



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 316</b>		DATE: <b>2/2/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Criminal Justice</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHERYL ADELSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>3144423872</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL - ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE: <b>DEPUTY DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>12 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL: <b>cadelstein@jcrctl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>

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

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis in support of House Bill 316. HB 316 would allow some persons with felonies on their records to work in businesses that serve or sell alcohol or sell lottery tickets. Reducing barriers to employment for justice-involved individuals promotes rehabilitation, reduce recidivism and is in the best economic and security interest of the State of Missouri. 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. Jews have a deeply held belief in teshuva, loosely translated as change/turning in other words, the possibility or rehabilitation and redemption. As stated in Ezekiel, "I have not pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." (33:11) The JCRC reaffirms the Biblical precept that people who offend are human beings, capable of reshaping their lives and worthy of an opportunity to repent and reenter society. Missouri's prisons are overcrowded and the choice today is to build more prisons, at tremendous expense, or change the way that people are sentenced, rehabilitated and released. Reducing barriers to employment, as addressed by the HB 316, is one of several tools to help reduce the recidivism rate in Missouri. After release from incarceration, returning citizens must navigate a complex set of barriers that makes resuming any semblance of a normal life nearly impossible. Prior criminalization degrades the condition that can aid in recovery, such as access to additional and mental health treatment programs, support networks, gainful employment and education. Finding paid employment can be nearly impossible due to the stigma of incarceration and regulations that allow employers to reject applicants with criminal histories, even when that history has no relevance to the job in question. HB 316 will remove some of the barriers returning citizens face in finding employment. This is a first step in reducing recidivism. Please support HB 316.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRIS ROEPE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-8760</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PETROLEUM MARKETERS AND CONVENIENCE STORE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>205 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINE WOODY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>3145037277</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY COORDINATOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E. HIGH ST. STE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>christine@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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February 2, 2021 To: Rep. Dogan, Chairman, and Members House Special  
 Committee on Criminal Justice From: Christine Woody, Senior Policy Coordinator Empower  
 Missouri Re: Our support for HB 316 Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for  
 the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our work,  
 we organize a statewide coalition called the Smart Sentencing Coalition. This coalition is made up of  
 individuals and organizations who are working for a smarter criminal justice system that works to  
 decrease recidivism, decrease the prison population, decrease Missouri's criminal justice costs all  
 while ensuring our community is safe. We thank Rep. Toalson-Reisch for sponsoring House Bill 316. We  
 know that almost everyone who enters prison in Missouri will one day return to their community and  
 helping them succeed once they are released is the best way to reduce recidivism, reduce prison  
 costs, reduce the prison population and keep our community safe. There are many barriers that  
 individuals returning from prison face and helping remove those barriers helps ensure individuals  
 succeed. One of the biggest barriers to success is the ability to secure meaningful employment.  
 There are many mechanisms in place across the state that prevent those with prior convictions from  
 obtaining stable employment; two of those mechanisms are prohibitions from the Supervisor of Liquor  
 Control and the Missouri Gaming Commission preventing formerly incarcerated individuals from  
 participating in the sale of alcohol and lottery tickets. HB 316 states that Missouri cannot prohibit a  
 person from participating in the sale of alcohol or selling of lottery tickets solely on the basis of being  
 found guilty of a felony offense. This change opens up thousands of job opportunities at grocery  
 stores, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, and other retailers for those with a conviction in  
 their past. There is no evidence to suggest that individuals working in establishments selling alcohol  
 or lottery tickets are more likely to reoffend than those working in other professions; this is a  
 misguided provision that should be immediately rescinded in Missouri. Currently, almost 2/3 of those  
 reentering society end up returning to prison within three years. One of the best ways to ensure  
 success for returning citizens is to help them get and keep employment. HB 316 does just that!  
 Empower Missouri, and the Smart Sentencing Coalition, strongly support bills like HB 316 which  
 remove barriers to success for individuals with a prior conviction on their records. We are asking you  
 to please vote Do Pass on HB 316. Sincerely, Christine Woody, MSW Empower Missouri and the Smart  
 Sentencing Coalition



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>7200 MADISON</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64114</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW ROSENE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mjrosene@wustl.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>

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As we reflect on the many challenges faced by our communities over the past year, the importance of the economic security provided by employment is crucial for the maintenance of any semblance of a standard of living. This is especially true for our formerly incarcerated. Upon their release from prison, they are expected to reintegrate back into society and become contributing members of their community. Having a job is pivotal to that end. However, restrictive laws bar these individuals from seeking employment in businesses that sell alcohol and lottery tickets, such as gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants, leaving the formerly incarcerated with very limited options and pushing the goalposts of successful reintegration further out of reach. This will only increase the likelihood of recidivism. House Bill 316 aims to address this by lifting these restrictions. Studies show that unemployed individuals with a criminal record reoffend at a higher rate than their employed counterparts. In fact, it has been proposed that dropping unemployment by as little as 1% can result in a similar 1-2% drop in certain offenses. These individuals have served their time. Keeping them further shackled with unemployment by these laws is both immoral and nonsensical if we expect them to effectively rejoin society. Not only will this benefit the formerly incarcerated, but the rest of Missouri as well. The more formerly incarcerated persons returned to the workforce, the more revenue the state will earn through income taxes, with research showing that 100 employed individuals will lead to a \$55 million increase in their lifetime earnings, a \$1.9 million increase in income tax revenue, and an increase in sales tax revenue by \$770,000. In addition, the reduced rate of recidivism that will result will save the state over \$2 million, which is money that can be put towards, infrastructure, education, and other public works programs for the benefit of all. I would like to thank Rep. Toalson-Reisch for sponsoring House Bill 316 and I implore you all to also support this bill for the sake of a stronger Missouri. Matthew J. Rosene PhD Candidate at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis



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<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAUREEN FLYNN-HART</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>m.flynn21391@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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**Maureen Flynn-Hart** 10612 N. Locust Court Kansas City, Missouri 64155 816 729 6385 The Historic St. Mark Church This bill will encourage greater entrepreneurship in our community with the need for Black owned businesses. Laws are already in place protecting alcohol and lottery sales. Job fairs are in place to encourage employment opportunities for those convicted of felonies. My daughter age 34 was convicted of a felony for letting a horse out of a barn. This incident as well as her refusal to participate in a diversion program involved mental health issues. When she is able she is limited to employment in fast food. Working at a grocery store could expand her employment opportunities.



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<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>OLIVIA DEPAUL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>odepaul@wustl.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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As a graduate student in the field of occupational therapy, I learn every day about the importance of individual participation in daily activities that bring purpose and meaning to life, and how the deprivation of such opportunities has demonstrable negative effects on physical and socioemotional health. Gainful employment is perhaps one of the most consequential areas of daily participation for all adults, but even more so for justice-involved individuals who are attempting to build a life from scratch. Helping these individuals find stable employment improves their overall well-being, and consequently their ability to emerge as contributory members of their community. Additionally, ensuring the success of individuals returning from prison is the best way to reduce recidivism, reduce prison costs, reduce the prison population?, and keep our communit?ies safe. One simple but impactful way of contributing to their success is to make more jobs available to justice-involved individuals, which is exactly what HB 316 would do. Given that there is no evidence to suggest that individuals working in establishments that sell alcohol or lottery tickets are more likely to reoffend, HB 316 simply makes sense if we value the rehabilitation of former offenders and the future of Missouri as a whole. I am asking you to please vote Do Pass on HB 316.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SR. MARY ANN MCGIVERN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>maryann.mcgivern@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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I directed a re-entry program for men and women with felony convictions in St. Louis before my retirement. They were unable to work at grocery stores and filling stations — good starter jobs with professional supervision — all because these places sold alcohol and lottery tickets. This is a good example of obstacles to re-entry. Mary Ann McGivern 3865 Hartford Street St. Louis MO 63116 314.324.1050