



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3228		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:54 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLENE CURRIE-GRISSOM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 9:34 PM	
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I am in support of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOROTHY TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:19 AM	
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These children need a voice. Please consider these bills.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER SPURGEON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2026 10:39 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:06 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE SLAGLE		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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:26 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUHASINI POKALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 5:01 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CLAUDIA JENKINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 4:13 PM
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As a parent of a child who was considered to have "behavioral issues," I 100% oppose this bill. School districts do their own investigations and more often than not, find no wrong doing despite children ending up with physical, emotional, and psychological damages from teachers who determine what is considered "violent." Too many adults have too much freedom with our kids that are challenging as it is. The penalties for the districts covering up & not submitting correct data is already too loose.



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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: 2/13/2026 12:22 PM
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Oh look, it's the same little bill in disguise,
 With a different bright number to catch different eyes.

New coat of paint, same words in a row —
 But the legal concerns still wiggle below.

You say, "Teachers may jump in! Teachers may save!"
 And grant them immunity shiny and brave.

But here's the small hitch in the fine legal print:
 State shields can't block a federal complaint.

If force meets a student — even with care —
 The Fourth and Fourteenth are already there.

Courts ask, "Was it reasonable? Proportionate? Sound?"
 Not "Did the state legislature write this around?"

You whisper "good faith" and "justified act,"
 But federal standards don't bend to that fact.

Chapter 563 may comfort at home,
 Yet 42 U.S.C. §1983 still roams.

And "incident involving violence" — what's that?
 A punch? A shove? A thrown baseball bat?

If the wording's too squishy, too stretchy, too wide,
 A vagueness challenge will happily ride.

Then subsection five with a confident tone:
 "No district may stop teachers protecting their own."

But districts must still balance safety and rights —
 IDEA, discipline rules, federal fights.

**So here's the notice, calm and polite:
This bill won't erase federal oversight.**

**It may promise protection, strong and immune,
But litigation may follow soon.**

**Pass it if you must, with flourish and cheer —
Just know the courtroom may still appear.**

Legislative Notice:

Nothing in this act supersedes federal constitutional standards governing the use of force, including claims arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. State-granted immunity does not bar federal civil rights actions, nor does it preempt judicial review of whether force used was objectively reasonable under applicable constitutional precedent.

Any expansion of immunity that is ambiguous, inconsistently applied, or construed to shield conduct beyond good-faith, reasonable intervention may invite litigation challenging the statute's scope and its interaction with established due process and civil rights protections.

The General Assembly is therefore on notice that the practical application of this act will remain subject to constitutional scrutiny and federal review, regardless of state statutory immunity provisions.