



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2302		DATE: 1/12/2026	
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: ALEX EATON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-9860	
REPRESENTING: RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1440 W TAYLOR ST			
CITY: CHICAGO		STATE: IL	ZIP: 60607
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: STATE POLICY ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: 311 N. LINDBERG BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: akuo.hammerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:13 PM	
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Testimony in support of House Bill 2302

Presented to the Missouri House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee
Representative Don Mayhew, Chair
January 13, 2026

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support House Bill 2302. My name is Amy Kuo Hammerman and I am the Missouri State Policy Advocate for National Council of Jewish Women, based in St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895.

NCJWSTL supports the enactment of comprehensive, humane, and equitable criminal legal reform and works to promote and protect the right to vote. Our goal is for every eligible voter to be able to cast a ballot and engage in all levels of government in a meaningful way - including those who have paid their debt to society through the criminal legal system. HB 2302 would provide humane treatment and dignity for former incarcerated and increase access to the ballot in an important way. Requiring the Department of Corrections to coordinate with the Department of Revenue to provide state-issued identification to inmates will assist in obtaining post-release employment and access to registration for the vote as allowed by law. Both of these objectives the increase dignity and well-being of former inmates and makes for a stronger democracy.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 2302.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY RULO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 2:21 PM
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Members of the committee. My name is Amy Rulo. I am the wife of a former incarcerated individual who served 17 years in Missouri Department of Corrections facilities and is on his 3rd year of parole. I would like to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2302 and address some of the issues a newly released individual faces that should be considered when perfecting the bill.

Any money they have is put on a JPay debit card. JPay puts a hold on the payments so the actual amount doesn't go through for days. \$150 of my husband's funds are still stuck somewhere in their system. Using debit cards, banking, cell phones, gas pumps, the internet, and so many other things commonly used now are things someone locked up for many years will not have any experience with. Instruction on these items would be highly beneficial.

When someone walks out of those doors they should have their birth certificate, social security card, non-driver's license photo ID, and the Substance Awareness Traffic Offender Program (SATOP) completed if they have lost their driver's license due to DWIs. The cost of the SATOP program alone ranges anywhere from \$500 to \$2000 depending on the level they are assigned to. An ID costs \$12 plus fees for 3 years, \$18 plus fees for 6 years, and \$18 plus fees for individuals 70 years or older with no expiration. Monthly Intervention Fees for parole are \$30 per month beginning as soon as they walk out. If my husband had not had my home to come to and my income to help him acquire these items he would not have been able to seek or get employment. He would not have been able to get to his required parole visits.

Other factors that severely impede their path to reentry are landlords not wanting to rent to them, employers not wanting to hire them and lack of health insurance which leads to the inability to get the medical/and or mental health care they need.

In conclusion I would like to ask you to please look over all of the needs for these individuals very carefully and put yourselves in that position. Our communities will be a better place if incarcerated individuals come back to society with as many required items as possible already provided for them so they can make every effort to get started in living honest, productive lives.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:47 PM
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I am full Support of the intension of this in assisting Inmates Nine (9) Months from release to gather the necessary documents of a Birth Certificate, Social Security Card to obtain a State I.D. from the Missouri Department of Revenue to have Identification and to obtain necessary services and employment,



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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: 2506 STONE RIDGE DR			
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63901
EMAIL: bradthielemier@jbtconsultinggroup.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 9:24 PM
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Support the bill			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMELLIA PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-726-9475	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 94			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: cpeterson@afphq.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:40 PM	
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January 12, 2026

Chairman Mayhew, Vice-Chair Cook, Ranking Member Collins, and Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.?

My name is Camellia Peterson, and I am the Legislative Director of Americans for Prosperity, Missouri. We urge you to support H.B. 2302, which would boost rehabilitation and reduce recidivism rates, thereby protecting the citizens of Missouri.

This legislation requires that upon the discharge of an incarcerated individual who intends to remain in the state, the Missouri Department of Corrections must provide them with a Missouri Identification card. Additionally, they will be provided with a Social Security card, a certified copy of their birth certificate, and relevant vocational training and work records. It also ensures that they are informed of their eligibility to apply for occupational licenses in the state of Missouri.

These measures will make the people of Missouri safer by reducing the factors that directly lead formerly incarcerated individuals to reoffend. The dignity and self-sufficiency provided by work, in addition to being a vital American value, has been shown to reduce crime rates, making law-abiding citizens significantly less likely to become victims of crime. Most people currently behind bars will eventually be released back into society. A well-functioning criminal justice system should reduce unnecessary barriers to successful reentry, such as a lack of proper identification.

While there has been commendable improvement in Missouri's recidivism rates, they are still far too high. The Missouri Department of Corrections reported that for individuals released from prison in 2021, nearly one in three reoffended within three years. In addition to the obvious tragic impacts of crime, the cost to re-incarcerate these individuals puts a strain on the state's finances.

A leading cause of recidivism is a lack of stable employment. Employment is significantly harder to find without documentation such as an ID, social security card, etc. The cost and confusion to obtain this documentation, while a minor issue for most citizens, may be too much for someone recently released from prison. Releasing prisoners without valid IDs creates easily removable barriers to their opportunities for success.

Lack of a valid ID also poses problems for acquiring stable housing. Recently incarcerated individuals

with limited funds and without the proper documentation are at an elevated risk of sleeping on the streets or of ending up staying in crime-ridden houses, all of which increases their likelihood of reoffending.

None of these measures will increase the chances of more Missourians becoming victims of crime. People should rightfully be held accountable for the crimes they commit; however, this legislation would affect only those who will be reentering society.

Criminal justice policy should look to the long-term safety of the state. A key aspect of reducing Missouri's recidivism rates is ensuring that our system is more effective at facilitating successful re-entry.

Sincerely, ????????????????

Camellia Peterson
Legislative Director
Americans For Prosperity – Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFTON DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 10:15 PM
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Clifton Davis, and I am here in strong support of House Bill 2302.

The Missouri Department of Corrections is about corrections.

The criminal justice system is about rehabilitation.

And rehabilitation is how we reduce recidivism, victimization, and long-term costs to the state.

HB 2302 is a rehabilitation bill.

This bill recognizes a simple but important truth: rehabilitation does not begin with grand gestures—it begins with small, practical steps. When we focus on the small things and get them right, we start putting the pieces together and create real, lasting outcomes.

One of those small things is identification.

When individuals are released from custody without a valid state ID, they immediately face barriers to lawful employment, housing, healthcare, transportation, and compliance with supervision. That lack of documentation becomes a roadblock to rehabilitation—and too often, a pathway back to incarceration.

HB 2302 removes that barrier.

By requiring the Department of Corrections to address identification before release, while the state still has custody and records, this bill aligns policy with purpose. It allows rehabilitation to continue beyond the prison gate instead of stopping at it.

This is how we reduce recidivism.

People who leave custody with proper documentation are more likely to work, more likely to stabilize their lives, and less likely to return to the system. When rehabilitation succeeds, future crimes are prevented, and future victims are spared.

That benefits everyone.

HB 2302 is also responsible governance. It does not expand bureaucracy or create new entitlements. It uses existing systems, existing records, and existing funding options to fix a preventable

problem—before it becomes a public-safety issue.

Members of the Committee, I do not believe anyone votes against rehabilitation.

And if a missing state ID stands in the way of rehabilitation—and contributes to reincarceration—then removing that barrier is not controversial. It is common sense.

HB 2302 strengthens corrections, supports rehabilitation, reduces recidivism, and promotes safer communities.

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2302.

Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COLLEEN TEPEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 11:55 PM
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Fair voting is crucial to a healthy democracy, that's why I support this bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63385
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:25 AM

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The Missouri correctional system releases prisoners with the assumption that they are ready to reenter society at-large without re-offending. This act would streamline formerly incarcerated individuals' path to obtaining necessities like employment and housing, and encourage them to maintain a law-abiding lifestyle. The Missouri Catholic Conference therefore voices support for this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DÉNA NOTZ		PHONE NUMBER: 417-260-2003	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COLLECTIVELY CHANGING CORRECTIONS		TITLE: FOUNDER/PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 102			
CITY: ROBY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65557
EMAIL: cccforchange24@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:11 AM	

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We fully support any efforts to help the incarcerated get rehabilitated and lower recidivism rates here in Missouri. Currently those who are released from Missouri prisons, are many times completely unprepared for life on the outside. Unless they have family helping them its almost impossible for them to get back on their feet, find jobs, housing... So a lot of them ultimately end up back in prison because they really have no choice but to go back to what they knew.

This is another reason long sentences are not helpful. If a person is able to be rehabilitated, it should not take 20 years, for instance. After 20 years the world has changed, they will most likely never be able to get a job, housing, or become a productive member of society... which should be the ultimate goal.

In conclusion, yes, we should be continuing to support their rehabilitation and help them become productive members of society, upon release and beyond.

This is another instance where looking at history may be helpful, they used to release inmates from prison with some money, and other resources to help them with re-entry and to re-integrate. The recidivism rates were MUCH lower years ago. We seem to be going backwards.

Thank you for your time,

Déna Notz
Founder
Collectively Changing Corrections



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION (MOVPC ACTION)		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: denise@movpc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:06 PM	
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Dear members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee:

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC Action) submits this testimony in support of HB 2302, which would require the Department of Corrections to facilitate obtaining a state ID for those being released from the Department of Corrections. This is a valuable reform that will aid in multiple aspects of rehabilitation that help prevent recidivism, and promote good citizenship.

Among other things, a current (or recently expired) Missouri state ID is currently needed to vote. Returning citizens are among the populations least likely to have a valid and current state ID, both due to incarceration, but also to lack of access to underlying documents like a certified birth certificate, social security paperwork, etc.

This legislation addresses these barriers by allowing a Department of Corrections-issued record card as valid identification documentation for an inmate to obtain a state ID, and by allowing an ID obtained with a DOC record card to be valid up to four years. This will help returning citizens have the ID they need to obtain housing, employment — and vote — which will promote positive re-entry and good citizenship. This is particularly helpful as Missouri lawmakers consider legislation this year that would restore voting rights to returning citizens on probation and parole.

Voters of color are significantly disproportionately impacted. One in 19 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised due to a felony - a rate 3.5 times that of non-African Americans. Among the adult African American population, 5.3 percent is disenfranchised compared to 1.5 percent of the adult non-African American population.

Peer-reviewed studies unilaterally confirm that voting after release from incarceration reduces recidivism. States that allow post-release voting have lower recidivism rates, and more positive re-entry experiences. Why? Voting encourages engagement and participation. It gives people a stake in their communities. This is one reason many states are moving towards restoring voting rights for those on probation and parole. Since 1997, 26 states and the District of Columbia have guaranteed voting rights to people living with felony convictions in their past. As a result, over 2 million Americans have regained their fundamental right to vote, and are contributing members of their communities. ?

By facilitating acceptable ID, HB 2302 helps the re-entry process and helps move people into

productive citizenship. Accordingly, we urge this committee to Support HB 2302.

Sincerely,

Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel
MOVPC Action
6047 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112
denise@movpc.org; (314) 780-1833
www.movpc.org



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:32 PM
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This helps everyone vote and I support HB 2302.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANK DONALD ECKELMANN, JR.		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:00 PM
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Requires Dept of Corrections to coordinate with Dept of Revenue to provide a state ID to inmates without a current Missouri ID

Nine months prior to an inmate's release from custody, the Department of Corrections will determine whether the inmate has a current state ID and, if not, begin gathering the required documentation to receive one. A certified birth certificate and a Department of Corrections-issued record card will be valid identification documentation for an inmate to obtain a state ID.

State-issued ID cards issued with a record card from the Department of Corrections must be valid for a period of four years and are nonrenewable and nontransferable. The Department of Corrections can utilize any funds to cover the purchase of ID cards, including but not limited to, inmate trust funds, existing funds of the Department, and donations. The Department must provide an inmate with the types of documentation specified in the bill to assist in post-release employment.



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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: 4016 WINNEBAGO STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: gwen@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:57 AM
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As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration.

We are providing testimony today in support of HB 2302, sponsored by Representative Oehlerking, which would ensure that individuals leaving Missouri prisons have access to crucial documentation, as well as a host of other resources to help ensure successful reentry and employment outcomes. This bill outlines that the DOC will obtain the following for individuals preparing for release: a state ID, a certified copy of their birth certification, a Social Security card, a resume that includes any trades learned by the individual, a copy of their vocational training record, a copy of their work record, and documentation that they have completed a practice job interview.

According to the most recent available data from the Department of Corrections, Missouri's recidivism rate is 39%, meaning that nearly 4 in 10 people released from prison will end up returning to custody within 5 years. Supporting positive employment outcomes is one way that has been proven effective to reduce recidivism. Studies from the National Resource Council report that up to half of formerly incarcerated individuals remain unemployed for as long as a year after their release. Incarceration contributes to lower hourly wages and reduced annual earnings. Formerly incarcerated individuals typically hold low-paying, insecure jobs and experience frequent periods of unemployment and high job turnover. Supporting employment outcomes through vocational training and interview preparation, in addition to ensuring that individuals have the necessary documentation to hit the ground running upon release, will go a long way in helping people leaving Missouri prisons find stable and sustainable employment.

Empower Missouri urges this committee to take action to pass HB 2302 into law. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES E LOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:44 AM

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Please support this bill. Being able to vote gives returning citizens a sense of ownership and belonging in their state and community and helps them reintegrate into society.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES FIGUEROA-ROBNETT JR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-356-4433	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLOR PEOPLE		TITLE: VICE-CHAIR PRISON ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE	
ADDRESS: 111 W HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:22 PM
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I am part of the Prison Ministry Team at Epiphany United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO. Also I formerly worked at Empower Missouri, one of our state's earliest not-for-profits which had its start as the Missouri Conference on Charities and Corrections in 1901.

For years in both of these roles, I have heard tragic stories of the difficulties that formerly incarcerated people have had once released due to not having needed ID's an other common personal documents. These are required to interact with landlords, employers, and educational institutions.

Often those incarcerated do not have the financial resources or access needed to pursue legal documents. Suddenly facing the joys and challenges of freedom does not automatically enable them to quickly secure identifying documents. It is in society's best interest to help them succeed by making sure they leave incarceration with the most common and necessary identifying documents.

My thanks to the sponsor for bringing this legislation forward. I ask for your support and welcome your questions.



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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: JESSE CHILCUTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, I write in support of this as the hardest part of getting out of prison is getting on your feet. Everyone deserves a fair chance to make up for, and move on for their mistakes. Everyone deserves a fair chance to stand onto their own feet again. I've seen so many family members get trapped in this cycle of justice that makes it near impossible to do things 'the right way', and end up reoffending out of necessity, deprived of a real opportunity. Simplifying the process of getting an ID makes their reintegration more attainable for so many. The reality that awaits newly freed people is a nightmare of paperwork just to get all the things we are privileged to already have. This needs to be simplified and assisted to help the societal blight of recidivism



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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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: JONATHAN SCHMID		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: POLICY COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST., STE. 1130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: jschmid@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:15 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The ACLU of Missouri (ACLU-MO) submits this testimony in support of HB 2302, which standardizes the processes by which individuals leaving incarceration obtain essential personal documentation during their reintegration. The ACLU-MO is the state affiliate of the national ACLU and works in the courts, legislature, and Missouri communities to defend and preserve the civil rights of individual Missourians.

Identification documents such as state-issued identification cards, Social Security cards, and birth certificates are essential to accessing many of the facets of modern life. Applying for employment, registering to vote, obtaining healthcare benefits, and securing housing all require access to these important documents.

Importantly, this bill provides that Department of Corrections-issued identification may be used for obtaining a Department of Revenue-issued card. However, identification issued pursuant to this provision is only valid for four years following release from incarceration. See § 217.443.5. Because the underlying document is state-issued, we request that identification issued pursuant to this provision be valid for six years instead of four, which aligns with current expiration standards for state-issued identification. Here, there is no question about the identity of the incarcerated individual, there is no reason to limit the temporal validity of the issued card.

Minor adjustment aside, this bill is a positive step forward for those leaving incarceration. Accordingly, we urge you to vote YES on HB 2302.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: JULIE ANN TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:13 AM

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I support this bill because it helps inmates to transition back into society to become gainfully employed and hopefully reduces recidivism.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: LAURA BIRDSONG		PHONE NUMBER: 816-738-5930	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BEYOND THE WALLS, INC		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 300 10TH STREET			
CITY: GARDEN CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64747
EMAIL: lbirdsong.beyondthewalls@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 6:33 PM

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

Beyond the Walls, Inc offers support in re-entry planning. We see first hand the barriers in place created by individuals being unprepared prior to release. For this reason we wish to support the proposed bill. We do have questions and believe there needs to be clarity and possible amendment to specify how the handling of individuals with shorter offenses such as a 120 treatment would be provided with ID prior to release. We would also ask to have additional steps taken to allow individuals a real opportunity towards gainful employment by extending Missouri's "Ban the Box" policy for state jobs from Governor Jay Nixon's Executive Order 16-04 to not be secluded to state employment applications, but statewide where individuals are afforded a real chance to succeed. We can offer all the job readiness and skills training in the world but until we allow those with records to be rightfully considered in the workforce it does very little to reach the end goal of reducing recidivism and allowing individuals to achieve success.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:55 PM

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I support this bill because it is important for reintegration into society. Having appropriate, official ID helps with employment and many other aspects of life, so it can help prevent recidivism.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA L REED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge your support for HB 2302.

This bill addresses a major barrier to successful reentry: lack of a state-issued ID. Without identification, returning citizens face serious obstacles to employment, housing, healthcare, and civic participation.

By requiring the Department of Corrections to help individuals obtain ID before release, this bill promotes stability, reduces recidivism, and strengthens public safety. It is a practical and responsible solution to a well-documented problem.

I respectfully ask for your support.

Respectfully,
Marcia Reed
Holts Summit, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARGERY DOSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 9:52 PM

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

Successful community reentry following incarceration is needed to support former inmates in getting employment, housing and those require a valid photo ID. Providing ID upon release is a small cost to Missouri that can aid positive reentry to society which benefits us all.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIAN MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 1/12/2026 9:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This seems to be a positive move to help ensure that, following incarceration, returning citizens have an acceptable ID to be able to find employment, find a place to live, and also will be able to vote. Returning citizens are among the populations least likely to have a valid state ID and face barriers to obtaining one.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm submitting this testimony to urge your support for HB2302. This impactful bill would require the Dept of Corrections to coordinate with Dept of Revenue to provide a state ID to inmates without a current Missouri ID. The enormous challenges many Missourians face obtaining the required documentation for a state ID cannot be overstated. Think about the critical necessity of a current state ID in everyday life, including the ability to exercise one's right to vote in Missouri. I strongly and respectfully urge you to yes on HB 2302.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY CALHOUN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In order for incarcerated persons to be reinstated into society as members with agency, they must have access to the most basic form of verification - a valid ID. Failing to provide this sets formerly incarcerated people up to fail, making it more likely that they will again end up in the kinds of desperate situations that lead people to criminal activity in the first place. If we as a nation actually care about rehabilitating people -- not just repeatedly punishing them -- then we need to prioritize the tools that make that rehabilitation possible.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN JORDAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:51 AM

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Our prisoners have repaid their debt to society. Now they must be given the chance to build new and productive lives. It is vital to have a State ID to begin this process!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Thank you for giving HB 2302 a committee hearing today. Since we all want to have those leaving incarceration become "productive members of society", we need to give them a true ID card. It is necessary for one to obtain a job, housing, financial resources which are all required to build a life and reenter our society. If the State of Missouri has incarcerated someone, they MUST know who that person is! I think this is money well spent because without an ID it is much more likely that someone will reoffend or, at best, not become a valuable member of our community, resulting in other costs to society. Surely we can do this cost-effective service to help our formerly incarcerated re-enter society. I also am glad the bill includes documentation of an inmates education and skills learned while imprisoned. Skills can result in the ability to actually obtain a living wage. Please vote FOR HB2302. Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL TEVEROW		PHONE NUMBER: 417-621-1494	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JOPLIN PHOTO ID PROJECT		TITLE: PROJECT COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 2501 S. WALL AVE.			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64804
EMAIL: joplinphotoid@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:28 PM

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

Our organization helps anyone navigating the process of securing a Missouri Photo ID. Some of our clients are people who have been released from incarceration and who lack any of the documents required for a Missouri Photo ID. Having such an ID is essential if they are to become, as I'm sure we all hope, self-supporting citizens with an established residence. Thanks you for considering how this bill could benefits not only the inmates who have served their time but also our state as a whole.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RASHEEDA Q		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning to be able to get out of prison and have all the necessities that you need ID that can get you a long way with not being able to have your state drivers license or anything it will be a good idea for all the help we can get so they are able to get out have a job find a job be able to do the things they need to do to get on their feet, thank you for everything that you are doing. I was once locked up and I had to do this and it took a long time so thank you and have a good day.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RILEY T MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:40 AM
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Hello my name is Riley and I support giving inmates new ID when they exit prison, in order help them transition towards living outside of the prison walls. From everything I understand it is a dramatic change that can be very tough on people, going from a very regimented lifestyle to free and unsure of what to do. Take this burden off them sounds like a way to make sure they know they have a path forward. I am also sure that getting them IDs helps to keep them within the system of our bureaucracy, and having the Department of Corrections help with that probably just makes sense. Although I do wonder if the Department will be able to handle the work load, the 9 month time frame is generous, I am just not sure if they have personal dedicated towards this process. If they do I have no concerns.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA E CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:41 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT DIDRIKSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 4:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to urge your support for HB 2302. For the past 16 years, I have served as a Volunteer in Corrections, bringing the message of recovery to men at the Jefferson City Correctional Center and Algoa Correctional Center.

I have witnessed the transformation of lives of incarcerated individuals through the practice of the 12-steps. However, I have also witnessed the heartbreaking "revolving door" of our justice system. I have spoken with numerous men who were released with the best of intentions, only to find themselves back behind bars in less than a year.

When an individual is released, they are required to have a "home plan" covering housing, employment, and treatment. Yet, without a state-issued ID, executing that plan is nearly impossible. A state-issued ID is the "key" to the community; without it, they cannot legally work, secure housing, or open a bank account.

The transition back into society is jarring, especially for those who have been incarcerated for many years and are navigating a world that has changed technologically and socially. By ensuring an inmate has their documentation in hand upon release, HB 2302 removes a significant hurdle and allows them to focus on their recovery and employment immediately.

This bill is a common-sense step toward reducing recidivism and supporting successful re-entry. I respectfully ask the committee to vote "Do Pass" on HB 2302.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.



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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 8:18 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN KOHLHAGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 11:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill is excellent as it provides an legitimate photo ID for inmates to use to register to vote upon release, as well as provides identification for job applications, housing applications, and getting a driver's license.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAUSHA TODD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 10:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My brother is fighting a criminal case , for example one of his charges are statutory rape and he is innocent in his case. Both Judge and his own paid attorney did not do there job. His attorney did not put his hard evidence on the table to prove he didn't do it. Even though when he gets out, he'll be coming home to family. I still believe we should have more housing options for individuals like him. We need more and safe places for them to go all around Missouri. The prisons should offer more ways to helping the inmate find a job and housing. Help the get back on there feet. NOT EVERY PERSON INCARCERATED IS A CRIMINAL



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY KOCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:28 AM
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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: TARA HALLMARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this legislation. It does not provide employment opportunities for citizens to be released; it hinders and charges a fee against citizens to get released, especially women.

This legislation does not meet realistic watermarks and insults past Judicial Court processes and rulings.

Its is wrong to force citizens and families of incarcerated citizens to pay money for a pretend id as a condition of release.

In Missouri, to join and train for a Union job, to attend trade schools, to marry, registering the children for school and get a loan or apply for child care/child medical; all need certified copy of social security and birth certificate, we all know it is the minimum.

The correction service in Missouri has failed to keep incarcerated individuals alive and safe.

How is it corrections do not have assurances of a birth certificate with judicial incarceration?

If State of Missouri has been housing and feeding undocumented folks, that needs to be shared and not rewarded to a department created for them to sell services on taxpayers dime for a layer of nothing.

The legislation should mandate every released individual gets a certified birth certificate and social security.