



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3278		DATE: 4/2/2026	
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: 4/2/2026 11:21 PM	

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

I am in Support of this Bill and its general intentions. This Bill does need some additional work and protections to Protect all Vulnerable Adults of Our Great State.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CADE TREMAIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-691-7113	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	
ADDRESS: 912 WILDWOOD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH D LANDEAU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2026 9:39 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE PEETZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-620-4585
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 2027 CHRISTY DR		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jpeetz@ma4web.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 9:06 AM

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

I am writing today to express my strong support for the proposed legislation to formalize and enable Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) to address elder abuse.

Elder abuse is a complex, multifaceted crisis that no single agency—be it law enforcement, social services, or healthcare—can solve in isolation. MDTs provide a structured, collaborative framework where experts from various disciplines share information and coordinate interventions. This legislative support is a critical step toward ensuring that our most vulnerable residents receive the protection and justice they deserve.

Key Reasons for Support:

- **Improved Intervention:** MDTs lead to more accurate identification of abuse, particularly in subtle cases of financial exploitation or psychological neglect.
- **Reduced Trauma:** By coordinating efforts, we reduce the number of times an older adult must recount their experience to different agencies.
- **Systemic Efficiency:** Shared resources and expertise lead to faster case resolutions and better utilization of state and local funds.

Authorizing MDTs through legislation provides the necessary legal protections for information sharing, which is currently a significant barrier to effective advocacy. We urge the committee to vote in favor of this bill to strengthen the safety net for older adults across our state.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE HIGHLAND		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-3626	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES		TITLE: DIVISION DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 912 WILDWOOD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE ISAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2026 11:15 AM	
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Yes, please take better care of our vulnerable population!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA K BIVONA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2026 10:39 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: 4/2/2026 7:30 AM	

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HB 3278 expands the disclosure and internal sharing of confidential records related to vulnerable adults, raising structural and constitutional concerns regarding privacy protections, due process, and the expansion of access to sensitive information within multi-agency frameworks.

Under the bill, reports that are currently confidential remain excluded from public records law; however, access to those records is expanded to include members of multidisciplinary adult protection teams. These teams may consist of a broad and variable group of participants, including law enforcement, medical providers, financial institutions, and other entities deemed “necessary” for case review.

While framed as a coordination mechanism, this structure significantly increases the number of individuals and entities granted access to highly sensitive personal information, including medical, financial, and investigative records. The bill permits internal sharing of such information among team members when deemed “appropriate and necessary,” without clearly defined limitations or standardized thresholds for disclosure.

This raises concerns regarding informational privacy and due process, as individuals subject to these reports may have their personal data disseminated across multiple agencies without clear procedural safeguards, notice requirements, or meaningful mechanisms for oversight or correction.

Additionally, the definition and composition of multidisciplinary teams is broad and flexible, allowing for inclusion of both governmental and private actors. This creates a framework in which confidential state-held information may be distributed beyond traditional government boundaries, further blurring the distinction between public authority and private participation in sensitive investigative processes.

Although the bill maintains confidentiality provisions and imposes penalties for unauthorized disclosure, the expansion of authorized access itself introduces increased risk of over-disclosure, misuse, or inconsistent handling of sensitive information.

Further, the fiscal note associated with HB 3278 reflects no direct cost to the state. However, the expansion of access, coordination requirements, and participation in multidisciplinary teams necessarily increases the workload of participating agencies and personnel. In the absence of additional funding, staffing, or compensation, this structure effectively requires existing entities to absorb additional responsibilities within current resources. This raises concerns regarding unfunded operational expansion, where statutory obligations increase without corresponding support,

potentially impacting consistency, capacity, and quality of implementation.

This reflects a broader structural pattern in which authority and responsibility are expanded across interconnected entities without proportional increases in oversight, funding, or procedural safeguards.

While protecting vulnerable adults is a legitimate and important objective, HB 3278 introduces a framework that expands access to sensitive information and operational demands in a manner that may exceed what is necessary to achieve that goal.

This analysis is based solely on statutory language and constitutional principles and should not be interpreted as endorsement of any policy position.

The General Assembly is hereby placed on notice that enactment of this provision may give rise to constitutional concerns, including those related to due process, privacy rights, and the expansion of state-authorized access to confidential information across multi-agency and private-sector participants, as well as structural concerns regarding unfunded mandates and implementation capacity.