



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026	
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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "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: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHELSIE CREPS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:05 AM
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I am in support of this bill. Expanding the pool of those that can carry and protect our schools is a good thing. More people willing and trained will help ensure that in the event of an issue the maximum number of people to protect are in place. Anyone working at a school should be able to defend the school and protect our children.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEE ANN DUCOTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:43 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NICHOLAS SPENCER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-795-3768	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STRATEGOS INTERNATIONAL		TITLE: COO	
ADDRESS: 300 N OSAGE			
CITY: INDEPENDENCE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64075
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROGER MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:49 PM	

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My name is Roger Moore, I am a retired law enforcement officer, former Police Academy Director for both Springfield MO PD and the Drury University Law Enforcement Academy. I have taught active shooter response to both law enforcement and new SPOs for several years. I am also a retired Assistant Professor and Program Manager for the Evangel University Criminal Justice Degree program.

I strongly support expanding the list of eligible persons to be trained as SPOs to include any school staff member so the best person can be selected to serve as an SPO.

While it may not be possible to address in this bill, I have listed a few other things that would improve the SPO program, and make it easier for districts to implement and maintain . I firmly believe intervention capabilities will save lives and needs to be implemented in every building students are occupying. The SPO program is the most cost effective way to accomplish this

Here are the main points I would like to see:

Expand the list of who is eligible to be trained and certified as an SPO to "any school employee" from current "teacher or administrator" so districts can select the best person.

We really need funding support for standing up and maintaining the program. For less than \$6,000 per SPO they can have intervention capabilities in every building where students are present. This is simply the most cost effective way to get those capabilities in place but it still needs funding support. I would like to see the list of schools eligible to have DPS certified SPOs expanded to include private schools in addition to public schools.

The SPO training needs to stay under POST continuing education providers like it is now so curriculum and instructors are vetted.

Remove the requirement for all CEU training has to be done by a current "commissioned law enforcement officer". Many jurisdictions don't have qualified instructors for active shooter response or don't want to assume the liability associated (they are struggling to get their own people trained) and the current statute limits retired trainers who no longer are commissioned but are subject matter experts on the topic from providing the CEU training

These are the main things that would help improve the program. Please remember we are talking about saving lives, the average attack is over in five minutes or less, average police response is seven minutes or longer. It is about the math.

Eighty five percent of the time the attacker is a current or former student. They already know how they are getting in before they arrive so infrastructure only solutions will not stop an attack.

Thanks Roger Moore

Please let me know if you need any further information on the SPO program.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SKYLER VIEBROCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN MYERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:09 PM	

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Expanding the list of eligible candidates for the SPO program to include other district employees has been a priority of MO's Women for Gun Rights members for several years now.

Districts should be allowed to consider the IT tech, custodian, or cafeteria worker, along with their teachers and administrators. In some ways these employees could be better suited than teachers, being that they aren't responsible for a large group of students at any given time, leaving them free to respond quickly at the initial sound of gunfire.

And let's not mince words, this is an uncomfortable topic that deserves an unemotional, reality based look at putting in place an effective counter attack plan designed to stop an active shooter in as short a time as possible. Getting discreetly armed and trained responders dispersed throughout the buildings is the only way to have a realistic chance at keeping a low victim count.

Anyone who has attended one of Ed Monk's "Active Shooter Problem" seminars or has read his book, "First 30 Seconds," knows, it's all about time and math. Once the shooting starts on average, by the end of the first minute you can expect 12 victims shot. That's already too many. Extending it out to a 3 or 4 minute rapid response time for police (assuming someone's called 911), you're looking at 24 - 29 victims shot.

MO's SPO are highly trained, but still some will argue that police are better suited to respond to an active shooter. I'm guessing the 29 who are otherwise going to be shot while waiting for law enforcement to arrive would prefer the person who's already there and armed take the shot and end attack. As Monk writes, "What is most important is not who is best prepared to stop the Active Shooter, but who can do it the quickest, thereby keeping the victim-count low."

I thank the bill sponsor for his continued efforts to implement necessary changes aimed at enhancing the SPO program, allowing our schools to better prepare for an event we can all hope will never come. But surely must prepare for as if it were inevitable. Doing any less for our kids is simply unacceptable. They are after all our greatest treasure.

Thank you.

Susan Myers, Missouri State Director
 Women for Gun Rights



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TONYA WOODS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-850-0668	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THAYER R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT	
ADDRESS: 401 EAST WALNUT ST			
CITY: THAYER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65791
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRIANNA MULLALLY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:08 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHEIRNE TERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:06 PM	
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We have heard this bill many times and there is a reason it does not become law - it is a very bad idea. More guns do not make us safer. Just the opposite is true. I have lived in Missouri for 37 years, have raised two children in Columbia and I work on a college campus. This bill is dangerous and I am vehemently opposed to it. More untrained people with weapons makes us all less safe. Your job as a legislator is to keep people safe, not actively put our young people (or anyone) in harm's way. Thank you for listening.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERNE HOLMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:51 PM	
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**More guns in schools is not the answer, particularly if those guns are carried by untrained people.
Please vote against this measure.**



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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: 2/18/2026 10:11 PM
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More guns in schools put our children and school staff at even more risk for school shootings. I strongly oppose!!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DONNA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:02 PM	
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Guns Do Not Belong in Schools!!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HAGEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:10 PM	
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No one should have guns in a school other than a qualified trained officer.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY TINKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:50 PM
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There is no evidence that placing more guns in school makes anyone safer. As a parent, this would make me incredibly nervous



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: IDA FOGLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:31 PM	
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I write as a nearly life-long Missourian (here since age 1 1/2) who has lost loved ones to gun violence. I oppose more guns in schools. More guns present increases the chances of a student getting their hands on a gun. Please vote no on this dangerous bill. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANICE STALLINGS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:55 PM	

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I've lived in Missouri most of my life, and am a retired teacher. I'm concerned about this bill because the more guns there are in schools, the likelier those firearms are to be accidentally discharged. The unintentional firing of guns happens oftener than one might think. Plus, an incident a couple years ago across state lines (in Olathe), shows that a student can get a staff member's gun and try to shoot others. This doesn't begin to cover thoughtless errors that adults may make with firearms, such as leaving a gun behind in a restroom that kids and staff share. Yes, I am pretty sure it's happened in this state. A firearm is only as safe as the person who picks it up. It's sad but true.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER SHIRLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:34 PM
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I am submitting this written testimony because HB 2504 is a dangerous bill that would increase the presence of firearms in schools. This bill would allow more school personnel to carry inside our K-12 schools and would put our students and children at increased risk for gun violence. The presence of guns in schools increases the likelihood that a student will access a gun and that a student will access a gun and it will accidentally discharge, possibly injuring or killing another child, teacher, or staff. Schools are places for books and backpacks, not weapons. Missouri has the 4th-highest rate of gun violence in the US. Increasing the presence of firearms in schools is only going to exacerbate the issue. I encourage members of this committee to please vote NO on HB 2504.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KERRY COLOMBO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:53 PM

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This bill is dangerous and horrific. Studies show the more guns in play whether belonging to well meaning people or not result in more deaths and injury. We do not need more guns in schools! They are far more likely to wind up in the hands of kids or misused by adults. Please please do not pass this bill!



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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: 2/18/2026 11:16 PM	

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I am writing in strong opposition to this bill, which endangers students, educators, and the learning environment by turning our schools into armed fortresses. This legislation is a misguided approach that prioritizes firearms over the safety and well-being of our children.

At its core, this bill allows school districts to designate teachers and other personnel as "school protection officers" with the authority to carry concealed firearms in schools. This is a dangerous experiment with our children's lives. We hire educators to teach, not to serve as a armed security force. Adding the responsibility of responding to a violent threat to an already overwhelming job is a recipe for disaster. In a moment of crisis, a teacher's primary role should be to protect and evacuate students, not to confront an armed assailant. This bill risks confusion, miscommunication, and tragic errors.

The bill's provisions do not alleviate these concerns. It allows a teacher who has completed a training program—the specifics of which are left to a commission to determine—to carry a concealed weapon. There is no evidence that any training short of what is provided to law enforcement officers can prepare someone for the split-second decisions required in an active shooter situation. This bill creates a false sense of security.

Furthermore, the bill grants school protection officers the authority to detain individuals for up to an hour. This places untrained personnel in a quasi-law enforcement role with immense power over students and visitors. This authority will almost certainly be applied in a discriminatory manner, disproportionately impacting students of color and those with disabilities, thus feeding the school-to-prison pipeline. We need more counselors and mental health support in our schools, not more people empowered to make arrests.

The bill also creates a public information black hole. The names of those carrying weapons in our schools are kept secret from the public. Parents have a right to know if the adults interacting with their children every day are armed. This secrecy breeds distrust and removes a critical layer of accountability.

Instead of this bill, we should be investing in proven methods of school safety: hiring more counselors and school psychologists, implementing restorative justice practices, improving building security, and fostering a positive school climate where threats can be identified and addressed early. This bill is a dangerous step backward. It puts our children, our educators, and our communities at greater risk. I urge you to oppose this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIN BOWEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:56 PM	
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I am writing to oppose this bill both as a parent, and as a longtime PTA leader and volunteer advocating for my local schools. Adding more guns in schools increases the risk of shootings because armed adults frequently mishandle their guns in schools. Keeping kids safe means keeping guns off K-12 campuses. Armed staff are more likely to harm bystanders or be shot by law enforcement than be an effective response to an active shooter. Fully trained law enforcement is better equipped to ensure school safety, and even then the most highly trained law enforcement officers in the country see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly in an active shooter situation. But finally: Teachers cannot and should not be expected to serve as sharpshooters.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:50 PM
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There is no evidence showing that more guns in our schools make us safer. There is data showing just the opposite. Trained law enforcement is extremely different than armed staff. This can't be emphasized enough. Time after time we see that arming teachers and staff leads to accidental discharge, misidentification by responding law enforcement, and increased liability and cost. This is the lazy, deadly approach to a real crisis. And our children deserve better.

If you want to prevent school shootings, it's time to pass secure storage and child access prevention laws. Extreme risk laws are proven to prevent school shootings, as are background checks and raising the minimum age to carry. These are proven solutions. Expanding who can carry is not. I strongly urge the committee to vote NO on House Bill 2504. Please start passing legislation that is proven to be effective.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA ZINK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:09 PM

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I oppose this bill. There is no evidence showing that more guns in our schools make kids safer. There is data showing just the opposite. Trained law enforcement is extremely different than armed staff. This can't be emphasized enough. Time after time we see that arming teachers and staff leads to accidental discharge, misidentification by responding law enforcement, and increased liability and cost. This is the lazy, deadly approach to a real crisis. And our children deserve better.

Background on why arming teachers isn't the answer: <https://everytownresearch.org/report/arming-teachers-risks/>

A report on proven solutions to prevent gun violence in schools:
<https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-can-we-prevent-gun-violence-in-schools/>



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN A. GAGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Missouri educator, a parent of two children in Missouri public schools, and the daughter of a man who died from gun violence. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 2504.

As both an educator and a parent, I am deeply concerned about policies that increase the presence of firearms in schools. Expanding who can carry guns to additional school personnel increases the risk of accidental discharge, unauthorized student access, and escalation during already stressful situations. More guns in schools does not make children safer.

My personal experience with gun violence reinforces what I see professionally. Schools should be places for learning, connection, and safety, not environments where weapons are normalized.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2504 and prioritize prevention, mental health supports, and trained crisis response to keep students and staff safe.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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: LYNNE GRONEFELD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a retired high school teacher, I cannot fathom the anonymous presence of weapons in a school setting. I taught from 1984 through 2012. My husband taught high school through 2019. I sent my own children to school through 2024.

I understand what active shooter drills feel like from both sides of the desk.

This bill endangers students, faculty, and staff. It is an abomination.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: MARY GROSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:02 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm opposed to guns in schools at all, with the exception of trained school resource officers. Allowing someone with only a concealed carry permit to carry in schools, increases the opportunities for more accidental or intentional shootings. More guns in more places do not make us more safe. There's plenty of data to support that.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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: MEGAN REEG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:56 PM
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There is no evidence showing that more guns in our schools make us safer. There is data showing just the opposite. Trained law enforcement is extremely different than armed staff. This can't be emphasized enough. Time after time we see that arming teachers and staff leads to accidental discharge, misidentification by responding law enforcement, and increased liability and cost. This is the lazy, deadly approach to a real crisis. And our children deserve better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:15 PM	

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I am writing in strong opposition to this bill, which endangers students, educators, and the learning environment by turning our schools into armed fortresses. This legislation is a misguided approach that prioritizes firearms over the safety and well-being of our children.

At its core, this bill allows school districts to designate teachers and other personnel as "school protection officers" with the authority to carry concealed firearms in schools. This is a dangerous experiment with our children's lives. We hire educators to teach, not to serve as a armed security force. Adding the responsibility of responding to a violent threat to an already overwhelming job is a recipe for disaster. In a moment of crisis, a teacher's primary role should be to protect and evacuate students, not to confront an armed assailant. This bill risks confusion, miscommunication, and tragic errors.

The bill's provisions do not alleviate these concerns. It allows a teacher who has completed a training program—the specifics of which are left to a commission to determine—to carry a concealed weapon. There is no evidence that any training short of what is provided to law enforcement officers can prepare someone for the split-second decisions required in an active shooter situation. This bill creates a false sense of security.

Furthermore, the bill grants school protection officers the authority to detain individuals for up to an hour. This places untrained personnel in a quasi-law enforcement role with immense power over students and visitors. This authority will almost certainly be applied in a discriminatory manner, disproportionately impacting students of color and those with disabilities, thus feeding the school-to-prison pipeline. We need more counselors and mental health support in our schools, not more people empowered to make arrests.

The bill also creates a public information black hole. The names of those carrying weapons in our schools are kept secret from the public. Parents have a right to know if the adults interacting with their children every day are armed. This secrecy breeds distrust and removes a critical layer of accountability.

Instead of this bill, we should be investing in proven methods of school safety: hiring more counselors and school psychologists, implementing restorative justice practices, improving building security, and fostering a positive school climate where threats can be identified and addressed early. This bill is a dangerous step backward. It puts our children, our educators, and our communities at greater risk. I urge you to oppose this legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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: NOEL KOPRIVA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Noel Kopriva. I have lived in Comumbia, Missouri since 2014. I am submitting this written testimony because HB 2504 is a dangerous bill that would increase the presence of firearms in schools. This bill would allow more school personnel to carry inside our K-12 schools and would put our students and children at increased risk for gun violence. The presence of guns in schools increases the likelihood that a student will access a gun and that a student will access a gun and it will accidentally discharge, possibly injuring or killing another child, teacher, or staff. Schools are places for books and backpacks, not weapons.

Thank you,
Noel Kopriva



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: REBECCA BEKKI BREWER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:13 PM	
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The only person who should be allowed to carry a gun in a school is a trained law enforcement officer.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: ROBERT JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:08 PM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:33 PM

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

HB 2504 authorizes armed, non-law enforcement school employees to detain individuals and use force on school property while shielding key implementation details from public transparency.

That combination creates immediate constitutional exposure.

First, authorizing school staff to “detain” and use force without defining the legal threshold (reasonable suspicion, imminent threat, etc.) invites Fourth Amendment unreasonable seizure claims and parallel Missouri constitutional challenges. A one-hour detention authority, exercised by an armed employee, is not a minor expansion—it is state-sanctioned coercive power.

Second, the bill relies on generalized Chapter 563 justification language rather than establishing a school-specific use-of-force framework. That is legally under-specified and will be litigated as such.

Third, the confidentiality provisions and closed-session authorization decisions create foreseeable Sunshine Law conflicts and undermine post-incident accountability.

Fourth, revocation “for any reason” with no right to appeal raises avoidable due process litigation in the public employment context.

This bill increases liability risk while reducing procedural clarity. That is not sound legislative architecture.

I urge opposition.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is on notice that HB 2504 foreseeably exposes school districts and the state to litigation under the Fourth Amendment, the Missouri Constitution, Sunshine Law, and due process principles due to its authorization of armed detention authority without defined standards or transparency safeguards. These risks are inherent in the structure of the bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: SARAH HOFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:26 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The risk of accidental discharge or improper vetting of the anonymous individuals allowed to possess a firearm supersedes any safety benefit for our children. Please do not put more guns in our schools, this is not the answer.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: General Laws			
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: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:01 PM	
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More guns in our schools will not make our students and staff safer. There is a major difference between a well-trained school safety officer carrying a weapon and other staff. Do not endanger our children even further.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2504		DATE: 2/18/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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: 2/18/2026 6:37 PM
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Research shows that more guns in schools is not the answer to gun violence.
<https://everytownresearch.org/report/arming-teachers-risks/>



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: General Laws		
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 REUTER JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please vote to OPPOSE HB 2504, as it allows more school personnel to carry guns in our K-12 schools. This increases the chance of a child accessing a gun and accidentally (or not) harming another student, teacher or staff member. Schools are for books and learning, not guns. As a life-long Missourian and voter, I think it is enough that teachers and administrators may be armed as Missouri law already allows. It's just dangerous that HB 2504 would allow even more school staff to be armed. Please vote to OPPOSE HB 2504, in any form.