

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Joey Wright

Delegation: YIG Delegation

Organization: Prevent Child Abuse Missouri

Title: Prevent child abuse in Missouri

Give your paper a title. The title should summarize your position.

As a representative of Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to protect the rights of the state's most valuable asset: its children.

PCAM is dedicated to providing education, public awareness and community support in order to prevent child abuse. A child dies of abuse every eight days in Missouri alone. Every twenty-four hours, 47 cases of child abuse and neglect are confirmed, and those statistics cannot begin to take into account the hundreds of cases that go unreported. Prevent Child Abuse Missouri's motto speaks for itself: "It shouldn't hurt to be a child."

State the name of your organization and its mission or purpose.

State the reasons for your position. You will want to include relevant statistics, facts, details, and evidence to support this position.

While virtually no one would take a pro-child abuse stance, many current legislative statutes are simply not strict enough when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, and such faults often lead to alarming situations such as a convicted child molester buying a house just a few miles away from an elementary school.

PCAM's goal is simple: to prevent child abuse in every form by fighting for the humane treatment of Missouri's children, a goal certainly worth the time and the effort.

Describe your legislative goals. Your goals can be to enact or prevent the passage of legislation.

Specific approaches to preventing child abuse include raising the penalties for such crimes as child abuse, neglect, and statutory rape. Also, amending the existing laws in order to ensure the protection of a greater number of children are necessary actions to guarantee that our future doctors, lawyers, and even presidents will live long enough to make a difference in the lives of future generations.

We must depend on our legislatures to speak for the children that have no voices in their fates. The lives of thousands of children are resting in our hands.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that imposes stricter penalties to convicted child abusers and broadens the capabilities of current legislation meant to protect the children. I will oppose any legislation that allows greater leeway in the conviction and sentencing of child abusers and will fight against proposed amendments to limit the power of current laws to prevent child abuse.

Summarize your position by stating the types of legislation that you would support or oppose. A legislator needs to be able to read this summary and immediately know your position.