



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2008</b>		DATE: <b>2/5/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Budget</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
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<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**HB 2008 is not “just a budget.”**

**It is a policy-shaped funding weapon: surveillance spending embedded as “public health,” procurement language that reads like vendor steering, and broad “flexibility” clauses that reduce accountability while expanding operational reach.**

**Appropriations must be specific, transparent, and controllable. This bill’s structure invites the opposite.<sup>1</sup>**

**Key Objections:**

**1) It funds school-based drug surveillance with law-enforcement intent.**

**HB 2008 appropriates millions for fentanyl testing in water and wastewater at schools, explicitly mixing “public health” with “surrounding areas for law enforcement activities.” That is not neutral prevention—it is data collection around children and communities, with the foreseeable risk of turning schools into intake points for enforcement targeting, stigma, and mission creep. If the state wants prevention, it funds prevention. If it wants surveillance, it should say so plainly and carry the constitutional and political consequences.<sup>2 4</sup>**

**2) It expands security architecture using event-driven justifications (“World Cup” spend) without hardened guardrails.**

**This bill pours money into World Cup security services and related programming without the kind of line-item restrictions, audits, and deliverables that protect taxpayers from “temporary” expansions becoming permanent infrastructure. Funding “security” is not the same as funding lawful, measurable, time-limited operations.**

**3) “Flexibility” language weakens legislative control and hides intent.**

**Multiple sections allow 3% (and sometimes 5%) flexibility between sections or purposes. That is the budget version of “trust us.” The legislature’s job is not to write blank checks and hope agencies self-police.**

**The Constitution expects appropriations to be spent \*\*for the stated purpose and no other.\*\*<sup>\*\*1 3</sup>**

4) **Poison-pill procurement: “single provider” style language invites capture.**

When appropriations include language that effectively narrows the field (ex: “single digital platform provider” with particular requirements), it is a red flag for vendor lock-in. Budgets should not contain de facto procurement decisions disguised as program descriptions.

5) **This bill accelerates the “policing stack” while communities are starved of accountability.**

HB 2008 funds drones/counter-UAS, public order units, surveillance-adjacent data systems, and multi-jurisdictional enforcement expansions. What it does not fund with equal specificity is transparent governance: public reporting, independent auditing, strict data-retention limits, and clear prohibitions on misuse.

**Cross-Bill Pattern (why this is not an isolated issue)**

This bill matches a broader cross-bill pattern seen across recent proposals: expand enforcement capacity first, then backfill justification later with vague labels like “public safety,” “public health,” or “prevention.”

The repeated structure is predictable: build infrastructure (data + tech + task forces), loosen controls (“flexibility”), and normalize extraordinary operations through event-based or crisis-based framing.

Missouri should not allow appropriations to become the quiet pipeline for policies the public would reject if stated honestly.

**Requested Action**

**Vote NO on HB 2008 unless the bill is amended to:**

**Remove any school wastewater/drug surveillance funding unless it contains strict data governance (ownership, retention limits, public reporting, prohibitions on enforcement targeting, parental transparency, and independent audit requirements).<sup>2 4</sup>**

**Strike or tightly limit “flexibility” transfers that permit purpose-drift.<sup>1 3</sup>**

**Require competitive procurement language and ban vendor-steering terms in appropriations.**

**Add public, quarterly reporting on all major surveillance/security-related grant programs, including recipients, metrics, and outcomes.**

**Missouri can fund safety without funding a quiet expansion of surveillance and discretion. HB 2008, as written, invites mission creep, weakens accountability, and puts school communities in the crosshairs of a data pipeline disguised as prevention. No.**

**Constitutional Footnotes (MO)**

**Mo. Const. art. IV, § 28 — appropriations must specify purpose; expenditures must follow the authorization.**

**Mo. Const. art. I, § 15 — protections against unreasonable searches and seizures (relevant when “public health” testing is paired with law enforcement use).**

**Mo. Const. art. III, § 36 — legislative control of state finances (appropriations should not be written to dilute oversight through broad transfer authority).**

**Mo. Const. art. I, § 10 — due process (relevant where government programs foreseeably create investigative or punitive downstream effects without clear safeguards).**



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There is no bill summary or financial note



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
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WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-440-9000</b>
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**We NEED to cut \$1-Billion Dollars in Expenses and Costs this Fiscal Year and \$1-Billion Dollars in Fiscal Year 2028.**