



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2426		DATE: 2/24/2026	
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: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2		
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 6:55 AM

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

The Freedom Principle strongly supports HB 2426 because it safeguards parents' fundamental right to make decisions about their children's education, health care, and upbringing without unnecessary government interference. Parents know their children best and are in the best position to guide their development and well-being. This bill provides much-needed clarity by explicitly stating parental rights and protecting our authority on critical matters, from medical care to participation in school activities. By requiring transparency and consent for sensitive information and procedures, HB 2426 ensures that families remain at the heart of children's lives and decisions. Passage of this bill will empower parents and strengthen the family unit, benefiting Missouri's children and communities.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHANDRA HENDREN		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: HERITAGE ACTION		TITLE: STATE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WASHINGTON DC		STATE: DC ZIP: 20002
EMAIL: chandra.hendren@heritageaction.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 4:45 PM
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My name is Chandra Hendren, and I represent Heritage Action, a national grassroots organization with conservative activists nationwide, including many Missourians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2426.

We appreciate Representative Keathley introducing this bill. HB 2426 empowers Missouri parents by establishing a Parental Bill of Rights.

Parents are the heart of our communities and the key to raising the next generation. It is only right and fair to ensure parents are informed and included in decisions that involve their children to help them succeed.

Currently, more than 20 other states already have a version of a Parents Bill of Rights, and it's time for Missouri to be included in that list. Parents need access and transparency to fulfill their role as parents.

HB 2426 is a common sense bill that affirms parents:

- **Right to be informed, access records, and direct their child's education and health care decisions, as well as direct their moral and religious training;**
- **The right to protect their children by consenting before any biometric scan is made, shared or stored, and to opt their child out of any personal analysis or unnecessary data collection;**
- **The right to excuse a child from school attendance for religious purposes;**
- **The right to participate in parent-teacher organizations;**
- **The right to access what their children are being taught in school;**

Every parent deserves the right to be informed and involved in these things, and I ask you to support SB 948.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875
REPRESENTING: FGA ACTION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH., SUITE 200		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOANNE SCHRADER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2026 10:43 PM

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Our laws should reflect and strengthen a healthy family unit, which is the building block of society. Parents have the right to direct the religious, medical, and educational upbringing of their children. This has been affirmed by the US Supreme Court.

As a prolife citizen, I maintain it is especially important that a parent is involved in the pregnancy care of a minor child. Abortion is a serious thing with risks involved. I do not trust the abortion industry to have the best interests of a child in mind. From my experience, abortion facilities look out for their business.

Sometimes, serious complications and fatalities occur during elective abortions. It is not a procedure that a child should access without a legal guardian. Thus, minors need the guidance and protection of a parent.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MATT SHARP		PHONE NUMBER: 770-339-0774
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM		TITLE: SENIOR COUNSEL
ADDRESS: 1000 HURRICANE SHOALS RD NE, SUITE D-1100		
CITY: LAWRENCEVILLE		STATE: GA
		ZIP: 30043
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAWN M. DEGLER, MD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:45 AM	

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Good Morning. My name is Shawn M Degler, MD, and I have the director of cardiovascular Anesthesiology at University of Missouri Columbia. I have five children who are adopted and live at home with me and two grown children who live in the state as well. We received specialty care at the University of Missouri Columbia, as well as that Washington University school of medicine at Barnes Jewish children’s in St. Louis. We have no problem accessing my children’s portal results at the University of Missouri. We have consent and control over the minor children’s decision and health information. However, when we go to Washington University, Children’s Hospital, we are told that it is “state law” that children over 12 must have their own access to their own portal and give written consent before their parents can access their healthcare information, test results, or take part in telemedicine services through the MyChart interface. I have since been told that this functionality is the result of their Epic medical record server, but that is not what the physicians and nurses at the Washington University school of medicine have told myself or my spouse, Emily G Degler,. I find it illegal and immoral that they are restricting parental access to healthcare information and results that I am still fiscally and morally responsible for. In addition, because my younger children are adopted through the state of Texas, we have Medicaid reciprocity now in Missouri as a secondary insurance, to safeguard them if something were to happen to my insurability through private insurance. They have primary insurance through my current university policy. Therefore, when Washington university school of medicine restricts our access in our children’s access to telehealth services, because we will not sign up for our minor children to have their own portal and have to consent to portal access to my wife and myself, they are effectively discriminating against my children, who are Medicaid recipients and preventing federal services from reaching them due to their illegal and immoral policy. I find it reprehensible that this is allowed and then justified as either “state policy”, which it is not, or blamed on their medical information service provider, when they could have that functionality changed or limited. Please vote for protecting and safeguarding the parental rights and responsibilities in every aspect of the minor child’s healthcare. As a physician, I find this imperative. Parents must be in charge of and guide their children’s healthcare and wellness. Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony, and I am available to answer questions about my experience in this matter should that be required or desired.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN KLEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-5110
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 651		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2704
REPRESENTING: ISSACHAR.LLC		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 292 FAITH BLVD.		
CITY: GRAVOIS MILLS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65037
EMAIL: timothy@issachar.llc	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 10:46 PM

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

I support this bill...in fact, I would say this bill deserves a "Duh! Of course the parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their child!" After all, who else would? Do we really think the government has a right to make every child a ward of the state? Do we really think that parents without whom the child would not even exist - would not have the right to direct the upbringing of this young human whom they have created? It is sad that such a bill is even necessary, but here are. So I ask that you vote "do pass" to affirm what natural law has already established.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WALTER HAYES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 9:19 AM

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As a citizen with a multigenerational family perspective, I am writing to express my support for House Bill No. 2426, which aims to reaffirm and protect the fundamental rights of parents in directing the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children. This legislation is an important measure to uphold family autonomy and ensure that government agencies recognize and respect the primary authority of parents in these matters.

I support this bill because it clearly proves that parents have a fundamental liberty interest in the care, custody, and control of their children, free from unnecessary government interference. In an era where schools, healthcare providers, and other institutions sometimes overstep their bounds—such as by withholding information about a child's emotional or mental health or making decisions without parental consent, HB 2426 provides much-needed protections. For instance, the bill's requirement that government restrictions on parental rights must meet the strictest scrutiny (being essential to a compelling interest and the least restrictive means) ensures that any intervention is justified and minimal, preventing arbitrary encroachments on family decisions.

Section 1.391's list of exclusive parental rights is crucial, giving parents clear authority over their child's education, access to records, moral and religious guidance, and health decisions—including mental health. I appreciate the ability to opt my child out of non-essential data collection or excuse them for religious reasons without extra bureaucracy. The bill also ensures government agencies cannot promote secrecy between children and parents, supporting transparency and trust.

Changes to Section 431.061 make the rules stricter by mandating that parents must give consent before minors receive certain sensitive medical treatments, like those involving pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, or substance abuse. These updates help prevent minors from making important decisions alone, encouraging families to work together when facing these issues.

From my experience in Carl Junction, I've noticed that strong parental involvement benefits children. HB 2426 gives parents like myself more authority to engage in our children's lives confidently, while also ensuring protections against abuse or neglect remain in place. This approach honors constitutional values and supports the well-being of Missouri families.

I encourage you to approve House Bill No. 2426, showing Missouri's support for parents. Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 4:38 PM
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This is massive governmental interference of healthcare, schools and a minor's autonomy. Most of the passages in this bill are already laws. This is a waste of tax payer money and riddled with ballot candy.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEAD VOLUNTEER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:15 PM	

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Our position on a Parents’ Bill of Rights has not changed, and we continue to be on record in opposition to such bills, not because we believe parents do not have rights, but because we believe they already have these rights and growing state statute is unnecessary.

Parents can direct students education and choose their schools already. Parents can serve on curriculum committees, volunteer in school, opt out of assignments, and direct education in a variety of ways. What parents should not have the right to do is 1) micromanage all details within a school or district or 2) through their actions make decisions for other peoples’ children thereby infringing on others’ parental rights. So if you want to direct your child’s reading, for example, you can to that by guiding their choices according to your values, but you shouldn’t be able to remove the book without a process because that deprives other parents from guiding their children according to their values. If the book stays, your child doesn’t have to read it but mine still can.

This bill could actually lead to an infringement on the rights of others. Parents should absolutely be the arbiters of moral and religious education; religious education doesn’t belong in taxpayer funded public or charter schools. However, if your family’s moral/religious beliefs affect or cause harm to other students, then the school must curtail that. For example some parents show their children OK to use derogatory terms for people, or teach that if someone hits you, knock them down, or that girls shouldn’t play with boys; none of these tenets are acceptable in a public school. If a parent’s moral beliefs negatively impact OTHER students, that deprives that child’s family of their right to guide their child. It’s why schools enforce rules and guidelines that comport with generally accepted societal standards.

We want to believe all parents are good and will protect their children, and most do, but decades in public education has shown us some don’t. As we’ve said before, good parents do not glow and dangerous parents do not always appear dangerous, so it must be clear that erring on the side of child safety is imperative. Even “good parents” can do terrible things, and there is no sign of it until they feel cornered, and then the child is in danger.

Finally we are concerned that compensatory damages could put teachers on the defensive on multiple fronts, driving them away from the profession.

For these reasons we oppose this bill.



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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: 2/23/2026 9:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 2426. A bill like this is allowance for youth and children to be abused. It is not uncommon for abusive parents to prohibit access to medical care. This bill is not parent supportive, rather it is supporting abusive parents.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER FLEMING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 9:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. The way the bill is written only gives rights to certain parents.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:14 AM

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Please vote no on 2426. As a parent of 3 teens, while I would hope very much to know if they were experiencing venereal disease, I am concerned that minors are less likely to receive treatment, which is likely to increase rates of infection overall. Likewise, I am concerned that we could see an increase in desperate, pregnant teens who may make dangerous or violent choices for themselves and their unborn babies or wait much later for substance abuse treatment. When/if any of these conditions are allowed to progress, we increase the harm to our population generally.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 6:49 PM

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This is ridiculous. Parents already have rights. And if you ever too the time to actually look - you can find the parental bill of rights on the Missouri DESE page.



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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: 2/24/2026 11:11 PM

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I strongly oppose HB2426 (Keithley) as a dangerous bill that weaponizes “parental rights” to dismantle public education, endanger vulnerable children, and place an impossible burden on our school systems.

While cloaked in the language of liberty, the core mandates of these bills are a profound threat to child safety. By forcing schools to notify parents of any suspected harm against a student, with a dangerously narrow exception, they will force the outing of LGBTQ+ youth to unsupportive households, putting them at direct risk of abuse, homelessness, and suicide. They deliberately erode the trusted, confidential relationships between students and counselors or teachers.

Additionally, the bills' sweeping declaration of a “fundamental right” to direct a child’s upbringing free from government interference is a radical legal blueprint. It could be used to challenge mandatory vaccinations, public health orders, child labor laws, and even curriculum standards that teach accurate history or science, all under the guise of parental choice. The burden this places on schools is immense and unfounded. They will be forced to navigate a minefield of potential lawsuits from parents empowered to sue for any perceived breach in the mandates, draining already scarce resources from classrooms into courtrooms.

The addition of the financial ledger provision in SB948 is a cynical distraction, a performative nod to “transparency” designed to bolster the bill’s anti-public school agenda by fueling unfounded distrust in district management.

This is not about empowering families; it is about codifying a dangerous ideology that prioritizes absolute parental control over a child’s right to safety, bodily autonomy, a teacher's duty of care, and a well-resourced, inclusive public education. I urge you to reject these regressive and harmful bills.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 11:10 PM

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT GOOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 7:29 AM

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Parents currently have adequate access to schools and this bill seeks to undermine the professionalism of teachers.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-669-3425
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:29 AM
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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: 2/24/2026 8:32 AM

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HB 2426 does not merely restate existing constitutional doctrine. It elevates parental rights into a statutory strict-scrutiny regime, creates a private cause of action with damages and attorney’s fees, and applies retroactively to all state and local action.

This bill is legally overbroad, structurally disruptive, and litigation-generating.

1?? Strict Scrutiny Imposed by Statute

Section 1.390(3) requires government to prove:

A compelling governmental interest

The least restrictive means

for any restriction on parental direction of education, health care, or upbringing.

Missouri courts already recognize parental liberty interests under:

Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)

Mo. Const. art. I

Codifying strict scrutiny across all state and local action creates:

Automatic constitutional-tier litigation over school policies

Challenges to public health measures

Challenges to mandatory reporting frameworks

Challenges to child welfare interventions

This is not clarification — it is litigation expansion.

2?? Retroactive Application

Section 1.390(4) applies to:

“all state and local laws... whether adopted before, on, or after August 28, 2026.”

This retroactive reach invites:

Immediate challenges to existing statutes

Judicial invalidation of longstanding child-protection and education frameworks

Statutes that fundamentally alter standards of review and attach damages exposure should not apply retroactively without clear constitutional analysis.

3?? Civil Liability & Attorney's Fees

Section 1.391(3) allows parents to:

**Assert violations in any judicial or administrative proceeding
Seek declaratory and injunctive relief
Seek compensatory damages
Recover attorney's fees**

This transforms policy disagreements into fee-shifting civil rights litigation.

**School districts, child welfare agencies, and municipalities will face:
Increased legal exposure
Defensive administrative paralysis
Chilling of mandated reporting and intervention decisions**

4?? Health Care Consequences

**The amendment to §431.061 removes minors' ability to consent independently to treatment for:
Venereal disease
Drug or substance abuse**

**This raises:
Public health concerns
Federal compliance issues (e.g., confidentiality and treatment frameworks tied to funding)
Potential preemption conflicts where federal law conditions funding on confidential minor access to certain services**

The bill narrows access without analyzing downstream consequences.

5?? Overbreadth & Internal Tension

The bill claims not to allow harm to children (Section 1.390(5)), yet:

**It heightens litigation standards for government intervention
It restricts minor autonomy in specific health contexts
It creates procedural weapons against agencies tasked with child safety
It codifies a parental-rights superstatute without harmonizing with abuse prevention, public health, or federal funding requirements.**

Conclusion:

HB 2426 is not a symbolic affirmation of parental rights — those already exist constitutionally.

It:

**Imposes statutory strict scrutiny on broad categories of government action
Creates retroactive exposure
Authorizes damages and attorney's fees
Restricts minors' medical autonomy in ways that may conflict with federal frameworks**

This bill significantly alters Missouri's legal landscape and guarantees expansive litigation.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that codifying a universal strict-scrutiny standard for parental-rights claims, combined with retroactive application and fee-shifting civil remedies, materially increases litigation exposure for state and local governments. Additionally, removal of minor consent provisions for certain health services may implicate federal funding conditions and preemption

concerns. Enactment without narrowing language and federal compliance analysis may result in immediate constitutional and statutory challenges.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2426		DATE: 2/24/2026
COMMITTEE: Children and Families		
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: SLOAN COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:14 AM

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Parents already have rights, and this bill actually takes away from current parental rights.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families		
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: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 9:24 PM
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HB 2426 hypocritically fails to acknowledge that Missouri government quite happily restricts the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health care of that parent's child when the child is transgender. Further, not all parents are safe people to whom a pregnant or addicted child, or one with an STI can disclose. This cherry picking of parental rights is unappealingly controlling.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MAVIS DEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3785
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION		TITLE:
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CITY: MARYVILLE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64468
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2426		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:30 AM	
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The committee may wish to consider language relating to parental and educator rights in education as approved by the House in 2025 in the HCS for SB 68. The language was also approved in 2025 in the HCS for HB 1287.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT A. WOODRUFF		PHONE NUMBER: 540-338-5600	
REPRESENTING: HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 3000			
CITY: PURCELLVILLE VA		STATE: VA	ZIP: 20134
EMAIL: scottw@hslida.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:38 PM	
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February 24, 2026

Re: HB 2426

Dear Chair Jones and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write for HSLDA as neutral but request three important amendments.

FIRST. Section 1.391(9) gives a parent a right to consent to a recording of a child except in certain situations. Saying the right to consent does not exist in those situations invites the inference that no consent is needed during, e.g., a seizure to affect a child welfare interview. This is clearly contrary to the 4th Amendment and will cause confusion among those responsible for conducting interviews—and those being interviewed.

On line 20, page 2, after “unless”, please insert, “without abrogation of rights secured under the 4th Amendment.” This will make it clear that no violation of 4th Amendment rights is intended.

SECOND. Under federal law, 42 USC Sect. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(xix), child protective workers must disclose the allegations against a family on first contact. This duty is unconditional. Lines 28 through 31 on page 2, however, curtail or even abridge that federal right in certain situations.

To resolve this conflict, please add a new numbered paragraph (and renumber the others) between current paragraphs (9) and (10) on page 2 as follows:

“(10) To receive, upon first contact with a representative of the department of social services, an accurate written itemization containing all details of any reports or allegations concerning abuse or neglect of the parent’s child which the department of social services has received, excluding only the name of the person who provided the reports or made the allegations.”

Then on line 28, page 2, after the word “authority”, please insert “other than the department of social services” This will make it clear that the department of social service’s duty to disclose is unconditional, but other government agencies may rely on the contingency.

THIRD. Lines 32-35 spanning pages 2 and 3, say that a parent may not opt his child out school district data collection if it is “essential” for establishing a student’s educational record. This provision is so vague that it might be construed to allow a public school district to gather data on homeschool families and students and submit that data to a state database. To prevent this miscarriage, on line 34, page 3, after the word “except” please add, “, in the case of a public school student.”

With these three changes, HSLDA’s position will be to support the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Woodruff, Senior Counsel, Home School Legal Defense Association