



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2308		DATE: 1/28/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CODY ROGERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:54 AM
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I am in supportive this because as a father, who's been there for his poor children every day of their lives, who's going through a separation is I can see it on my kids face every time I tell you them over the phone or I'm able to see them at an activity just not fair for my children to have to deal with it and be OK with. I'm a firm believer in children. Need both parents to be thriving in our society, and when you put one parent out of their lives, highly disrupt their ability to become member of our society.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINCOLN M. BRUBAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT GARZA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY STOINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 4:32 PM
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My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am writing today in opposition to HB 2308 at this time because I do not believe enough information has been provided to educate the public as to why this legislation is necessary. As someone who has been a domestic violence advocate for many years, I know there are very good reasons why parental time may be denied, including risk of harm to children, and I would like more information provided to the public as to why this bill is necessary before there is further action on it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:13 PM	

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House Bill 2308 establishes a mandatory remedial framework for parenting time that is triggered by the absence of a formal finding of abuse or neglect, rather than by an affirmative determination of child safety or best interest.

In doing so, the bill collapses a critical legal distinction: a finding of no abuse is not a finding of no risk. Child-protection investigations routinely conclude without formal findings for reasons unrelated to safety, including evidentiary thresholds, jurisdictional limits, witness availability, procedural constraints, or the passage of time. HB 2308 disregards this reality and substitutes a mechanical entitlement for a fact-specific judicial assessment.

By directing courts to order compensatory parenting time following investigative or protective actions that do not result in a substantiated finding, the bill effectively recharacterizes precautionary interventions as wrongful deprivations. This reframing undermines the purpose of protective investigations and introduces a structural disincentive to cooperation with child-welfare authorities.

The bill further assigns scheduling authority to the parent who was denied time, subject only to a general “best interests of the child” qualifier. This approach inverts traditional family-law practice, in which courts retain discretion to structure parenting time based on current conditions, stability, and the child’s demonstrated needs—not retrospective symmetry.

HB 2308 also limits accountability by expressly preserving sovereign immunity and foreclosing any cause of action against investigative agencies, while simultaneously compelling courts to remedy the downstream effects of investigations. This allocation of responsibility separates decision-making authority from institutional consequence, placing courts in the position of enforcing outcomes over which they had no control.

Taken together, the bill replaces judicial discretion with presumption, substitutes entitlement for evaluation, and prioritizes procedural compensation over present-day child welfare.

For these reasons, House Bill 2308 is inconsistent with established child-protection principles and should not advance.

Codifying compensation for precautionary action distorts both investigative function and judicial review.

-Rev. Berry