



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2412		DATE: 2/1/2022	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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 C. AC DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2022 12:33 AM

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

I am in Support of this Legislation as a Start. The Compensation is Very Low and the Person Found Innocent Needs More Compensation for Loss of their Freedom.



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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 11:59 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL LYNN ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cadelstein@jcrctl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2022 11:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond. Jewish law strongly upholds the principle that the innocent should not be punished. When G-d reveals to Abraham his plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis, 18:17-33), Abraham challenges G-d: "Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" When G-d offers to spare the cities if there are 50 righteous people, Abraham solicits for forgiveness if there is a number slightly lower; eventually, G-d decides that if there are even 10 righteous people, he will spare the cities. Thus, from the time of Abraham it was important that punishment should be reserved for the guilty, and the innocent should be spared. Further our tradition tells us in Deuteronomy (16:20) Justice, justice you shall pursue. Missouri has made some strides in providing justice for people who were wrongly incarcerated. Few years ago, our state updated laws which provide compensation for those wrongly accused if they were exonerated by DNA evidence. It was a step, but it wasn't enough. HB 2412 would expand compensation to those wrongly accused who are freed by other methods beyond DNA evidence. The passage of Criminal Justice Reform legislation last year makes this even more important, as prosecutors now have more discretion to overturn previous convictions based on new evidence. This past summer, we saw the release of Kevin Stickland, who was imprisoned for 43 years, although wrongly accused. While Mr. Stickland was released, he was not eligible for any compensation based on our state laws. Now elderly and disabled, he has limited ability to earn an income. Is this Justice? HB 2412 provides some compensation for those wrongly incarcerated. In addition, it provides automatic expungement of the wrongly accused person's criminal record. These bills work towards pursuing justice for those who were wrongly accused. We urge you to support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF STACK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-449-4585	
REPRESENTING: MID MISSOURI FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (FOR)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 268			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNETH NIXON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nixonk165@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2022 1:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To whom it may concern, My name is Kenneth Nixon and I am thirty-five years old. I am an Exoneree from Detroit, Michigan and I sent 5'607 days (15 years and 9 months) in prison for a crime that I did not commit. I am the 28th and most recent exoneration to come through the Wayne County Conviction Integrity Unit. I was exonerated on February 18, 2021. I've been home for almost a year now. I am testifying today in-SUPPORT of the compensation bill that is being proposed. Compensation laws and financial assistance post-exoneration are extremely important to helping a person be made whole again. It is an injustice to have a section of your life stolen from you but it's a double injustice not to be compensated for the birthdays, holidays, and family funerals that you'll never get the opportunity to be a part of. Money surely won't repair the harm that has been done nor will it heal the agony that has been bestowed upon you and your family but it's a start. Providing compensation will at least help begin the healing process. I can speak from experience about how hard it is to try to navigate life when left to your own devices after spending decades in prison. My story may sound shocking and unique but I promise you, there are countless others just like it. On May 19, 2005, I was awakened by the sound of a loud bang coming from the area near the front door of my home. It took less than seconds for me to realize that masked men in tactical gear and overwhelming large guns had stormed my house. I instinctively reached to shield my son from the assault rifle that was pointed at my face by the first officer who entered the bedroom. As the first officer pointed his enormous gun at me, the second officer (a female) tore my diaper-aged son from my fatherly grip. I was dragged to the floor as my son wailed in a fit of confused agony. Handcuffed and confused, I resisted anything remotely close to cooperation. None of the officers would tell me why I was being arrested. I just kept seeing the acronym VCTF (Violent Crimes Task Force) on the back of everyone's bulletproof vest. I was read my rights and taken to a police precinct. I would later be told by homicide detectives that I was being charged with an Arson fire that killed two children. May 19, 2005 was the last day of my freedom. I spent the next 5 months sitting in the Wayne County Jail waiting to go to trial for a crime that was impossible for me to have committed. I say impossible because the fire was started with a Molotov Cocktail. I didn't even know what a Molotov Cocktail was. On September 21, 2005, a jury found me guilty of two counts of Felony Murder, four counts of Attempted Murder, and one count of Arson. I was sentenced to a dizzying sentence of two Natural Life terms plus 40-60 years in prison for a crime that I didn't commit. To put that into perspective, the judge and jury literally told me to die in prison. I was crushed. My family would eventually spend over \$100k in attorney fees trying to prove my innocence. I lost 7 different appeals to multiple different courts. My attorneys exhausted almost every appellate opportunity I had available to me. There was a point during my incarceration where I'd almost given up hope that I would ever be able to prove my innocence. Just over 14 years into my incarceration and my hope was increasingly beginning to fade, my lawyer notified me that the Wayne County Conviction Integrity Unit was going to review my claim of innocence. Prior to this news, I'd heard about the many

exonerations that had come from this unit. Its Director had a stellar reputation for Justice. The CIU re-investigated every detail of my case they possibly could. They spent many months digging into the facts of my innocence. After a long and arduous investigation, they came to the conclusion that I did not get a fair trial but only part of my battle was won. They still needed (Wayne County Prosecutor) Kym Worthy's blessing. After presenting the facts of my case, Kym Worthy eventually signed off on my release. Since coming home, almost a year ago, I still have not been compensated by the state of michigan. I have spent the past year bouncing from couch to couch, family members house to family members house still trying to figure out how to function in a world overflowing with technology. I cannot provide for myself nor do I have the financial ability to reimburse those that have provided for me. First, I was a burden on the state and now I am a burden on my loved ones. Compensation would no doubt change that. I hope and pray that my story engages you to become a part of Criminal Justice Reform and that it motivates you to step outside the norm. Be Brave, Be Bold, Be Courageous enough to admit that as a human being, we don't always get it right. The sad and torturous reality is that without compensation, many people will never see Justice served. Yours Truly, Exoneree Kenneth Nixon
Nixonk165@gmail.com 313-465-6812



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN SOBCHAK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-931-4177	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURIANS FOR ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE: ORGANIZER	
ADDRESS: 6320 BROOKSIDE PLAZA #185			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 341-814-2910	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
ADDRESS: 6845 CREST AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NIMROD CHAPEL, JR.		PHONE NUMBER: 573-303-0405	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NAACP MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 111 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY SCHERR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-6200	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RITA LINDHARDT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1022			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TRICIA BUSHNELL		PHONE NUMBER: 816-931-4229	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3619 BROADWAY BOULEVARD #2			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2022 12:00 AM	
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