

HB 1577 -- CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPONSOR: Ingle

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill ensures that the condition of being an "unaccompanied youth" as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6) is not a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect.

This bill is similar to HB 1028 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is important to allow schools and other mandated reporters to actually help teens get themselves into good situations. Requiring mandated reporters to make reports on teens who are in unstable situations can drive them away from people who can help them and into dangerous situations with adults who will abuse them and not protect them.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ingle; Deanna Alonso, Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association; and Allison Gregory, Foster Adopt Connect.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.