sex buying behavior. By shifting law enforcement focus away from arresting trafficking victims and toward those who purchase sex, Missouri can take a meaningful step toward reducing trafficking and exploitation statewide.

I can tell you directly from own personal experience – and in talking with buyers – a misdemeanor offense does not deter. I never once thought that jail time or any significant punishment would come if I ever was arrested. To me, it was equivalent to a traffic ticket. It's time to start holding men accountable.

I urge you to support HB 1946. Thank you for your time and your leadership on this issue.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:27 PM
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While in favor of the overall bill, I hope it will be amended in committee to eliminate the time limit imposed on survivors seeking compensation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:07 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This is a duplication of services, laws. This Bill Creates yet another Committee, another Task-Force, another Council that never do any thing and the Reports Collect Dust. This Bill creates yet another Fund and yet another Mandate on Local Public Safety Officials and first-Responder that already are being highly Trained on this subject and in this field. Enough is enough. In addition i do not trust the Bill Sponsor as he highly unethical and I will defeat his run for the House Floor Leader Position.