



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2292</b>		DATE: <b>2/11/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Urban Issues</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AISLINN MCCARTHY-SINCLAIR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MO ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 4309</b>		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63123</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 11:55 PM</b>
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**I am in Support of this Bill and Requirement for necessary Training to Animal Control Officers in any Political Subdivision for awareness and neglect and care of children, disabled and Seniors.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ASHLEY STANLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-986-4428</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>WAYSIDE WAIFS ANIMAL SHELTER</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3901 MARTHA TRUMAN RD</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64137</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRIS SCHOEMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-541-1928</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>ST LOUIS COUNTY POLICE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>18500 EDISON AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63005</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CLAIRE COUGHLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CODY ATKINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-590-0026</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>722 W WALDO AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>INDEPENDENCE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64050</b>
EMAIL: <b>codyalanatk@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 11:16 AM</b>	

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**This bill advances measures to protect the most vulnerable to abuse in our society: women, children, and pets. It provides for better record keeping of abuse and neglect, allowing prosecutors to put abusers behind bars, and remove the abused from those situations. Law enforcement statistics indicate that 75% of the time an animal is being abused, the abuser is also harming a partner or child in that home. We commend the sponsors of this bill for taking decisive action to fight abuse and hope the committee passes this bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEVON TARANTINO</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-881-4618</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>JACKSON COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>415 E 12TH ST.</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64106</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFFREY ALTMANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-799-7008</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT THOMPSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-6092</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>KIDS WIN MISSOURI, MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>124 E HIGH ST,</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>matt@wintonpolicygroup.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 4:36 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD MCINTOSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>612 EAST CAPITOL AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARA SPEASE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-666-2966</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATION CHAIR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 432</b>			
CITY: <b>EXCELSIOR SPRINGS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64012</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BARB YORK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-448-9484</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 554</b>			
CITY: <b>ELDON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65026</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN STRANGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-480-2389</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI FEDERATION OF ANIMAL OWNERS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 554</b>			
CITY: <b>ELDON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65026</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2026 12:00 AM</b>	

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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2026 8:46 AM</b>	

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**HB 2292 expands mandated reporting requirements while ignoring — and actively worsening — the documented chilling, retaliation, and suppression already experienced by mandated reporters in Missouri.**

**This bill does not strengthen protection for vulnerable populations.**

**It manufactures compliance optics while entrenching systemic failure, shifting liability onto individuals while insulating agencies that already fail to act.**

**As a four-time mandated reporter, I state unequivocally: mandated reporters in 2025 are already chilled, silenced, and punished for compliance. Expanding mandates without enforceable protections is not reform — it is coercion.**

**Substantive Objections**

**I. Expansion Without Protection Is an Oxymoron**

**HB 2292 increases:**  
the number of mandated reporters  
reporting penalties  
licensing consequences  
surveillance and documentation burdens

**What it does not increase:**  
whistleblower protections  
anti-retaliation enforcement  
agency accountability  
response timelines  
transparency after reports are made

**A mandate without protection is not a safeguard — it is compelled risk-taking.**

**II. Chilling Effect Is Real, Ongoing, and Ignored**

**Mandated reporters currently face:**

retaliation by supervisors and institutions  
threats to licensure and employment  
internal pressure to delay or suppress reports  
professional isolation after compliance

This bill adds punishment while ignoring fear — guaranteeing less accurate, less timely, and more defensive reporting.

You cannot threaten people into truth.

### III. Cross-Bill Contradiction Pattern

HB 2292 directly conflicts with other legislation this body is advancing that purports to:  
encourage whistleblowing  
reduce bureaucratic burden  
protect employees from retaliation  
improve reporting accuracy

The General Assembly cannot simultaneously:  
Claim to protect reporters, and  
Expand penalties without enforcement safeguards

This contradiction is legislative bad faith.

### IV. Liability Laundering & Institutional Shielding

HB 2292:  
pushes risk downward to individual reporters  
expands disciplinary pathways  
shields agencies that fail to act on reports  
creates enforcement asymmetry

This is not child protection.

This is liability laundering.

### V. Due Process & Constitutional Violations

HB 2292 raises serious constitutional concerns by:  
imposing penalties without procedural safeguards  
creating vague and overbroad reporting triggers  
chilling protected speech and professional judgment  
enabling punitive action without reciprocal state accountability

HB 2292 does not protect children, eligible adults, or animals.

It punishes reporters while preserving institutional failure.

Until Missouri addresses:  
retaliation  
suppression  
non-action after reporting  
agency accountability

Expanding mandated reporting is reckless, unconstitutional, and performative.

This bill should be rejected in its entirety.

When a state, or its agents acting under color of law, violate a witness's civil rights, the state exposes itself to liability under federal civil-rights law, most notably 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

Such violations include retaliation for protected speech, interference with reporting, coercion,

intimidation, or punishment for cooperation with investigations.

When proven, courts may impose injunctive relief, compensatory damages, and—where conduct shows reckless or callous indifference—punitive damages against responsible officials.

Qualified immunity does NOT shield officials where the violated right was clearly established, particularly in cases involving retaliation, due process violations, or obstruction of access to justice.

Systemic or repeated violations can also trigger federal oversight, consent decrees, or Department of Justice intervention, as patterns of witness intimidation or suppression are treated as structural civil-rights failures rather than isolated misconduct.

For written record,  
Rev. Sarah M. Berry

#### **Constitutional Footnotes**

**Missouri Constitution, Art. I, §2 — Inalienable rights; government accountability**

**Missouri Constitution, Art. I, §8 — Freedom of speech; chilling effects doctrine**

**Missouri Constitution, Art. I, §10 — Due process protections**

**Missouri Constitution, Art. I, §14 — Equal protection under the law**

**U.S. Constitution, First Amendment — Retaliation and compelled speech jurisprudence**

**U.S. Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment — Due process and arbitrary enforcement**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CATTLEMEN's ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TONY DUGGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-259-1915</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PET BREEDERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>730 WEST MAIN</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
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