



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
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: MATT MORROW		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PRESIDENT AND CEO	
ADDRESS: 202 S. JOHN Q. HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: lmustoe@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 2:24 PM

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

January 26, 2022 The Honorable Dan Shaul and members of the House Committee on Elections and Elected Officials
House Committee on Elections and Elected Officials
201 W Capitol Avenue, Room 313-1
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Dear Chairman Shaul and members of the House Committee on Elections and Elected Officials:
On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for House Joint Resolutions 70 and 71. It is vitally important that Missourians have access to the ballot and an ability to impact our lawmaking process. However, the current process for getting items on the ballot is imperfect and creates long-term consequences that put Missouri at a disadvantage with other states. Improvements to the process are necessary to provide clarity, certainty and accountability. The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and business community has advocated for initiative petition reforms for over a decade. The reforms included in several proposals being considered today will help improve an imperfect system by finding the balance that allows citizens to engage in the process and bring forward issues for voter consideration, while protecting our state's constitution from being permanently amended with faulty, complex, or confusing language. The improvement of Missouri's initiative petition system is crucial to the future of our state, and we encourage your support. Sincerely, Matt Morrow
President and CEO,
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
202 S John Q Hammons Parkway
Springfield, MO 65806



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLISON KELLERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kellermanalli@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 11:58 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLYSON ADAME		PHONE NUMBER: 817-600-5286	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63005
EMAIL: allyson_adame@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 10:47 AM
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I oppose the bills HJR 102, HJR 70, HJR 71. You guys want to squeak into office with 50.02% of the vote and then make it harder for THE PEOPLE to have a say in democracy? These bills are anti-democratic. If amendments need 2/3 to pass then anyone in elected office should require 66% to get into office.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY KUO HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-277-9080	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE:	
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CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: akuo.hammerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 8:34 AM
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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Amy Kuo Hammerman, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition of HJR 71 on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. HJR 71 would attack our citizen initiative process by making it harder to get a citizen initiative on the ballot and more difficult for measures to pass once on the ballot, making the process difficult if not impossible for many citizens' grass roots efforts. For more than a century, Missouri citizens across the political spectrum have been able to have their voices heard through the initiative petition process. I have a difficult time understanding why legislators wish to fix something that is not broken. HJR 71 increases number of signatures for constitutional amendments from 8% to 10% of registered voters in all eight Missouri Congressional districts, and 5% of voters in all districts for a statutory proposal. This is entirely unnecessary and undercuts democracy. Lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult. NCJWSTL encourages you to vote no on HJR 71.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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I am in Full Opposition of this Bill. This Bill is very wrong for Missouri! This is Acting in a Dictator Manner of Legislation and Governance. This is taking away Control of Missourians. This is Very Wrong for Missouri! This is Bad Government Practice. This Disenfranchises Missourians and Takes Away the Right of the Residents to Change, Amend and Correct Our Valued Missouri State Constitution. I Urge ALL Members of the Election Committee and the House of Representatives to Vote Down this awful and Bad Proposed Legislation! This Goes Totally Against the Will of Six (6) Million Missourians and is a Direct Slap In the Face to Our State Constitution and Takes Away Control of Missourians Over Elected Officials and State Government. Soundly VOTE This Legislation Down To Defeat!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH NEWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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EMAIL: bethemilynewman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 5:34 PM
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I strongly oppose any legislation that makes the citizens initiative process more difficult. Frankly, I can't comprehend why a group of legislators would want to make it more difficult for the citizens of this state to organize and ask their fellow citizens to approve of changes to our laws. It's almost as if the Republicans don't want to hear from the citizens and continue to enact policy that does not have the support of the majority Missourians. Medicaid Expansion, anyone? The Republican Party likes to crow about "saving democracy." That's wonderful. I only wish their words matched their deeds.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIGITTE SHERIDAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL: gita.gone.mom@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 5:01 PM
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Vehemently opposed to legislation designed to overturn the will of Missouri voters.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-442-3872	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
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EMAIL: cadelstein@jcrcstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:40 AM

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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. The Sage Hillel taught "Al tifros min hatzibur," Do not separate yourself from the community (Pirke Avot 2:5). Moreover, it is our responsibility to play an active role in our community and in choosing its leaders. Rabbi Yitzhak taught that "A ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted" (Babylonian Talmud Berachot 55a). Rabbi Yitzhak further explained that in the Torah, Bezalel could be chosen to build the Tabernacle only with the community's approval. This deeply embedded ethic of political participation has guided Jews to enthusiastically participate in the American electoral process. All of these House Resolutions would make it difficult for our people and all people in our state to participate in the electoral process. Our state constitution gives us the right to initiate legislative action through the petition process. This already onerous and costly process, has helped our community achieve some of its policy objectives, including making health care available to more of our citizens. By making it more difficult to certify a petition, by increasing the number of signatures by nearly 200,000 and increasing the threshold for approval of the initiative from a simple majority to two-thirds of the voters, These changes will make the ballot initiative process too expensive and burdensome for many grassroots efforts - effectively removing power from the people. As people of faith, we oppose any efforts that challenge our ability to participate in the electoral process and ask you to oppose HJR 102, 70 & 71.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANA SANDWEISS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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EMAIL: danasantweiss@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 10:10 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge members of the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee to oppose HJR 71 and vote no to diluting the Missouri ballot citizen initiative petition process for Constitutional amendments. I have been involved with several Missouri statewide citizen initiative petition processes. I have collected signatures and talked with voters inside and outside of the STL region. I have organized friends and other voters to talk and learn about the proposed measures. I believe that the current citizen initiative petition process plays a vital role in preserving and stimulating democracy in Missouri by encouraging voters to participate, engage, learn, listen and talk about laws that could govern Missourians. Why does the current Legislature want to enact huge barriers to voter engagement and a process that has been a vital part of Missouri's democracy for over a century? I believe our elected officials should not dilute the current citizen initiative petition process but instead encourage voter participation, encourage voter education, encourage democracy, allow the voices of voters in Missouri to be heard and lifted up. HJR 71 does the exact opposite. Increasing the percentage of signatures required and votes to pass a citizen-led initiative will most certainly eliminate Missouri grass root efforts and leave the process available to only those with deep pockets and attract large out-of-state interests. This is bad for Missouri, and I urge you to vote no on HJR 71.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 636-287-6013	
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EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 9:47 AM
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I oppose any bills, alterations or changes to the ballot petition process.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN L BANKS		PHONE NUMBER: 630-267-6230	
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EMAIL: dawn.banks@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 11:18 AM
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I oppose HJR 71. The citizen initiative petition is the purest and most direct method of participation in our government. It is a process that is 115 years old. It has allowed Missourians, conservatives and progressives alike, to advance important ideas to the ballot for a vote. The threshold to place measures on the ballot using this process is already very high, and there is already a high threshold for measures to pass once on the ballot. Lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
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The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition Opposes HJR 71. It undermines Missouri's storied citizen initiative process by making it harder for citizens to place proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot and raising the threshold for passage to near impossible levels, effectively excluding all but the most well-funded efforts from participation, and silencing the voices of Missouri's everyday citizens. HJR 71 proposes making it harder for citizens to place proposed amendments on the ballot by increasing the number of signatures proponents must obtain for proposed constitutional amendments from 8% to 10% of registered voters in all 8 Missouri Congressional districts (rather than 6 of 8), Currently citizens must meet a high threshold of securing signatures of registered voters representing 8% of registered voters in 6 of Missouri's 8 congressional districts for proposed amendments. This would increase the percentage to 10 % and expand the scope to all 8 congressional districts, increasing the number of signatures required. Once on the ballot, HJR 71 also increases the threshold for passage from a simple majority to two-thirds. As a practical matter, this resolution results in the following impacts: * This resolution would significantly increase the number of signatures citizen advocates must obtain potentially by several hundred thousand, making the process more difficult and costly. * By increasing the threshold for passage from a majority to 2/3, the resolution sets a nearly impossible threshold for passage. This means that citizen proposed changes that are supported by a wide majority of Missourians — including measures supported by up to 64 percent of Missouri's voters — would still not pass into law, upending the democratic process that has characterized our electoral process. Measures such as Medicaid Expansion, which was supported by over 60 percent of Missourians, would not pass muster. Lawmakers should applaud Missouri's initiative process and eschew efforts to make direct participation more difficult and elusive for Missouri's citizens.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-293-6864	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 8:05 PM
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HJR 71 increases number of signatures for constitutional amendments from 8% to 10% of registered voters in all 8 Missouri Congressional districts, rather than 6 of 8, plus, it increases threshold for passage of a constitutional amendment from a majority to 2/3. For many many years, Missouri citizens across the political spectrum have been able to have their voices heard through the initiative petition process. The process already requires a high threshold of signatures from registered voters to get a proposal on the ballot. HJR 71 reduces the voice of the average citizen in our democracy and should be rejected.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-682-3728	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY: PLATTSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64477
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 2:51 PM
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My name is Elizabeth Franklin, Plattsburg MO and I am submitting the following concerns regarding House Joint Resolution Nos. 70 and 71. I do not support these House Joint Resolutions and am respectively submitting testimony in opposition. Missouri has had a citizen petition initiative process for over 100 years and voter confidence is high for laws passed through the petition process. The ballot initiative process is rigorous. Currently only 40% of the constitutional amendments placed on the ballot via citizen petition initiative have passed, proof that the process is demanding and requires much thought by Missouri voters and exceedingly hard work by interest groups who want an initiative on the ballot. The proposed change to increase the threshold for ballot passage from a majority of votes cast to a majority of registered voters (HJR 70) is not realistic. If I understand correctly, this legislation could result in the following scenario. For example, if 10,000 voters are registered when an initiative is placed on the ballot, 5001 must vote to pass this initiative. That means if 4000 total votes are cast, the passage of the initiative is impossible even if 100% of those who choose to vote support the measure. How do these mandatory criteria help the ballot initiative process? It seems this is a disincentive to participation, especially when coupled with the increased signature requirements from 8% to 10% in all eight congressional districts (HJR 71). This requirement is not well thought out and will likely result in passage of few if any ballot initiatives and disenfranchise voters. The measure of success should be from those who choose to vote and cast a ballot on election day. MO has no other standard as restrictive and it's unclear why this constraint is needed. Mr. John Ashcroft has stated it best, "It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people. The General assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the Constitution." Wise words that should be heeded by the current Missouri Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this very important topic.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANCINE GLASS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: fran813@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 5:26 PM
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HJR 71 requires measures proposed by initiative to achieve a two-thirds majority vote to pass, while only requiring measures proposed by the general assembly to pass by a simple majority vote. This is outrageous.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GETTA R. HALL		PHONE NUMBER: 816-483-9759	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY: KANSAS CITY,		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64128
EMAIL: getta_hall@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 1:00 PM
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Good Day,I am a Golden Life member of both the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sisterhood founded on Christian principles. I have visited the Missouri Capitol several times over the years. Specifically, I traveled from Kansas City as part of annual Delta Days at the Missouri Capitol and more recently as an advocate of Medicaid Expansion. I was impressed with the accessibility of the legislative process. The hallowed halls were lined with pictures of public servants I respect such as Senator Yvonne Wilson and Representatives Mary Groves Bland, Bill Gray, Jackie McGee and others. These and others live up to their title, The Honorable.Years before, I wrote to then The Honorable Governor John Ashcroft twice. I urged him to divest Missouri funds in an international response to apartheid in South Africa and then enforce the law he signed when the MOSERS Board refused to comply almost 5 years later. I was surprised, both times, he did the honorable thing after I appealed to him citing Biblical principles in the name of Jesus. I supposed as a Republican, he would not sign the Democratic led bill into law. Little did I know, he was the son of a Pentecostal preacher. I try to leave judging people to the Lord God Almighty now.Bishop Desmond Tutu visited UMKC and praised Missouri's forward thinking in this important fight for human rights. Nelson Mandela was subsequently released from prison after 27 years and went on to vote for the first time in a presidential election he won. GLORY TO GOD.I still do not understand how Medicaid Expansion could not pass the Missouri legislature. How could a reasonable group of people refuse federal funding to comply with federal law? Many people have benefited from Affordable Health Care (aka, Obama Care). Missouri's budget has benefitted from the infusion of funds.THE PETITION INITIATIVE PROCESS MUST BE MAINTAINED AS IS. It is an important check to the partisan politics I saw evident in Medicaid Expansion . The failure of the Missouri legislature to act in the best interests of our citizenry was countered by this process to get the bill on the ballot and passed with the current percentage of signatures in the current number of Congressional Districts with the current simple majority. HJR70, 71,70, 88, 91, and 102 are not in the best interests of our democratic process. For more than a century, the process which already requires a high thresh hold of signatures has served us well. A two-thirds majority on any ballot decision or election is unrealistic. How many legislators could garner 2/3 of the vote from their home constituencies?Amazed by His Grace,Sis. Getta R. HallSis. Getta R. Hall



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GREG CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-520-7738	
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EMAIL: gcampbell@hammondshinners.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 8:02 PM
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HJR71 is anti-democratic. The initiative petition process is the best way for the people to make their voices heard.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GREGORY J WOODHAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-506-8499	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1240 W 57TH TER			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL: gjwoodhams@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 1:35 PM
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Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify regarding HJR 71. I am a Missouri resident, living in western Kansas City near the state line. I am opposed to HJR 71 as I believe that it would make the ballot initiative process more difficult, more expensive and would decrease citizen (non-politician) participation in government. The existing ballot initiative process has a 110-year history and has advanced citizen initiatives that have been championed by conservatives, liberals and libertarians; it is not just a tool for one party or one type of political thinking. As examples, conservatives advanced term limits and taxing limitations (the Hancock Amendment) through the ballot initiative process. Increasing the required signature threshold from 8% to 10% percentage of voters per district would serve only to make the initiative process more expensive, requiring more money to effect change. I'm concerned that our political processes already require too much money; why make access to money even more important? I also am concerned about the provision that increases the number of districts reaching the 10% threshold from 6 to all 8. In the current structure, even when signatures from 8% of voters in 6 districts have been procured, citizens in all 8 districts still have a chance to vote on that ballot initiative. Here again, the net effect will be to make money more important in how our government works. Most concerning is the requirement of a 2/3s supermajority for passage (vs the current majority). Is any legislator that supports this proposal willing to subject themselves to the same standard? Would they be willing to resign if they only receive 60% of the vote in their own upcoming elections? The supermajority standard would materially weaken the ballot initiative process and reduce the ability of Missouri citizens to participate in government. Recall that the Hancock amendment received 55% approval when it passed; under the proposed standard it would not have been approved. Finally, I believe that legislators should be concerned that the proposal reflects a distrust in the citizens of the state of Missouri. The initiative process has been a functioning part of Missouri's government for more than 110 years because it gives citizens the right to independently propose and advance legislation. It has worked for both conservative and liberal causes, and where it has worked it has been because the citizens of the state of Missouri have willingly used their voices in an informed manner.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ISAAC CLARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-513-2353	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1709 CAMPBELL PARKWAY, APARTMENT 15			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64801
EMAIL: isaac.h.clark.n7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:02 AM
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I oppose the proposed changes to the state constitution contained in HJR 71. Placing further obstacles in the way of popularly supported constitutional amendments is a poorly concealed attempt to further separate Missouri voters from our entrenched political elites, and our ability to correct abuses of power. It is telling that the same proposal also failed to pass just last year.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELYN FIBER		PHONE NUMBER: 347-878-7654	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 7262 SARAH ST			
CITY: MAPLEWOOD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: rafiaron@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 6:25 PM
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These bills are an overreach and overexpansion of government. Citizens should have more power to initiate and pass bills, not less! Please keep our state a voice of the people.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES ROBINSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 172 BRIGHTHURST DRIVE			
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63005
EMAIL: jamesmrobinson117@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 9:54 AM
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I oppose HJR 102, HJR 70, HJR 71 because I believe these bills to be big government intrusion upon regular people and would disrupt the checks and balances against government overreach.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY S JOHNSTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-5508	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4111 LAURA AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: jscott.johnston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 4:22 PM
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I oppose this legislation and urge that the committee not pass it out. While I agree somewhat with the provisions to require initiative petitions to be signed by 10% of legal voters in each congressional district in Missouri if the petition is proposing a constitutional amendment and 5% of such voters if the petition is proposing a law, up from 8% and 5%, respectively, in two-thirds of congressional districts. And, I am not strongly opposed to the idea of requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote, instead of a simple majority, to approve constitutional amendments that arise from initiative petitions. However, I am appalled by the idea and strongly oppose to including at the same time only requiring measures proposed by the general assembly to pass by a simple majority vote. This is such a slap in the face of your constituents. Your proposals to change our constitution should not be any different than those proposed by the citizens, especially with the changes recommended in this bill.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JIM KASTEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-808-5736	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 824 LAKE DR.			
CITY: HERCULANEUM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63048
EMAIL: jkasten@cityofherculaneum.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:44 AM
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Same as above! Totally opposed to HJR 71



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-840-4551	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 206 E CRESTVIEW			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65807
EMAIL: joangentry2012@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 4:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 24, 2022
RE: Written Testimony in opposition to HJR 71
TO: Chairman Shaul and Members of the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee,
I am writing to you to voice my opposition to HJR 71. The Initiative Petition is one way for Missouri voters to directly address the issues that impact their families and neighborhoods. Our initiative petition process has been in place for 115 years. It is not an easy process, and it has not been abused. HJR 71 makes citizen initiated constitutional amendments practically impossible to get on the ballot. It is not an easy process now. Those working to collect signatures spend long hours and many days in order to meet the existing requirements. This bill creates impossible standards to be met. One of the reasons put forth as why it is important that the initiative process be made harder is that our Constitution is just getting too big. I would refer you to Ballotpedia's Missouri List of Ballot Measures for an in-depth look at legislative referred and citizen initiated constitutional amendments. The vast majority comes from the legislature. Missouri voices can be heard through the initiative petition process. Please reject HJR 71.
Joan Gentry, 206 E Crestview, 65807



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KANE SHEEK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-674-9821	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SIERRA CLUB		TITLE: COMMUNITY ORGANIZER	
ADDRESS: 2524 E CHERRY ST.			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65802
EMAIL: kane.sheek@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 8:52 AM

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The Sierra Club Missouri Chapter opposes House Joint Resolutions 102, 70, and 71. These resolutions would require 8% of the registered voters in each the stateHouse of Representatives Districts, changing from the required 8% of the registered voters in two-thirds of the U.S. Congressional districts. This would be a huge increase that would functionally make qualifying a petition impossible. The present threshold to qualify a petition is already very high and requires an enormous amount of labor from citizens. Additionally, requiring a two-thirds vote in a majority of the legislative districts to amend the constitution makes would make it nearly impossible to pass any citizen initiative Petition, unless campaigns have millions of dollars. The proposed changes will make it so that the process that is only accessible for powerful interests that can afford to pay for it, taking power away from Missouri citizens. This would be a step backwards for democracy in our state. For more than 100 years, Missouri voters from all sides of the political spectrum have relied on ballot measures to directly pass laws - from protecting the Right to Farm to constitutional limits on state and local taxation and spending. The Sierra Club Missouri Chapter supports having a strong, responsive democracy to ensure the voters' are respected. These proposals would have adverse effect on our democracy, and in turn, our environment. Please vote no on HJR 102, 70, & 71. The 20+ proposed changes to the initiative petition process will not bring about positive reform, but instead silence voters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE R. MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-866-9161	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 957 FLAIR CT			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: nelipot@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 10:49 AM
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As a citizen of Missouri who values our integrity and freedom, I'm apposed to HJR 102, 70, and 71. The citizen initiative petition process allows the direct participation in government by its people, it already requires a high threshold of signatures from registered voters to have a proposal added to a ballot, as well as a reasonable threshold of support to pass. This is among the highest thresholds for these measures in the country. Democracy is this country's very identity, and lawmakers should be ashamed to support any changes that undermine or oppose it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN DOLSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-385-8790	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 8340 KNOLLWOOD DR			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63121
EMAIL: kdolson1@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 12:48 PM
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It is ridiculous what is trying to be done to take away power from the citizens of Missouri. Having a say in our own government should just NOT be so difficult. This bill seeks to weaken the people's power by making it harder to propose and approve measures that are initiated by Missouri citizens who wish to improve their lives. Specifically, it requires initiative petitions to be signed by 10% of legal voters in each congressional district in Missouri if the petition is proposing a constitutional amendment and 5% of such voters if the petition is proposing a law, up from 8% and 5%, respectively, in two-thirds of congressional districts. HJR 71 would require a two-thirds supermajority vote, instead of a simple majority, to approve constitutional amendments that arise from initiative petitions. Furthermore, HJR 71 requires measures proposed by initiative to achieve a two-thirds majority vote to pass, while only requiring measures proposed by the general assembly to pass by a simple majority vote. Please protect Missourians power to influence the state government and their own lives by voting NO on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KENDRA VARNIS WALLIS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-3413	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 8531			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64114
EMAIL: kendra.wallis@missouriparks.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 2:08 PM	

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Missouri Parks Association is in opposition to HJR 71. This House Joint Resolution to authorize a referendum on citizen-led ballot initiatives threatens the ability of Missouri citizens to participate in our state democracy. By setting the bar higher for more voter signatures in more counties than what is currently needed for citizens to have initiatives placed on the ballot, it places Missouri citizens' ability to participate in the democratic process almost entirely out of reach. Furthermore, setting a higher bar for passage of constitutional amendments proposed by initiative than what is required to pass an amendment proposed by the general assembly codifies the disdain the legislative body has for the citizens who elected them. Some of the best of what Missouri has to offer has come from citizen-led ballot initiatives, such as the Parks, Soils and Water sales tax that funds our world-class state parks. On behalf of the almost 3,000 members of the Missouri Parks Association who enjoy and invest in Missouri, we oppose HJR 71 and any legislation that would put a citizen's right to participate in our democracy in jeopardy. Do not advance HJR 71.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA REZNY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: Lrezny@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 3:42 AM
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Do you trust the citizens of Missouri? Do you think the voters want you to restrict their access to direct democracy? The testimony in support of this current spate of restrictions on the Initiative Petition process has a theme. Protect the gullible voters from the Left by denying them the use of the Initiative Petition process. This is an affront to voters. In a democracy, if you think the voters are being misinformed, you can provide them with better information, but you can not deny them their right to a say. Not trusting the Initiative Petition process is an insult to the voters you would make at your peril. The people of Missouri are already leery of the Legislature. I have talked to voters of every economic group and political persuasion, and they will all tell me that you can not trust the Legislators. The examples they give are the betrayal on the puppy mill bill and the use of casino money as a substitute for State support of education instead of an increase. Dare you insult them again by restricting the Initiative Petition process? You are proposing an amendment to the Constitution, which would require a vote of the people. It is an insult to even propose this. It would further sully the reputation of the Legislature to even present it to the voters. If you were to foolishly put these restrictions on the ballot, can you imagine the themes of the opposition? Don't tread on me! Fight for your rights to the Initiative Petition process! Don't let the Legislature rob you of your rights! or another possible theme from the opposition. The Initiative Petition has a long and values history in Missouri. In 1924 it was used to provide funding for the maintenance and construction of the state's highways. In the 1930's the Initiative Petition created the Conservation Commission to manage fish, game, and forest resources. In 1980, the voters adopted the "Hancock Amendment" which limited state and local taxes. In 1992 a term limits were adopted and in 1994 campaign finance reform was enacted by Initiative Petition. Keep this avenue for the voters to have a say in our great State of Missouri! Respect the voters. Respect democracy. Getting the approval of the voters for these restrictions would be a losing battle and another bruise to the Legislature. Let them die here in committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA HUMMEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-862-2805	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 7575 STANFORD AVE			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: lisahummel@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 8:59 AM
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The ballot petition process in our state is the only recourse we have to use our power as citizens when the Republican supermajority does outrageous things in our names. For example, the supermajority continually pushes MO to become a right to work for less state, despite the fact that the majority of Missourians have shown that they are against this move. And we are against it with good reason. So called "Right to Work" states have higher poverty and less rights for workers. They give power to the wealthy business owners and take it from the people who do the actual labor and deserve to make a decent living doing it. I oppose any changes to the Ballot Petition Process, including those proposed in HJR 71. If your ideas and proposals are better than the ones being proposed by a ballot initiative, then let them stand on their merits. Make your case to the voters. Don't play dirty tricks by making it harder and harder for Missourians to use the ballot initiative system we have in place. This is the kind of thing that makes people dislike and distrust politicians!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA KUEHNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: ukuramil@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 9:55 AM
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I oppose the proposed changes to the Ballot Petition Process. The will of the people should not be overturned by a supermajority.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORETTA FUGE		PHONE NUMBER: 417-818-1484	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3495 CLAYBANK RD.			
CITY: MANSFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65704
EMAIL: drfuge@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 9:18 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: M'EVIE MEAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND SOUTHWEST MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: mevie.mead@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 5:22 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE OLIVIA EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1137	
REPRESENTING: PRO CHOICE MISSOURI		TITLE: POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@prochoicemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 10:58 AM
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Chairman Shaul, Vice-Chairwoman McGaugh, members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in opposition to HJR 71 which would prevent the initiative petition process from working for the people of Missouri. Pro-Choice Missouri works to protect and expand every Missourian's right to bodily autonomy, to access essential reproductive healthcare, to access accurate information to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, and to parent our children in safety and dignity. Moreover, we work to ensure reproductive justice for all Missourians, which involves advocating to reduce disparities based on race, income level, insurance coverage status, and other factors. Over the last 3+ years Pro-Choice Missouri has been heavily invested in several ballot initiatives including Medicaid Expansion, Raise up Missouri, and Clean Missouri. We had a team of 7 people who collected more than 5,500 signatures to help get Medicaid Expansion on the ballot. This number is only a fraction of the total 120,000 signatures that were collected by the larger campaign. Everyday our employees got up in the sun, the wind, the snow, and the rain, to speak to strangers on street corners all across the First and Second Congressional Districts. They waited on metro platforms for hours on freezing days being rejected by strangers, hoping for a few good conversations. The most densely populated neighborhoods in St Louis to the most lonely country roads. Under current law, initiative petitions proposing constitutional amendments must be signed by 8% of the legal voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts. The proposed constitutional amendments in HJR 71, if approved by the voters, require such petitions to be signed by 10% of the legal voters in each of the congressional districts. The proposed increase in the threshold for constitutional reform would make Missouri the most difficult state in the country for constituents to participate in the democratic process. Our small non-profit organization puts considerable effort into supporting these ballot initiatives, and makes up only a small fraction of the signatures already required. This amendment would require over 100,000 more signatures and would make it so only well financed groups could access the ballot. This change denies the people their voice in the process and preferences large monied organizations. HJR 71 would make the ballot initiative process prohibitively difficult, because the task is already a monumental one. The measure is retaliatory to the millions of voters who voted in favor of medical marijuana, ethics reform, medicaid expansion, and so much more. Family well-being is directly tied to the ability to effectively participate in our legislative process and affect meaningful change. Missourians have spoken. They may be at ideological odds with some of you on this committee but that does not warrant you taking away their right to have a direct voice in government through this process. A NO vote is a vote to listen to Missourians. These resolutions will have lasting negative impacts in Missouri. Pro-Choice Missouri, representing more than 70,000 members across the state, opposes the advancement of these resolutions, and urges you to vote NO today. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA WEIMER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-293-3299	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 364 THOREAU BLVD			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: FM	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: mlweimer@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 1:22 PM
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I will NOT vote yes to making it harder for we the people to exercise our constitutional rights. I live in a democratic country. I will not allow fascism to take hold in this state or this country. You work for us. NEVER FORGET THAT YOU WORK FOR US.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARLA MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2445 E MONTCLAIR CT			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 12:02 PM
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I can tell you from personal experience the petition process as it exists now is not easy. I am proud that Missouri allows citizens to participate in democracy by electing representatives but also directly having our voices heard through the petition initiative process. As a teacher, a former social worker, and community member, I witnessed the devastating effects of predatory lending on our most vulnerable. Missouri is one of least regulated states in the country and it is legal for predatory lenders, through a loophole created by other changes in banking and lending laws, to charge over 1900% interest on loans. And there are other ways people are tricked into the debt trap, which is the actual business model of some of these businesses. A broad group of faith leaders and other concerned people decided to try to get reform through the initiative process. I worked six hours a day, six and seven days a week collecting signatures. In my town, Springfield, we are limited to only a few locations where we are publicly allowed to collect. The process has deadlines and while door to door is another way, it is much slower. We had hundreds of volunteers and limited money for paid collectors. Many of us were harassed, followed by well-paid blockers, even threatened. It was not easy. The billion dollar a year industry prevailed, challenging signatures, even those of well-known clergy who participated in our efforts. (They didn't sign their own petition.) Although we raised money for lawyer's fees, we could not afford to defend all the frivolous claims on signatures. Petitions initiatives shouldn't be held to a higher standard than our legislature. Raising the bar is a cynical attempt to silence our voices on matters that mean so much to us. Do I agree with all petitions? No, I do not. However, I believe we should have the freedom to petition our government, have access to direct democracy via petition. I want Missouri to be a place where we know we have ways to have our voices heard!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY GROSS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-623-4404	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 437 BREEZEWOOD DR			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63011
EMAIL: marygva@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:41 AM
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It is already very difficult and labor intense to get a citizen's petition on the ballot. This makes it even more difficult. Please do not silence voters. This is in effect what this bill proposes to do. I am opposed to HJR 71.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY NEMECEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BURROUGHS AUDUBON SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY		TITLE: CONSERVATION CHAIR	
ADDRESS: 7300 SW WEST PARK RD			
CITY: BLUE SPRINGS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64151
EMAIL: msnemecek@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:31 AM

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Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City opposes HJR 70 & 71. This bill makes it harder, if not impossible for citizens to participate in governing and shaping the state in which we live. So many of the best things about Missouri have come from citizen led ballot initiatives. These initiatives includes the worldrenowned Missouri Department of Conservation and it's 1/8 of a cent sales tax funding. It also includes the Parks, Soils and Water Tax that funds our world class state parks. This bill puts an unfair, probably impossible, hurdle in the way of citizens bringing important issues to the ballot. We strongly urge you reject both these bills. Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City has 2,000 members in the Greater Kansas City area. Our mission is to promotes the appreciation of birds and nature, natural history education, and the conservation of habitat.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR, MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRO	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 8:54 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 26, 2022 Representative Dan Shaul Elections and Elected Officials Committee Missouri House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 313-1 Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chairman Shaul and Members of the Committee, The Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Joint Resolution No. 71 seeks to weaken Missourians' power by making it harder to propose and approve constitutional amendments that are initiated by Missouri citizens who wish to improve their health and living conditions. For this reason, we respectfully ask that you oppose HJR 71. The constitutional amendment outlined in HJR 71 specifically requires initiative petitions to be signed by 10% of legal voters in each congressional district in Missouri if the petition is proposing a constitutional amendment and 5% of such voters if the petition is proposing a law. This modifies the current requirement that petitions be signed by 8% of voters in two-thirds of the congressional districts if the petition is proposing a constitutional amendment and 5% of such voters if the petition is proposing a law. The official fiscal analysis of HJR 71 projects that this will increase the number of required signatures by 75% for constitutional measures and 40% for statutory petitions, which would make it significantly more difficult for Missourians to make their voices heard. HJR 71 also seeks to modify Article XII Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution to require a two-thirds supermajority vote to approve constitutional amendments that arise from initiative petitions, which differs from the current requirement of a simple majority vote. This would make it significantly more difficult for Missourians to pass amendments that could meaningfully improve their lives. Of all the petition-initiated constitutional amendments that were on the ballot from 2000-2020, 60% passed with a simple majority but only 20% would have passed if they required a two-thirds supermajority. (1, 2) HJR 71 continues to try and silence the people's voice by requiring measures proposed by initiative to achieve a two-thirds majority vote to pass, while only requiring measures proposed by the general assembly to pass by simple majority. In addition, it is clear that HJR 71 is an attempt to slow the recent wave of amendments that Missouri's citizens have directly proposed. From 2000-2015, only 23% of proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot were initiated through the petition process. (1, 2) However, from 2016-2022, 50% of such amendments have been initiated by a petition. (2) It is apparent that Missourians have chosen to engage more directly in the legislative process in recent years due to frustration with the bureaucracy in Jefferson City, but HJR 71 seeks to punish them for it. We urge you to take a long-term view and think about what is best for Missouri's citizens, as well as the state's democratic processes. Once again, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment asks you to vote "no" on HJR 71 in order to preserve the right of Missourians to propose and pass life-improving amendments. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the

Environmentmvaatterott@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 111Sources:(1): Valentine, David C.,
"Constitutional Amendments, Statutory Revision and Referenda Submitted to the Voters by the General
Assembly or by Initiative Petition, 1910–2010". Missouri Legislative Academy Institute of Public Policy
Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs, December 2010. pp. 8-9. University of Missouri.(2):
https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_Missouri_ballot_measures



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MINDY SUE MCINTOSH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-406-3290	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1224 SLOAN AVE			
CITY: PALMYRA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63461
EMAIL: msmomac@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 2:15 PM
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i oppose changes or alterations to the ballot petition initiative program



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY COPENHAVER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-263-5725	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE			
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 9:47 AM	

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The League of Women Voters of Missouri (LWVMO) is opposed to HJR 71 which would hamper the ability of Missouri citizens to use the initiative process. The initiative process is reserved in the Missouri Constitution for the citizens of the state to bring issues to a vote of the people when the representative process in the legislature has failed to respond to desires of the citizens. Increasing the number of voters required to get a petition on the ballot makes this process much more difficult and expensive. Increasing the majority vote requirement to a two-thirds majority vote is an additional hurdle which is unnecessary and extremely difficult to obtain.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY DESLOGE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-662-6525	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 862 WOOD			
CITY: KIRKWOOD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63122
EMAIL: nancy.desloge@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 5:29 PM
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I oppose HJR 71 because it is an impediment to democracy. The bill makes it even more difficult to get a citizen-led initiative for a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot. It increases the number of signatures by nearly 200,000 to place an initiative on the ballot and increases the threshold for approval by voters from a simple majority to 2/3. By making the ballot initiative process so burdensome and expensive, HJR 71 effectively removes power from the people, which is un-American.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY SACCONI		PHONE NUMBER: 314-455-2778	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 207 BROOKTRAIL COURT			
CITY: CREVE COEUR		STATE:	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: nlisaccone@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 8:59 AM
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I am a Missouri constituent in zip code 63141. I oppose HJR 71 because it will interfere with our ballot initiative process, which is an important part of our democratic process. I am a regular citizen who has volunteered to assist with recent successful ballot initiative efforts. These citizen-driven efforts have led to important and much-needed improvements for Missourians which a majority of us support, including expansion of Medicaid to provide crucial healthcare to under-served Missourians. The ballot initiative process is already difficult. This bill would make it much more difficult, in an unjustifiable way, for citizens to get constitutional amendments on the ballot and passed. I ask our MO legislative representatives to oppose HJR 71 as I do. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE COOPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63117
EMAIL: ncooper020@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 7:56 PM
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This bill seeks to weaken the people's power by making it harder to propose and approve measures that are initiated by Missouri citizens who wish to improve their lives. Vote "no."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 11:56 AM
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The Association appreciates the opportunity to present written testimony regarding HJR 71. The Association opposes the joint resolution.HJR 71 increases the initiative petition signature percentage for constitutional amendments from 8% to 10% of the legal voters in each Congressional district, requires collection of the required percentage of signatures in all eight Congressional districts, rather than the current requirement of six districts, and requires a two-thirds majority for the approval of any future constitutional amendment, regardless of whether submitted by the legislature or the initiative petition. The Association supports removing barriers for eligible citizens to vote and participate politically. The initiative petition process is already a significant and challenging effort. The Association is concerned that these changes would make the process so difficult that, as a practical matter, the initiative petition process would no longer be a realistic option for Missouri citizens to bring issues of concern forward for public consideration.On behalf of the Association, I thank you for the opportunity to offer our testimony on this issue.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA BARTHOLOME		PHONE NUMBER: 816-813-0167	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI		TITLE: VOLUNTEER	
ADDRESS: 4331 GILLHAM ROAD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64110
EMAIL: pbartholome50@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 10:38 AM

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Testimony opposing House Joint Resolution 71, Pat Bartholome, League of Women Voters of Kansas City, 816-531-5278, pbartholome50@gmail.com. Legislation that reduces the opportunity of Missouri voters to take part in the legislative process is not in the interest of a democratic society. HJR71 is clearly designed to do just that. I represent the membership of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City. We are a non-partisan organization founded on the right of all citizens to have an equal opportunity to participate in our government. Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for over 100 years. This critical tool, used through the years by citizens from all political persuasions and by both political parties, is now being attacked. This valuable and trusted process is not easy, and the citizens of Missouri have not abused it. In more than a century, only 28 of 69 citizen-initiated Constitutional amendments have ever been approved. When Missouri representatives create more hurdles for petition initiatives to make it to the ballot as HJR 71 proposes— more signatures in more districts, a higher threshold of voters needed for passage—it cannot be viewed as anything other than measures to dissuade citizens from using the initiative petition which is a unique and sacred right afforded the citizens of our state. The League of Women Voters of Kansas City opposes bill HJR 71.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L. BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER: 417-529-4636	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 350 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PKWY, APT 5D			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: sherryb@joplinlawyers.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 9:29 AM
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I strongly oppose HJR 102, 70, and 71, efforts to amend our Missouri Constitution regarding citizens' rights to petition for new amendments and laws or the right to referendum on laws passed by our legislature. If making direct democracy via petitioning or referendum is the goal of the current legislature, perhaps that is the amendment to put on the ballot. Knowing, however, that a significant majority of Missourians survey in favor of these rights, the strategies proposed in HJR 102, 70, and 71 appear to be ones of making the petition process untenable without stating so transparently. These proposals have the obvious aim of destroying citizens' direct participation in our democracy but are being couched in deceptive language and falsely promoted as ways to "strengthen" the process. An example of possible deception is the official ballot language included in HJR 71: "Allow only citizens of the United States to qualify as legal voters" as the first point in the ballot language. In order to be a registered voter in Missouri one must be a U.S. citizen, so this language serves no purpose aside from pandering to those who believe that non-citizens are allowed to vote. Missouri's century-old petition process is already sufficiently stringent. Though hundreds of petitions have been filed during this period, only a fraction have made it to ballots. And less than half of proposed issues that made it to the ballot have actually passed with a 50% or greater majority. Increasing the number of signatures required would make costs and efforts prohibitive for almost all constituent factions, liberal or conservative. In addition, increasing the required vote tally to two-thirds would prevent passage of almost all proposals. Examples that show the obstructionism of a two-thirds requirement: Medical marijuana passed with 65.5%; Medicaid Expansion passed with 53.25%; the Hancock Amendment passed with 55.41%; and the citizen-initiated 2018 Amendment 1 regarding lobbying, campaign finance, and redistricting passed by 62% but was overturned by the legislature-initiated Amendment 3 in 2020 with only a 51% majority. One might argue that Missouri would be better off without some of these and several other amendments, but the point relevant to HJR 102, 70, and 71 is that none of them would have passed at a two-thirds level, so it is obvious that the legislature's goal is to, in truth, eliminate the process. I urge your committee not to forward these proposals for any further action. Thank you, Sherry L. Buchanan, Ph.D. 350 S. JQ Hammons Pkwy 5-D Springfield, MO 65806 (417) 529-4636



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN W. SKRAINKA		PHONE NUMBER: 314-518-4015	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 7170 WASHINGTON AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS (UNIVERSITY CITY)		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: steve.skrainka@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2022 5:00 PM
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BEFORE THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

Testimony Opposing House Joint Resolutions 102, 70, and 71

Hearing: Noon January 26, 2022 Jefferson City Good Afternoon Chairman Shaul, Vice Chairman McGaugh, Ranking Member Windham, and Honorable Representatives. Thank you for the

opportunity to testify in writing before you today. I previously submitted testimony to this Committee opposing HJR 91 on January 11, 2022 and opposing HJRs 71, 91, and 102 on January 18. My name is Stephen Skrainka, I live in University City. For identification only I am a member of the Voting Rights Chavurah of the Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis, a member of the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis Education Committee, a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Policy Advisory Committee, a member of the Council on Racial Equality, and a member of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. I am also an attorney and a founder and Past President of Central Reform Congregation. I am testifying as an individual, not as a representative of any of these organizations.

My reasons for opposing these bills are as stated in my prior January 11 and January 18 testimony. This combination of bills only compete in the how much more impossible they make the people's use of this most democratic right to petition to solve people's grievances than the previous resolutions. You have in some ways saved the worst for last: As you know these resolution or some of them increase the number of signers required, require signed petitions from every congressional district, require 2/3 majorities of registered voters to approve (in some Resolutions only for the people's initiatives, not yours), repeatedly show your distrust of all Missourians who live in urban areas by such requirements and in HJR 88 by even requiring a 2/3 majority from every county in the state for a proposition to pass! These proposals throw out the baby with the bath water. Many of you are deeply offended that the public grew tired of the our legislature's near 10-year stall of Medicaid expansion and passed it to cover 275,000 needy Missourians by initiative. Some also resent that when we grew tired of badly gerrymandered representation, more beholden to lobbyists than voters, we tried to do away with it by passing Clean Missouri. Or was it passing medical marijuana that upset you? If that's the problem why not just pass a resolution repealing Missouri's entire 115 year old initiative petition process? It would be more forthright. All of these present resolutions are outrageously anti-democratic and should be killed in this committee. I urge you to look at all the many initiative proposals you would have favored that failed to get enough signatures or votes under the current law and pause before you chop the whole thing down. Many conservative measures have been adopted over the years through this process including limitations on Missouri's budget and spending. The present process is truly non-partisan, quite difficult and expensive, and rarely succeeds as Ben Senturia's January 11 testimony shows. Don't destroy the process merely because you don't agree with the last few measures the people have adopted. Deal with the merits of these proposals instead.

Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 71		DATE: 1/26/2022	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-6463	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 310 BERRY STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2022 5:39 PM
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This unAmerican resolution transparently seeks to silence the voice of The People



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SHENDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4605 LINDELL BLVD., APT. 1502			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: susan.shender@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2022 4:12 PM
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I oppose HJR 71.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM HARRY WERNER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-809-1867	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 9513 LONGWOOD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63125
EMAIL: Wernewi13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 10:22 AM
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I'm against the bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YVONNE D REEVES-CHONG		PHONE NUMBER: 573-586-7035	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2 GERALD STREET			
CITY: WAYNESVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65583
EMAIL: seedistheword@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2022 2:25 PM
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Same crap; different day. I strongly oppose all three of these bills!