



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2551</b>		DATE: <b>1/13/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 11:07 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am in support of this Bill and increasing the Penalties and Crimes of Sexual Misconduct and Commercial Sex-Trafficking. This Bill is a Must for Law Enforcement, Victims, Prosecutors and across our State.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AUDREY KAUFFMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-338-0816</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CENTRAL MO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>503 E NIFONG BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD BOETTLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-459-6207</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EVANS VOICE</b>		TITLE: <b>PARENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1933 SWALLOW LANE</b>			
CITY: <b>AURORA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65605</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BROOKLYNN ENGEMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 7:19 PM</b>
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As a teacher of young children and as a parent of a young child, protecting kids is both my profession and my responsibility. I see every day how vulnerable children can be, especially as technology becomes more present in their lives. These bills provide necessary protections to help keep children safe and to support families and educators in preventing exploitation. I strongly support the passage of these bills.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CALEB HATFIELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CALEB ROYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINA CAPONE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 10:58 AM</b>	
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I submit this statement in strong support of Missouri HB 1814 and HB 2551.

My child was the victim of grooming by her father. Over time, concerning behaviors emerged that reflected manipulation, boundary violations, inappropriate touches, and psychological control—hallmarks of grooming that are well-documented by child welfare experts.

These concerns were reported multiple times to Family Services. However, because there was no single explicit physical act that met the current statutory threshold for prosecution, no meaningful intervention occurred. As a result, the behavior was allowed to be continued, and my child suffered harm that could have been prevented with earlier legal recognition and authority to act.

This experience exposed a critical gap in our child protection framework: grooming behaviors can be persistent, escalating, and profoundly damaging, yet remain legally invisible until physical abuse occurs. By the time that threshold is crossed, significant emotional and psychological damage has often already been done.

HB 1814 and HB 2551 address this gap by acknowledging the realities of how abuse develops and by empowering systems to respond before irreversible harm occurs. Early identification and intervention are essential when the alleged offender is a trusted adult or parent, where children are least able to protect themselves and most likely to be disbelieved.

I urge the committee to support HB 1814 and HB 2551 to continue strengthening laws that prioritize child safety, recognize grooming as a serious and actionable threat, and prevent children from being left unprotected due to limitations in current statutory definitions.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and for your commitment to protecting children in Missouri.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CRISSY CARSTEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:29 PM</b>	
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I knew a young man that was full of life. He always had a smile on his face. I watched him play soccer as a young boy and thru the fall of his sophomore year. That fall he volunteered to coach an under 8 team. He taught those kids skills but most importantly a love for the game. Those little kids looked up to him. A few short months later he took his precious life because of sextortion. It shook everyone who knew him. It shook our entire community, and our soccer family. Little kids that adored their coach had to see the bad of our world... just because of greed. No family, child, or community should have to experience this. We must hold those accountable that prey on our children. Evan was an inspiration to many of us. He was a light. I stand with his family, friends, and community in support of Evan, as well as Sophie's Law. We must do better and we must protect our children.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID BARNES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-808-5544</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ENA STATE COUNCIL</b>		TITLE: <b>MEMBER/REPRESENTATIVE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>5870 N HAWK ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65202</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEVIN DIDIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 7:28 AM</b>
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**Our friends have been deceived and tormented by a Pedophile masquerading as a martial arts instructor.**

**He was able to drive a significant wedge into the family and promised the child they would run off together and be married and live happily ever after. Thankfully the mom and dad were able to recognize something was not right and were able to finally stop the grooming before it led to even more damage. We must be a voice for our children! Please help us stop sexual grooming!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EVELYN DIXON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFF DIXON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA SEITZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-415-6228</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>520 DIX RD, SUITE C</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KARI BOETTLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-459-6208</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EVAN's VOICE</b>		TITLE: <b>PARENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1933 SWALLOW LANE</b>			
CITY: <b>AURORA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65605</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATY VELASQUEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-669-1256</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FAMILY ADVOCACY SOLUTIONS</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>801 N. LINCOLN</b>			
CITY: <b>MONETT</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65708</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELANIE STRONG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 8:07 PM</b>	
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I am a teacher that has worked with students every day of my life for 4 years now. Whether it be in a classroom or tutoring online. I am a true believer that children are our future and the question is why shouldn't we protect them at all costs? We depend on them to one day to lead our country. To protect them from any grooming/sexortion and to enjoy their childhood is setting them up for success. Our job as the older generation is to pass down the ideals that our nation was founded on upon as well as help raise good humans. It is the utmost importance that kids get to experience not only their childhood but see examples of what we want them to be like in their life. Children are easier to target than ever before through social media accounts, electronics and probably more than I can even imagine. I see it everyday with my students and their electronics. I hear their conversations with one another that parents are probably not fully aware of how technologically intelligent their child is. This bill is just one step closer to help the younger generation succeed and grow up to be trauma free and be raised with no concern of them becoming victims.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAULA STONER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 7:16 PM</b>
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My name is Paula Stoner, and I work for a school district in Missouri. I am writing in support of HB 2551, legislation that helps protect children from grooming and sextortion.

In schools, we see firsthand how vulnerable students can be—especially online. Predators increasingly use digital platforms to manipulate, coerce, and exploit minors, often resulting in serious emotional and psychological harm. Many victims are afraid to report these crimes due to shame or fear of retaliation.

HB 2551 is an important step toward safeguarding children by addressing these evolving threats and holding offenders accountable. Protecting students' safety and well-being must remain a priority, and this legislation supports that goal.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2551.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RUSS TUTTLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-940-3438</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>THE STOP TRAFFICKING PROJECT</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/FUNDER</b>
ADDRESS: <b>7240 PARK ST.</b>		
CITY: <b>SHAWNEE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>66216</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STACIE R. WILSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 2:03 PM</b>	
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My name is Stacie Wilson. I have been working with families for over 25 years in several different capacities ranging from Fair Housing/ Section 8, Mental Health (Behavioral Health Specialist for Emotionally Disturbed Children & Adolescents/Case Manager), Child Advocate (CASA- Court Appointed Special Advocate), Tribal Child Support and State Child Support Enforcement and Outreach. In addition, I have been raising children of my own (and other non-biological children) for over 30 years.

Working with families in crisis and families “at-risk” has given insight and cause for increasing concern over the years with the increase in access to Internet and vulnerability for families and most importantly, children who are under a new Predatory Umbrella. The Worldwide Web although helpful for information; has created another kind of Web far from a Safety net for our children and something akin to a Snare for Predators everywhere.

This bill is important because it puts into place much needed Safeguards and Accountability. This is simple. Our children need to be protected, and predators need to be held accountable.

There is no discrimination with this topic. It does not matter what type of demographic, homelife, background, race, age, sex, religion... if a child has access to the internet or a cell phone; they can be a target for these crimes. It is detrimental for our society and well-being of our youth (and families) to stop the damage that is harming and sometimes ending the lives of our children in this country (and this world). This is not just a nationwide issue. It is a world-wide crisis. Let us be an example in Missouri by drawing the line with the war against our children; protect the innocent and please support this bill.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VELORIS JUNEMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-339-9857</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>PATHWAYS PROJECT COALITION OF THE OZARKS</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8722 EAST STATE HIGHWAY 76</b>			
CITY: <b>REEDS SPRING</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65737</b>
EMAIL: <b>pathwayspc@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 10:50 AM</b>	

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**Good Morning Chair and Members of the Committee,**  
**My name is Veloris Juneman, and I am the Founder of the Pathways Project Coalition of the Ozarks. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1814 (Warwick) and HB 2551 (Whaley) — two companion bills that take essential steps toward protecting Missouri’s children from sexual grooming, sextortion, and exploitation.**  
**Every parent, educator, and community member wants our kids to grow up safe, healthy, and free from manipulation and abuse. Yet under current Missouri law, the act of grooming a minor — a deliberate and predatory pattern of behavior used to condition children for sexual exploitation — is not currently defined in statute in a way that allows prosecutors to act before abuse has already occurred. These bills change that.**  
**As the founder of a coalition dedicated to preventing exploitation and supporting survivors, I have witnessed firsthand how predators use digital communication to gain trust and isolate vulnerable young people. Without clear statutory language and tools for law enforcement, many of these harmful patterns go unpunished until it is too late.**  
**HB 1814 and HB 2551 do the following:**

- **Define and criminalize “grooming of a minor” as engaging in a pattern of conduct with sexual intent that conditions, manipulates, or prepares a child for sexual activity — clarifying that intent may be proven by the context and pattern of actions, not just explicit statements.**
- **Strengthen penalties for nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images (“sextortion”) and ensure minors and other vulnerable people are fully protected under the law.**
- **Require the Department of Public Safety to issue guidance on identifying grooming, responding to potential instances, and training professionals on investigation, prosecution, and victim support.**
- **Ensure that those convicted of grooming and related offenses are required to register as sex offenders, providing continuity with public safety goals.**

**These bills provide a proactive legal framework that empowers law enforcement, gives prosecutors the clarity they need, and equips families and professionals with the resources to recognize and stop grooming before abuse escalates.**  
**For the safety of Missouri’s children, especially in an era of ubiquitous online contact and digital risk, we strongly urge a favorable report on HB 1814 and HB 2551.**  
**Thank you for your time and your service.**

**Respectfully,**  
**Veloris Juneman**  
**Founder, The Pathways Project Coalition of the Ozarks**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2551</b>		DATE: <b>1/13/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>WES STONER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 7:11 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of HB 1814, which strengthens protections for children against grooming and sextortion.

Online platforms have made it easier for predators to manipulate and exploit minors through deception, coercion, and threats. Grooming and sextortion cause severe emotional harm and often go unreported due to fear and shame. Clear laws are necessary to intervene early and hold offenders accountable.

HB 1814 recognizes the seriousness of these crimes and prioritizes the safety and well-being of children. I urge your support for this important legislation to protect vulnerable youth from exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Wes Stoner



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2551</b>		DATE: <b>1/13/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFFREY BARLOW</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-680-6463</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E HIGH STREET, SUITE 105</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>jeff@mjja.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 8:43 AM</b>	

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

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) generally supports the intent of this bill - to enhance the protection of children.

However, It is a common and dangerous misconception that grooming is primarily a "stranger danger" issue. In reality, the vast majority of people who groom and sexually abuse minors are individuals the child already knows and trusts.

Statistical data consistently shows that over 90% of child sexual abuse and grooming cases are committed by someone within the child's circle of trust.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2551</b>		DATE: <b>1/13/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LLM LISA L. MIZELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 6:27 PM</b>	

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

•The Child Protection Center is the child advocacy center providing services for Jackson and Cass Counties. We served over 900 children and families last year. Each year those we serve have been victims of abuse and the majority of which are sexual abuse. Our forensic interviewers assist members of the multi-disciplinary team investigating the allegations, including Children’s Division, law enforcement and prosecutors.”) I was pleased to see the bills related to grooming introduced in Missouri this year and wanted to submit comments based on our agency’s experience that we ask this Committee to be mindful of when considering changes to child abuse crimes in Missouri law.

Grooming” is the process through which an offender manipulates a child to gain their trust to sexually abuse them. Grooming behaviors are present in nearly all cases of sexual abuse that CPC staff are involved with each year. We are thankful to the sponsors of this legislation for recognizing the importance of this issue.

- I spoke with my team here before submitting comments about how grooming is prosecuted in child sexual abuse cases in our region. In our experience with cases involving “grooming” prosecutors have successfully used RSMo. Section 566.151 or “enticement of a child” to prosecute perpetrators and hold them accountable. Missouri’s enticement statute criminalizes engaging in any conduct to coax a child into engaging in unlawful sexual conduct, specifically “enticement of a child” as “A person twenty-one years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures whether by words, actions or through communication via the internet or any electronic communication, any person who is less than seventeen years of age for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct.”

- With this in mind, I want to ensure that any new legislation considered aligns, but does not duplicate, crimes currently on the books.

- I also want to draw attention to the proposed language in this legislation in 566.152 on page 2 which outlines parties who the crime of grooming would not apply to particularly educators, health care providers, mentors, parents and family members. As child abuse professionals, we know that over 90% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child. A third are family members and 60% are acquaintances, many of which fall into the categories who could be covered by this legislation. We urge legislators to ensure that the language does not cause unintended consequences by shielding populations most likely to engage in grooming from being charged.

- However, it can be difficult to detect sexual grooming because some grooming behaviors resemble normal adult-child interactions. To prevent child sexual abuse, it is vital to identify sexual grooming behaviors that can be considered “red flag” behaviors. This is why community education around child sexual abuse prevention and identifying grooming behaviors as early as possible is so important and why our agency provides this programming in Kansas City.

**Thank you for considering my input. CPC is happy to be a resource to Members of this Committee on this legislation and all child abuse-related legislation moving forward.**