

SB 591 (White) PUNITIVE DAMAGES REFORM
TESTIMONY OF RAY MCCARTY, ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI
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Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill that reforms court procedure when punitive damages are sought by a plaintiff.

The current legal environment encourages plaintiffs to threaten punitive damages, often as a means of encouraging a more lucrative settlement of actual damages for plaintiffs and their attorneys.

The purpose of punitive damages is to punish the defendant – not to recover actual damages. The bill makes responsible changes by including some aspects of similar punitive damages laws in other states and ensuring punitive damage awards are available for intentional acts and egregious behavior that, according to the judge and/or jury, deserves punishment.

This is an appropriately stronger requirement than current law and we urge your support of the bill.