



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2606		DATE: 4/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
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: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 11:52 PM	
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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: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT FLANDERS		PHONE NUMBER: 651-341-2674	
REPRESENTING: CITIZENS' COUNCIL FOR HEALTH FREEDOM		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 161 RONDO AVENUE, SUITE 923			
CITY: ST. PAUL		STATE: MN	ZIP: 55103
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: POB 156			
CITY: JEFF CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JACOB SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 113 MADISON STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROB MONSEES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-3700	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 60			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 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: 4/9/2026 5:13 AM

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This bill is framed as a patient privacy protection measure, but in practice it creates a rigid, overbroad framework that conflicts with existing federal law, disrupts standard medical operations, and exposes providers to significant liability without clear operational pathways.

At the outset, the bill declares that patients retain “ownership rights” over their health records. While appealing in concept, this language introduces legal ambiguity. Under existing frameworks, including federal law, providers act as custodians with defined rights and obligations regarding access, use, and disclosure. Creating a parallel “ownership” construct without clearly harmonizing it with established law invites confusion, conflict, and litigation over control and permissible use of records.

The bill then imposes a strict informed consent requirement for nearly all disclosures, including uses of de-identified data. This is a significant departure from current practice. De-identified data, by definition, removes personal identifiers and is widely used for research, public health analysis, and system improvement. Requiring individualized consent even for de-identified data effectively shuts down large portions of medical research and data-driven healthcare improvement, as it becomes operationally impractical to obtain consent at that scale.

The prohibition on “blanket consent” and opt-out mechanisms further compounds this issue. Modern healthcare systems rely on standardized consent processes to function efficiently.

Eliminating those mechanisms introduces administrative burden, delays in care coordination, and increased costs, all without a clear corresponding benefit in actual privacy protection.

Additionally, the bill creates a broad private right of action with statutory damages for each occurrence of noncompliance. This exposes providers and downstream entities to significant litigation risk, even for technical or inadvertent violations. The combination of strict liability standards and per-occurrence damages creates an environment where defensive practices may outweigh patient-centered care.

The emergency exception, while present, is narrowly framed and may not fully account for the realities of urgent or complex care situations where rapid information sharing is necessary but formal consent may not yet be documented in the manner required by the bill.

Legislative Notice:

Let the record reflect the following:

This bill establishes requirements for the disclosure and use of health information that may conflict with or exceed the framework established under federal law, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To the extent that state law imposes additional or inconsistent obligations on covered entities, questions may arise regarding preemption, compliance feasibility, and regulatory conflict.

The imposition of strict consent requirements for de-identified data and the elimination of standardized consent mechanisms may materially impact medical research, public health activities, and healthcare operations, raising broader policy and regulatory concerns.

Additionally, the creation of a private right of action with statutory damages for each occurrence of noncompliance may result in substantial litigation exposure, potentially affecting access to care, provider participation, and the overall functioning of the healthcare system.

For these reasons, I stand in opposition.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA BELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-3033	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SECRETARY OF STATE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 201 W CAPITOL AVE, RM 121			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: amanda.bell@sos.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2026 7:44 AM	
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