



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2512		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Legislative Review			
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: BARBARA MILGORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAYNA COONCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:14 PM	
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I have a nephew that's in his early 40s. He has suffered with mental illness for almost 30 years. He'll go along for a while and be good and then when he goes off, it's unbelievable. The things he did he's thrown my sister in the river trying to drowned her he's stolen her car he spent thousands of dollars on bills that she has paid for him. He spent time in prison for some of his actions but no time has he ever got help for his problem.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANET GERHART		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:42 PM
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This is very much needed. When a family member is in mental health distress and requiring medical care, they are not capable of getting the necessary help. A family member is more often than not the lifeline to enlisting care. It can become nearly impossible to step in and get the medical attention required because "they don't have guardianship". It's already a difficult situation and the unnecessary red tape is added pain. This would provide a lot of help for families that are struggling to take care of their loved ones. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHANNA FERMAN MD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 2:04 PM
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I write as a public psychiatrist residing in Jackson County, having worked with the SMI population over decades (in partnership with the Jackson County Mental Health Fund/Jackson CO, Missouri, as Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Program in NYS, as Medical Director and Chief Executive for the Center for Mental Health in Washington DC). AOT is an essential tool to prevent overuse of expensive resources while achieving vastly improved outcomes for this vulnerable population. This has been SHOWN in one state after another. Supporting HB 2512 oon both sides of the aisle would be a tremendous win for ALL of us!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLI OERLY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:34 PM
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This bill will help many families who have loved ones suffering from mental illness



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LUKE SHAWHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:59 AM
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My brother-in-law suffers from Bipolar Disorder. Everytime he puts his life back together, something happens and he spirals. Fortunately and unfortunately, he walks right up to the line of physical danger, but then walks away. Obviously, we do not want him to get hurt, but we also have no recourse to get him help. He simply continues the spiral until, as the bill says, we find him in jail or worse.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA HALDIMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:37 PM	

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As a mother with an adult son who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder over 20 years ago, I have seen him succeed many times and without warning fall into a manic bipolar episode with psychosis. During these times he has lost everything he had worked for, lost his friends and co-workers, has a broken spirit and has to start all over. He has signed a power of attorney to allow us to get him medical attention, but due to the current laws in MO, the authorities will not acknowledge it.

He has threatened people and I have pleaded with authorities to get him psychiatric help, but he doesn't say the specific words "I'm going to kill you" or "I'm going to kill myself", so it falls on deaf ears until he does something so bizarre that he has to be arrested and has to fight his way through the legal system.

Psychiatric illness is a mental HEALTH illness and people should be treated with dignity and respect. If his illness was physically visible he would be transported to a hospital immediately. But because people with mental health conditions aren't "bleeding" they are overlooked in fear of an agency being sued.

I am in favor of mental health change and also in favor of a Psychiatric Advanced Directive for Missouri. I am also in favor of something similar to a "Good Samaritan Law" that would allow authorities and crisis responders to get people to hospitals or crisis centers without fear of lawsuits. HB 2512 looks like a good Bill to start making progress.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA HALDIMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 7:41 AM
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I fully support HB 2512



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MEAGAN SHAWHAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:57 PM
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I have a family member who suffers from severe bipolar disorder. I support this bill as a small step towards helping family members support him when he is going through crisis periods. This bill takes steps toward helping those in our families and communities access better mental health care and makes avenues for caregivers to step in gaps and help those we love get the care they need before their symptoms cause them irreparable harm or legal troubles.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PATTY BIRDSONG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 7:32 AM
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I am in support of this bill. Will benefit many especially a close friend.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN G MCNAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:13 PM
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I have a family member who has a mental illness. When he was doing well and on his medications, he took steps to insure that he could get help if he spiraled out of control. He set up a power of attorney giving his sister the legal power to get help for him when and if he needed it. He has now spiraled out of control and his sister and mother took the power of attorney to law enforcement officials. Law Enforcement told my family members that unless he committed a crime there is nothing they can do. This is not right. He took steps to be able to get help when/if he needed it because when he's in a situation like this he can't logically process or reason what needs to happen. He now needs it and can't receive the help he needs. Please help him, and others like him, receive the help they are asking for.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HENRY MADDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 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: 3/2/2026 12:17 PM	

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HB 2512 replaces Missouri’s traditional “imminent danger” standard with a novel “predictable harm” test and authorizes expedited court-ordered psychiatric evaluation and potential administration of long-acting injectable antipsychotic medication (LAIs).

While expanding access to treatment is a legitimate goal, the bill creates significant constitutional exposure in four areas:

1. Vagueness and Overbreadth

“Predictable harm,” “pattern of cycling,” and “significant risk” are elastic standards. Civil commitment requires clear, narrowly defined criteria tied to current dangerousness or grave disability. Broad predictive language risks unconstitutional deprivation of liberty.^{1 2}

2. Procedural Due Process

A 24-hour court review and 96-hour detention triggered by expanded petitioner categories increases the risk of erroneous deprivation. Civil commitment is a “massive curtailment of liberty” requiring heightened safeguards.¹

3. Forced Medication — LAIs

Antipsychotic medication, particularly long-acting injectables, implicates a fundamental liberty interest in bodily integrity. Forced administration must be strictly necessary, medically appropriate, and the least intrusive means. Preventative or predictive justification invites constitutional challenge.^{3 4 5}

4. Coercive Compliance Structure

Prohibiting clinics from refusing court-ordered LAIs while granting immunity and threatening funding consequences creates litigation risk under professional-judgment and due process standards.⁶

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 2512’s replacement of the imminent-danger threshold with a predictive standard, combined with expedited detention procedures and authorization of involuntary long-acting injectable medication, creates foreseeable facial and as-applied challenges under substantive and procedural due process doctrines governing civil commitment and forced medication.

Footnotes:

Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418 (1979).

O'Connor v. Donaldson, 422 U.S. 563 (1975).
Washington v. Harper, 494 U.S. 210 (1990).
Riggins v. Nevada, 504 U.S. 127 (1992).
Sell v. United States, 539 U.S. 166 (2003).
Youngberg v. Romeo, 457 U.S. 307 (1982).