



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Passes Increased Penalties for Sexual Offenses Involving Children

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed legislation to put a measure before Missouri voters to ensure the safety of Missouri children and curb the heinous crime of sex trafficking by strengthening penalties for sexual offenses involving children.

HJR 132, a resolution sponsored by State Representative Wendy Hausman, proposes a crucial amendment to the Missouri Constitution to ensure stricter punishment for those convicted of sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree. Under the proposed amendment, individuals found guilty of sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree will face life imprisonment without the possibility of probation or parole.

"As a mother, grandmother, and legislator, I am deeply committed to ensuring that the punishment for these crimes is both just and effective. Our children deserve the highest level of protection, and this resolution underscores our unwavering dedication to their safety and well-being," Hausman, R-St. Peters, said. "Let's protect our children and convey a powerful message to traffickers: their actions will not be tolerated. Our children are not commodities; they are our most precious treasures, deserving of every safeguard we can provide. This resolution will allow Missouri voters to truly make a difference and loudly proclaim, once and for all: Missouri's children are not for sale!"

"Today, the Missouri House has spoken with one voice in defense of our children," House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, said. "We stand united in our resolve to hold accountable those who prey on the innocence of our youth. This amendment sends a resounding message: those who commit sexual trafficking crimes against children will face severe consequences. By enacting this amendment, we are taking a decisive stand against the scourge of sexual trafficking and reaffirming our commitment to justice for victims."

HJR 132 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

*Representative Wendy Hausman, a Republican, represents part of St. Charles County (District 65) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Hausman's office at 573-751-3717 or by email at **Wendy.Hausman@House.Mo.Gov**.*

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