



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2273		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
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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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 bilp



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE MCDONALD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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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: JASON ALVIS	PHONE NUMBER: 816-793-0500
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REHOPE.ORG	TITLE: CEO / REHOPE
ADDRESS: PO BOX 88	
CITY: HARRISONVILLE	STATE: MO
ZIP: 64701	
EMAIL: jason@rehope.org	ATTENDANCE: Written
SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:33 PM	

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Dear House of Representatives --

I wholeheartedly support this bill and ask that you do so with your YES vote, as well.

My organization sees the effects of Child Sex Abuse Material and trafficking of adults and children on a daily basis as we help survivors begin the process of restoring their lives as enduring the trauma of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

This bill is a step in the right direction to getting at the DEMAND side of trafficking; and most would agree that until demand is reduced, this crime will continue to grow.



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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
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		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA HILL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-469-7814
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE		TITLE: CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
ADDRESS: 217 OSCAR DRIVE, SUITE A		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
EMAIL: jessica.hill@mocadsv.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:20 AM

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Chairman Jones and members of the Children and Families Committee:

On behalf of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MOCADSV) and its almost one hundred member agencies who provide services to the state's victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and rape, stalking, and teen dating violence, we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 2273, sponsored by Rep. Ed Lewis.

We are in support of HB 2273 and its efforts to address trafficking and exploitation.

Renewing a statewide task force to continue to focus on this effort is important in that we have witnessed again and again that initiatives that create change for victims require ongoing commitment and focus from a variety of partners. We are in agreement with the recommendations offered by the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse regarding combining the two task forces in order to streamline the efforts of all partners working to end trafficking in Missouri. One request for amendment would be that a member of the task force requirements would include someone from the state's anti-trafficking advocacy coalition or their representative.

Expanding the statute of limitations to acknowledge the time it takes for victims to reconcile the abuse they have sustained and then to be able to seek justice is to be commended.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.



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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
EMAIL:		ZIP: 65109
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LUCY BLOOM	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:01 PM

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Committee Chair Representative Holly Jones, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Lucy Bloom and I'm here to express strong support for HB 2273.

Human trafficking is not a distant or abstract problem. It is happening in Missouri at a scale that demands a stronger, more coordinated response. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Missouri consistently ranks among the top states for reported trafficking cases. In the most recent annual data, more than 300 cases were reported in a single year — and experts widely agree that the true number is significantly higher because trafficking is chronically under-reported.

What's especially important for this committee is that minors make up a substantial portion of identified victims. Nationally, the average age of entry into trafficking is estimated to be between 12 and 14 years old. In Missouri, child-welfare agencies, schools, and healthcare providers are often the first to encounter victims or children at risk. That means the systems under this committee's jurisdiction are on the front lines of both prevention and intervention.

HB 2273 strengthens Missouri's anti-trafficking framework in ways that directly support those frontline systems. By tightening definitions, improving coordination, and clarifying responsibilities, the bill helps ensure that warning signs are recognized earlier and that agencies can act more decisively. Research from multiple states shows that when reporting pathways are clearer and inter-agency communication improves, victim identification rates increase and recovery times improve.

The bill also aligns with what data tells us about how trafficking actually works. Studies show that over 60% of child trafficking victims had prior contact with social services, and many had interacted with mandated reporters who lacked the tools or clarity to intervene effectively. HB 2273 helps close that gap by strengthening the legal and procedural framework around those interactions.

Finally, the long-term impact of trafficking on children is profound. Survivors face higher rates of PTSD, depression, substance use, homelessness, and chronic health problems. These outcomes create long-term costs for families, communities, and state systems. Strengthening anti-trafficking laws is not only a moral imperative — it is a fiscally responsible one. Early intervention and prevention consistently cost less than long-term recovery and crisis response.

HB 2273 is a practical, evidence-based step toward protecting Missouri's most vulnerable children. It reflects what the data shows, what frontline professionals experience, and what families across the state need.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and help ensure that Missouri continues moving forward in the fight against trafficking.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the safety and well-being of Missouri's children.



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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 8:33 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.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JORDAN CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-459-2854
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE: COALITION DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 23132 BETHEL RD		
CITY: BRUNSWICK		STATE: MO
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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