



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1416</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2021 3:21 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am in Support of this Bill on its face.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1416</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY SCHAEFER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>aschaefer47@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2021 1:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Freedom of religion is already a Constitutionally protected right. Nothing further needs to be said. But, no, that does not mean that in-person meeting of religious organizations is "essential", for instance, when said gathering poses a health risk to those there - and to all other members of the community who elect not to gather there. You can't have in-person church during a pandemic. Doing so puts the entire community at risk. That's not a matter of "freedom", it's just simple science. Further, freedom of religion has zero to do with gender issues. Anyone may practice any religion of their choosing in this county, but no one shall use that religion as a cover for discrimination. Gender-identity is not a matter to be imposed upon anyone under the guise of religious liberties. Further, the right to bear arms is well addressed in the Constitution and fundamentally, nobody wants to take anyone's guns. Please stop perpetuating that myth. However, the bill states that it supports the lawful acquisition of firearms. If that is true, there should be legislation establish to require background checks on ALL gun sales. No loopholes. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1416</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN KAYLOR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>WORD&amp;WAY</b>		TITLE: <b>EDITOR &amp; PRESIDENT</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>bkaylor@wordandway.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2021 3:37 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

This bill is unnecessary and unhelpful. I oppose this legislation not because I do not care about religious liberty, but precisely because I, as a Baptist minister, cherish religious liberty for all. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen examples of governments going too far by infringing on the free exercise rights of houses of worship. And the courts have stepped in to override those rules that wrongly targeted religious institutions. But the courts have also rejected many of the challenges brought by houses of worship because the courts noted that religious gatherings in those cases were being treated like similar gatherings. That is the balance we need and that this bill lacks. Religious gatherings should be treated like similar gatherings. Houses of worship should not be hit with harsher rules than similar organizations. But religious gatherings should not be exempt from the same life-saving health rules to which similar gatherings are subjected. Simply put, there should not be a pandemic privilege for religion. And this bill is unneeded as Missouri's Religious Freedom Restoration Act already provides the proper balance, and thus gives the courts the legal room to strike down violations of religious freedom. A virus like COVID-19 does not stop at the door of a church, nor does the virus care if a mass gathering is religious or not. That is why numerous church worship services, unfortunately, became super-spreader events during this pandemic. To exempt religious gatherings and organizations from the common-sense health rules imposed on similar events and groups does not respect religious liberty but instead violates it. This pandemic privilege for religion will not only upset our healthy constitutional church-state balance but will also endanger lives. Please do not adopt HB1416.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1416</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGAN M MARTINEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>irishhawk@outlook.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2021 9:17 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I believe in the separation of church and state. I respect one's individual right to worship as they see fit and recognize that the state shall not mandate religious gatherings as "essential" particularly in times of societal health concerns such as a deadly pandemic.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1416</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEPHEN EISELE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-848-3285</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>PROMO</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROMO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2200 GRAVOIS AVE, STE 201</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63104</b>
EMAIL: <b>stephen@promoonline.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2021 6:18 PM</b>	

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

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Evans HB 1416 March 10, 2021 Dear Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony. My name is Stephen Eisele, the Executive Director of PROMO, Missouri's statewide (LGBT) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender advocacy organization. On behalf of our organization, I am expressing our opposition to House Bill 1416. While we understand the importance of religion in the lives of millions of Missourians, we do have concerns over sections of HB 1416 as currently written. First and foremost, we have concerns over language in Section (4) 1 as it pertains to access to restrooms and other facilities. It is our belief that the language as written proposes discriminatory actions under the guise of religious freedoms and religious liberty. HB 1416 is overly broad and has the potential to damage the lived experiences of countless Missourians. This legislation gives permission to use religion as a tool to discriminate, including against transgender and gender-nonconforming people. As this legislation is written, discrimination against gender-nonconforming people, families who may wish to use the same restroom, or individuals with disabilities who may need assistance in these spaces from someone who may be of a different sex is inevitable. All of us, including transgender and gender-nonconforming people, care about safety and privacy in restrooms and locker rooms. It is already illegal to enter a bathroom or locker room for the purpose of harming someone or invading someone's privacy. Nothing in this bill would change that. Anyone who enters a women's restroom to harm women and girls or men's to hurt boys and men will be subject to arrest and prosecution. Creating space within the law to allow religious organizations to "establish sex-specific standards" under the guise of religious protections will not make people safer and it will foster discrimination. In Missouri, we believe that the government should treat everyone equally under the law, and not support language that gives license to discriminate. Given that, passing HB 1416 is the wrong path forward. I urge this committee to vote no on HB 1416. I am available to answer any questions that you might have going forward. Thank you again for your consideration. Best, Stephen Eisele Executive Director, PROMO 417.848.3285