



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2126		DATE: 4/8/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 11:55 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DEVIN JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-9551	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS		TITLE: PRINCIPAL	
ADDRESS: 818 OAKBROOK DR.			
CITY: OWENSVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65066
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 407 S 6TH STREET			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:01 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STACY FICK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-659-3160	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS		TITLE: ELEM. PRINCIPAL	
ADDRESS: 3550 AMAZONAS			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 7:13 AM	
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This bill is presented as a standards and due process measure for building-level administrators.

On its surface, it appears to add structure. In practice, it shifts leverage in ways that deserve closer scrutiny.

First, the bill ties employment outcomes directly to evaluation systems that are defined locally.

While evaluations are required to be “research-based,” the rating categories and standards remain at the discretion of the governing board.

That means the same system used to justify nonrenewal is also controlled by the entity making the decision.

That is not an independent framework—it is a closed loop.

Second, after five years, administrators may only be nonrenewed “for cause.” That sounds protective, but “cause” is defined broadly, including “unsatisfactory performance” and “conduct detrimental.”

Both rely heavily on subjective interpretation through the same evaluation system controlled by the district.

Third, while the bill outlines hearing rights, those hearings occur before the same governing body that initiated the nonrenewal decision.

That raises a basic structural concern: the decision-maker and the reviewing body are the same.

So the process becomes:
the district defines the evaluation standard,
the district determines whether that standard is met, and
the district reviews its own decision.

That is not independent review. That is internal confirmation.

Additionally, the automatic reemployment provision for failure to notify by March 1 creates procedural rigidity that may benefit compliance timelines more than actual performance-based decision-making.

So I am placing this clearly on the record:

When evaluation systems, disciplinary standards, and review authority are all controlled within the same governing structure, it creates a self-reinforcing system where outcomes can be shaped without meaningful external accountability.

And when that structure appears alongside other legislation this session that concentrates decision-making authority and limits independent checks—

it reflects a broader pattern of governance design that prioritizes internal control over balanced oversight.

Strong evaluation and fair due process are essential.

This bill does not fully separate those powers in a way that ensures neutrality.

For those reasons, I stand in opposition.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PERRY GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE: CHIEF OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	
ADDRESS: 205 JEFFERSON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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