



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1948		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 12:39 PM	

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

I am writing to express my strong support for Missouri House Bill 1948, the “Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project.” This bill represents a compassionate and forward-thinking approach to supporting families and children across our state.

Research consistently shows that children benefit immensely when both parents are positively involved in their lives, but many fathers face significant barriers—such as challenges with the family court system, economic setbacks, or a lack of support resources—that hinder their ability to maintain strong connections with their children. HB 1948 directly addresses these issues by establishing dedicated programs and resources to help fathers reestablish and strengthen relationships with their children, promoting not only family reunification but also greater stability, well-being, and opportunity for Missouri's youth.

One of the most impactful aspects of this bill is its commitment to practical assistance and skill development for fathers. By creating the Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project Grant Program and providing grants to experienced agencies and organizations, HB 1948 ensures that fathers will receive direct, individualized guidance from fatherhood engagement project specialists. This support will empower them to navigate complex systems, build essential life skills, meet child support obligations, and participate more actively and positively in their children’s lives.

Furthermore, the bill emphasizes accountability through robust reporting and performance metrics, ensuring that the program is transparent, results-driven, and capable of continuous improvement. By including family-focused, faith-based, and community organizations, the legislation recognizes the critical importance of local networks and trusted support systems in delivering lasting change.

Ultimately, HB 1948 is a wise investment in both fiscal responsibility and the long-term health of our communities. By empowering fathers and supporting family unity, Missouri can reduce the long-term social costs associated with family disruption and strengthen the very fabric of our neighborhoods. I urge the General Assembly to support and advance this bill for the benefit of our children, families, and the future of our state. Thank you for considering this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1948.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. GUILLERMO VILLA-TRUEBA		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: HISPANIC OUTREACH MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: villatruebag@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:50 PM	
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The Missouri Catholic Conference supports HB 1948, a bill intended to promote fatherhood engagement and to provide resources for fathers who want to be present in their children's lives. There is currently a significant father absence crisis in both the state and the country; according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17.6 million children, nearly 1 in 4, live without a father in the home, which negative impacts their economic, emotional, and educational well-being. As Pope John Paul II stated in his apostolic exhortation "Familiaris Consortio", "efforts must be made to restore socially the conviction that the place and task of the father in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable importance." The MCC urges the committee to vote "DO PASS" on HB 1948.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMEE M STIMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 11:31 PM
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I am in favor of this amendment of recognition and support of the lives of unborn children and their families.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA REUTZEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 10:19 AM	
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Anything that the State can do to encourage fathers to stay in their children's lives is best for children, best for parents and best for society. Most issues with children and families can be corrected by making it easier for fathers to stay active and present. Family court and family services have been bias against men for so long. Time for real change.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK LUDWIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:34 PM	
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I am in full support of this bill, every child need there father in their life! Fathers should be recognized and encourage to be an amazing father.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE RADEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 7:20 PM
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Fathers are integral to successful societies



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TIM MCCONVILLE		PHONE NUMBER: 317-287-4577	
REPRESENTING: MAN UP AND GO		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT	
ADDRESS: 717 S. OAK TERRACE DR.			
CITY: NIXA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65714
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:43 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TINA LENZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 10:24 PM	

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Fathers were created by God to be the heads of the household. To be the providers and the protectors. They too have rights. The connection between the father and the children needs to be re-established and nurtured.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALICIA KILPATRICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 9:50 AM
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The citizens of this state passed a constitutional law to legalize abortion medical care. The elected officials must respect the state constitution.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:43 PM
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There are numerous other Program and Projects with this same purpose. This sounds like a duplication of Services and Programs.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL J DETTLEFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:24 AM	
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Anti-abortion lobbyists, not medical people, created these bills as part of an attempt to make all abortions in all cases illegal. The people of this state have already stated that they want abortion to be available and legal in this state, but state representatives are ignoring that. The people have already voted to keep politicians and government out of personal, private, medical decisions. This needs to be remembered and honored by our elected representatives.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY STOINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 4:43 PM
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My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am writing today in opposition to HB 1948 not because I am in full opposition to this bill and effort, but because I do not believe another program should be created in Missouri that requires state funding until other existing programs are stabilized. There are multiple non-profits that have had to close and/or greatly reduce services due to Missouri state funding cuts. Every year, non-profits in Missouri wonder if they will be able to stay open another year. I believe it is imperative to wait on any additional programs until other program funding can be better stabilized. This could look like a solidified budget line item on other funding needs such as for sexual assault services. As someone who cares deeply about Missouri men, I want resources and support for them, but I also know that they are individuals who run the risk of being impacted by the precarious funding that I previously mentioned.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE L ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 6:23 PM	

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- ? U.S. Constitution law has consistently rejected the idea that embryos or fetuses are “persons” under the 14th Amendment
- ? Conception based personhood would create un-administrable legal obligations, including criminal liability for miscarriage or natural embryonic loss
- ? Pluralistic society avoids enforcing one moral or religious belief through law; it contradicts science, medicine, and constitutional rights
- ? An unborn child being identified as a "person" is not consistent with all religious beliefs of US citizens. Judaism and Islam, among others, do not recognize personhood at conception. This can cause concerns for religious freedom provisions and the First Amendment



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SABRINA BONNETTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 6:25 PM	

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Just wanted to know if they are adding more budget to the already strapped and overworked Family Services Division of Missouri to implement this program? There are statistics published about the sad state of affairs when it comes to fatherhood and upholding their responsibilities in Missouri. Why not use this proposed money to engage better law enforcement of child support for the existing children who are being raised by an independent and unsupported parent? The majority of whom are working full time and sometimes multiple jobs in addition to applying for TANF and WIC and Welfare due to the lack of income to cover costs in Missouri. Childcare is more than a mortgage, this is the fact that should have some funding thrown at it vice the non-participation of 'so called ' fathers in their offsprings lives.

It is a nice idea, but on paper I would not want my state taxes going towards worry about a father's 'self esteem' when he has fathered children and walked away scott-free.

Men have that opportunity, given curren law. The FatherShip project should hold them as much accountable as the mother in my eyes. If you bring a child in to this world, it IS your responsibility to care and support this human being until they can actually venture out on their own after college! Not just when it is convenient for the Dad to say , oh now I want custody 'cause I don't want to contribute financially. Such a sad state of affairs. Look at your demographics of children being raised by independent /unsupported parents in Missouri. Now you want to divert money and managerial time from the FSD to approaching the very cause of the problem? Find another source of funding this idea, is all that I would like to say. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCARLET HORINE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 6:19 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HAYLEE MUNRO		PHONE NUMBER: 573-257-7332	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	
ADDRESS: 301 W. HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LILIANA TASLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 2:42 PM
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I am largely in support of this initiative to help fathers be engaged with their families. However, I am wary of some of the vaguer language and its potential interpretations, especially considering the overlap of "Fatherhood Engagement Month" with Pride Month in June. I know Father's Day is in June so the month makes sense, but I hope care is taken so there is room and support for both. We can celebrate all kinds of families.