



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: AIDAN EVERETT WAGNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:02 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ARCHBISHOP MITCH ROZANSKI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: ARCHBISHOP OF ST LOUIS
ADDRESS: 20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DR		
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63119
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRAYDON PEMBERTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-6348760	
REPRESENTING: INNOCENCE PROJECT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN KAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WORD & WAY		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 301 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 6:56 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFTON DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-590-1107	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO JUSTICE.ORG		TITLE: ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: 4608 DERBY RIDGE DR			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DARRYL BURTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:07 PM
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I faced the death penalty as an innocent man. In 1984, I was wrongfully convicted and faced the death penalty. At least 370 people have been exonerated from death row and they were all innocent. This is why I am opposed to the death penalty.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 5:05 AM
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This bill is tough on violent crime and honest about the fact that no government is infallible.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID W BENNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:41 PM
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The days of the death penalty are historical artifact and have no place in today's civil society. The end of a life is a decision for God and God alone. Murder by the hands of the state is in no way justice for murder. To end the death penalty in Missouri will move us forward into the 21st Century where we can hold our heads high in a more just world. Vote to stop state-sanctioned murder in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DEMETRIUS MINOR		PHONE NUMBER: 727-424-8208	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONSERVATIVES CONCERNED		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: connor@jonesadvocacy.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Conservatives Concerned is hereby submitting this testimony in support of HB 2153. Conservatives Concerned is a network of political and social conservatives who question the alignment of capital punishment with conservative principles and values. Our programs include educating conservatives about the failed death penalty system and mobilizing them to bring about its end. We support effective responses to violence that help survivors and loved ones heal, ensure accountability, and promote opportunities for redemption. We believe that families, neighborhoods, and communities can thrive when justice is truly for all.

We come to this issue for a variety of reasons:

- Some of us believe that small government and the death penalty don't go together, especially when we compare the high costs of capital punishment to life without possibility of release.
- Some of us don't trust the state to get it right. We already know that some innocent people have been sentenced to death, and for others, it may already be too late.
- Some of us are disturbed by the roller coaster for family members of murder victims, or wonder why we're investing so much in a system that doesn't keep us any safer than the alternatives.
- Some of us believe that the death penalty contradicts our values about protecting life.

For these reasons and many others, we stand opposed to the death penalty and support efforts to curtail and ultimately end the practice. We ask that you support HB 2153.

Demetrius Minor
 Executive Director - Conservatives Concerned
 demetriusm@conservativesconcerned.org



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. HEIDI MOORE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-931-4177	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURIANS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 14824			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65814
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GAYLE DEROUIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:50 AM
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Due to flaws in the criminal justice system wrongful death convictions do occur and can lead to execution of innocent people.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GREGORY CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 2:14 PM

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Please support the abolition of the death penalty in Missouri. It has not been proven to be a deterrent, it creates the possibility that innocent people will be executed, and it is applied in an arbitrary fashion.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GWEN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-324-9656	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 3:38 PM

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The death penalty is only an excuse for killing. Too many innocent people have been executed. I also understand that life imprisonment is less expensive for the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF STACK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-449-4585	
REPRESENTING: MID-MISSOURI FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 268			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS MO CHAPTER		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1805		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:36 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH AMRINE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:28 PM	

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My name is Joseph Amrine. I am a 69 year old Kansas Citian who spent 17 years on Missouri's death row for a murder I did not commit. I was convicted and sentenced to death in 1986. Over 17 years I saw 64 people be executed. I missed watching my son grow up. I lost my parents. For 17 years I fought for my appeals. For 17 years I was denied here in the state of Missouri, time and time again. I was eventually denied by the United States Supreme Court in October of 2000. I thought I had no appeals left. Fortunately, the Missouri Supreme Court looked at my case and saw that I was innocent. If not for that, I would not be alive today. I feel that my case is perfect evidence for why we need to abolish the death penalty. You have no way of guaranteeing that the state will not execute an innocent person. That is unless you decide that you will not execute anyone. I've always said, there's only 1 thing that the death penalty does. The only thing it does is create more and more victims.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 1:08 PM	
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I support this bill. There have been cases of executions only to find new evidence that now shows those individuals were wrongfully convicted. It would be better for our state to join the other 23 states that have abolished the death penalty. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 4:18 PM
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I support this bill for many reasons. I particularly do because, due to flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to the execution of innocent people--there is no do-over when someone is wrongly executed. Furthermore, death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ communities. No one has been able to prove that the death penalty is a deterrent, and many other states have outlawed. It is a barbaric practice, and we need to leave it behind.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATE BROOKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 3:07 PM	
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**No one has been able to prove that the death penalty is a deterrent. MO should join the twenty-three states have abolished the death penalty and the three more that have formal moratoriums
Because of flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to execution of innocent people. The death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ communities**



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 9888 OLD WARSON ROAD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: kaypark122@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 3:32 PM	

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On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, I Support HB2153 which would prohibit the death penalty in Missouri. Because of flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to the execution of innocent people. Death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, and LGBTQ communities. Twenty three states have abolished the death penalty and tree more have formal moratoriums for these reasons.

Please support HB 2153.

Kay Park, President

League of Women Voters of Missouri



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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: 3/9/2026 11:00 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 9:45 PM
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Please vote to prohibit the death penalty in Missouri. Mistakes have been and are being made in the process that leads to execution. There is no good reason in these modern times to implement this barbaric punishment, which is unfairly applied to minority offenders.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARA ARUGUETE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 9:03 PM
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I'm very happy to see this bill! This is a wonderful acknowledgment that wrongful convictions happen, and people have been executed for crimes that they did not commit. I urge you to vote in support of the bill. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-922-5115	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OUR LIVES MATTER- SUNZ JUSTICE		TITLE: FOUNDER OUR LIVES -	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 410194			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: sunzjustice@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:48 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Missouri House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee
Hearing on HB 2153 – Abolition of the Death Penalty**

Chairman and members of the Committee,

My name is Maria Miller, and I am a resident of St. Louis, Missouri. I submit this testimony in support of HB 2153, legislation to abolish the death penalty in Missouri.

My perspective comes from deep personal loss and years of advocacy with families impacted by violence and incarceration.

In 2014, my family experienced unimaginable tragedy. I lost both my son and my baby brother to gun violence. Losing a loved one to violence leaves a permanent impact on a family and a community. Experiencing that loss twice in the same year forever changes how you see justice, grief, and accountability.

Many people assume that families who lose loved ones to violence automatically support the death penalty. My experience has led me to a different conclusion.

If the individuals responsible for the murders of my son and brother had been apprehended and convicted, I would not have requested the death penalty. Instead, I would have supported a sentence of 20 to 25 years of incarceration.

This perspective does not come from a lack of understanding about harm or accountability. It comes from years of advocacy work that has allowed me to see the realities inside Missouri’s prison system. Through my work supporting incarcerated individuals and families navigating the justice system, I have witnessed firsthand how incarceration already carries profound consequences.

Many individuals who enter Missouri prisons experience deep personal destruction within the first two to three years of incarceration. Separation from family, loss of freedom, the trauma of prison environments, and the weight of their actions often create a level of punishment and reflection that society rarely sees from the outside.

The death penalty does not restore families like mine, nor does it create the healing our communities

truly need. It extends cycles of harm and violence without addressing the deeper issues that lead to crime or support the families left behind.

Missouri has the opportunity to move toward a justice system that prioritizes accountability, humanity, and meaningful consequences without relying on state-sanctioned execution.

As someone who has experienced the devastating impact of violence and who has spent years advocating for families and individuals affected by incarceration, I believe that abolishing the death penalty is a step toward a more just and compassionate system.

Closing Statement

Through my advocacy work in Missouri, I have spent years engaging with incarcerated individuals, educating families navigating the prison system, and witnessing the realities inside our correctional institutions. I have also personally experienced the devastating impact of prison violence. In 2014, I lost my brother, Larry Miller, who was brutally murdered while serving his sentence at Crossroads Correctional Center after serving ten years.

I have seen how quickly incarceration itself can dismantle a person's life, identity, and future. Within just a few years, many individuals are already profoundly changed by the experience of imprisonment. For families like mine, justice is not found in another death—it is found in accountability, healing, and preventing further harm in our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2153 and move Missouri toward ending the death penalty.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Maria Miller
St. Louis, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:32 PM	

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

I submit this testimony in support of HB 2153.

Because of flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to execution of innocent people

Death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ communities.

Moreover, no one has been able to prove that the death penalty is a deterrent.

This law would still provide the severe penalty of a life sentence without parole in place of a death sentence for the crime of murder in the first degree..



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: MARY GROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 3:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I think the death penalty should be abolished. The automatic appeals, the resources spent, the time it takes is too much drain on public resources. It is very costly. A lifetime in prison is terrible punishment and more humane. Let the purpetritor spend their time there.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW CROWELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-465-3011	
REPRESENTING: MSPD		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 901 N PINE STREET			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: NANCY PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 3:35 PM

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

I support this bill to eliminate the Death Penalty in MO. In short, the death penalty is VERY expensive and uses a lot of labor time, offsetting any "savings" by executing a person. There is NO evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime, in fact the data support the opposite. The death penalty conviction is not applied evenly/fairly across all types of offenders. The conviction could be wrong or based on incorrect information and if a person is executed, there is no way to correct the sentence/conviction

As a final point, I am morally and religiously opposed to having my taxes used to execute someone.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: NIMROD CHAPEL JR		PHONE NUMBER: 816-309-5009	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO NAACP		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 111 W HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: president@monaACP.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:29 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. The MO NAACP supports ending the death penalty in Missouri.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: RACHEL WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 9:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee,

I am writing to you in support of HB 2153, to abolish the death penalty.

I believe that people who commit despicably violent crimes should no longer have access to the rest of society, however, the state and its citizens have no right to kill that person. Moreover, the rate of error makes the death penalty prohibitively cruel--any rate of error is unacceptable in this matter. Because the death penalty is imposed by humans, and humans are inherently flawed, that alone make the death penalty flawed.

It was less than two years ago that Missouri executed Marcellus Williams, a man that even the prosecutors admitted had not committed the crime of which he was convicted, but he was executed nonetheless. The system cannot guarantee that an innocent person will not be executed, therefore the death penalty should be abolished.

Please join the rest of the civilized world in voting to abolish the death penalty in Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: REBECCA CALLAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 4:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: REBEKAH BERKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Twenty-three states have abolished the death penalty and three more have formal moratoriums

- **Because of flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to execution of innocent people**
- **Death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ communities**
- **No one has been able to prove that the death penalty is a deterrent**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: RICHARD LEE HUNDLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 5:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I fully support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 6:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: ROBERT A GROSS		PHONE NUMBER: 260-982-7480	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JOURNEY OF HOPE...FROM VIOLENCE TO HEALING, INC. (A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 4898 E 1400 N			
CITY: NORTH MANCHESTER		STATE: IN	ZIP: 46962
EMAIL: journeyofhopefvth@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 7:45 PM	

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

Many of the people grieving the loss of a beloved family member to murder DO NOT want the death penalty for the person who killed their loved one.

One of those persons is SueZann Bosler. SueZann and her father were attacked in the parsonage next door to the church he served as pastor, in Miami, Florida. Both suffered multiple knife wounds. She managed to call 911 before passing out, but her father died before help could arrive. In the years that followed, SueZann worked hard to see that the man who attacked them did not receive a death sentence.

SueZann Bosler is a founding board member of the organization, Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing.

Family members of murder victims have always been part of the movement to end capital punishment. Since 1993, many of them have come together as part of the Journey of Hope, to say that they do not want the state to kill in their names.

In addition to SueZann Bosler, current board members of the organization include Crystal, whose son was murdered, Jack, who lost his sister, George, whose wife was killed, Chris, who lost his mother to murder, Terri, whose son was wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to die, and Dina, who was kidnapped and raped and would have been killed if she had not found a way to escape.

Together with countless others who have lost a family member to murder, they make it known that the death penalty does nothing to help repair their losses or help them heal. Instead, they call for policies and services which can provide true healing and repair.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ACLU OF MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, I would like to express our strong support for HB 2153, which would end the unjust and inhumane practice of the death penalty in Missouri.

The ACLU of Missouri is the state affiliate of the national ACLU and works in the courts, legislature, and communities across our state to defend and preserve the civil rights of all Missourians. For over 100 years, the ACLU has opposed the death penalty because it denies equal protection of the law, is cruel and unusual punishment, and removes guarantees of due process. It is so inconsistent with the underlying values of our democratic system—the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness—that the imposition of death for any crime is a denial of civil liberties.

The death penalty is fundamentally flawed. Who gets sentenced to death is largely dependent on race of the defendant, race of the victim, where the crime took place, how much money they have, and the skill of their attorneys – not on the severity of the crime. Black people are more likely to be charged and sentenced to death, more likely to be executed, more likely to be excluded from capital juries, more likely to suffer a botched execution, and more likely to be falsely convicted and sent to death row. People with serious mental illnesses, intellectual disability, brain damage, and long-term effects of trauma are also overrepresented on death rows.

States, like Missouri, that still pursue capital punishment are out of line with the rest of the country. Public support for the death penalty is falling. 23 states, and the District of Columbia, have abolished capital punishment, and another 4 states have paused executions with gubernatorial action. The only way to correct these systemic failings and prevent wrongful executions is to end the death penalty altogether.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Missouri urges the committee to pass HB 2153 and take this important step toward justice in our state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION		TITLE: COMMISSIONER	
ADDRESS: 9511 EVERMAN AVENUE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuellhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 4:34 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Twenty-six years ago, when Pope St. John Paul II visited St. Louis, he spoke clearly on the connection between the Catholic Church’s pro-life efforts and an end to the death penalty:

The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform (cf. Evangelium Vitae, 27). I renew the appeal I made most recently at Christmas for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary. (Pope St. John Paul II’s Homily during the Eucharistic Celebration, Jan. 27, 1999.)

In 2018, Pope Francis revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)’s teaching on the death penalty, so that the official position of the Church is now:

No. 2267 of CCC. Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”, and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide. (New revision of number 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the death penalty, August 2, 2018)

In light of these clear teachings of the Catholics Church, the Archdiocese of St. Louis Peace & Justice Committee respectfully asks this committee to vote “do pass” in favor of HB 2153.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2026 11:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The death penalty should be abolished in Missouri. I believe in severe punishment for those who commit serious crimes and are threats to society, but the state should not have the right to take life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: SUMMER JOSEPHSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:30 AM

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

I'm a Missouri voter & I support HB2153 which would prohibit the death penalty in Missouri. The death penalty is an ineffective, costly, and deeply flawed public policy that harms everyone it touches. It is an indisputable fact that the death penalty kills innocent people.

Killing is the problem, not the solution. End the death penalty.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 8:15 PM

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

Because of flaws in the criminal justice system, wrongful convictions occur and can lead to execution of innocent people, as we have seen many times in Missouri. Death penalty sentences are applied unfairly with disproportionate impact on minority communities. There is no proof that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: SUSAN HOPE ROLING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Susan Roling, and I am here in support of Missouri House Bill 2153. The death penalty is extremely expensive and places a significant burden on taxpayers, yet it has not been shown to make our communities safer. More troubling is that our justice system is not perfect. In Missouri, there have been executions where credible questions about innocence have been raised. When the punishment is irreversible, even the possibility of a mistake is too great a risk. I urge you to support House Bill 2153 and move Missouri toward a justice system that is fair, responsible, and does not risk executing an innocent person. Thank you for your time



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: TONY LOVASCO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: VALERIE HALDIMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 5:14 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support the abolition of the death penalty in MO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: VRENI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 8:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support eliminating the punishment of death in law enforcement.
Executing human beings does not give persons the opportunity to turn themselves around and be useful to society - even behind bars. A society that claims it respects life should not be destroying life.

Death penalty sentences are subjectively applied - often having a disproportionate impact on minorities. In addition, death it is a final solution that cannot be reversed - and mistakes in determining guilt has resulted in sending innocent people to their death , eliminating any opportunity for the state to reverse this if it is later determined that the person executed was innocent of the charges.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:49 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am Opposed to this Change and this Bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 6:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The Creator God established the death penalty after the Flood (Genesis 9:6)
He did require more than one witness (Numbers 35:30-31) in order to "convict". We do not do well when we go against God's principles. The justice system needs to make sure that the person who is charged (more than one witness) We lose when we try to be "nicer than God."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DEANNA RHODES-WIDMER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:04 AM

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

I disagree with this legislation. Criminals should know that there is strong punishment in the State of Missouri when you commit crimes. Especially murder. If anything our laws need to be stronger. Don't give them three hots and a cot for years. If they are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Then carry out the sentence immediately. We used to have a firing squad on the books, the gas chamber or the injection. They can have their pick. No more evil riding on the backs of taxpayers while the families have suffered the loss of their loved ones. I can't believe this is even being brought up especially by a Republican. This is shameful.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH P. HON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 7:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

There should be full protection for all Missouri citizens from heinous crimes that deserve the death penalty. This bill removes all death penalty powers, including first degree murder. It is unthinkable that this has been submitted by a conservative Republican. Please do not consider allowing this to go to the floor.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:48 AM

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Missouri's capital punishment statutes already limit the death penalty to the most aggravated murders and require extensive procedural safeguards, including a separate penalty phase and automatic review by the Missouri Supreme Court.

HB 2153 would remove that sentencing option entirely.

The practical effect of this bill is that the General Assembly would be guaranteeing — in statute — that even the most calculated or aggravated murders will never face the highest legal consequence available under Missouri law.

Legislators should carefully consider the message that sends: that no matter how extreme the crime, the law will deliberately limit the consequences available to the justice system.

Before taking that step, the General Assembly should ask whether insulating the worst offenders from the most severe penalty truly serves justice, deterrence, or the interests of the public.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2153		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHERI BAILEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 4:42 PM

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

I personally believe there are crimes that if found guilty of (murder), the person **ABSOLUTELY** should be sentenced to death. I, as a tax payer do **NOT** want to continue to feed said people for the next 25-50 years on our dimes. This is **NOT** justice for the families that had to endure the murder of a lived one. Actually after **ALL** appeals have been exhausted the date should be set fir the next week.