



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 164		DATE: 2/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRAD BATES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2021 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN LANDWEHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL COUTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2021 1:32 AM

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I am Opposed to this Bill. I oppose this Concept of Sub-Districts.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GERRY LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 417-766-2818	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS		TITLE: SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 3888 E LINWOOD TERRACE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65809
EMAIL: glee@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 4:32 PM
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My name is Gerry Lee, and I am a member of the Springfield Board of Education. I am testifying in opposition to HB 164. HB 164 is the classic example of a “solution looking for a problem”. I have listed a few indicators of a school board that is focused on moving the entire school district forward and educating all students to meet high standards. As and SPS Board Member, I will include specific examples of how Springfield Public Schools Board of Education has been successfully utilizing an at-large election system. Great school boards have a clear vision for the district. School boards set the vision and goals for the entire district and measure the success of the district and superintendent against the goals. SPS’s Strategic Plan supports all students especially our under-represented and under-resourced students. Great school boards work as a team. SPS Board of Education currently collaborates very well because we are on the same page for all students. Sub-districting automatically creates a division in board members and could make it difficult to function as a cohesive team. Great school boards adopt a fiscally sound district budget. SPS Board of Education pays significant attention to our finances. We not only monitor the fiscal health of our district but focus on providing equity of resources in our district. SPS invested in technology and internet access for all students with our 1:1 programs. Our latest bond issue (\$168M) invested a significant portion to the areas of most need, rehabbing or constructing new school facilities. SPS has significantly expanded our early childhood program with new hubs on the north side of our district. Great school boards focus on what is best for all students. SPS focuses on student achievement and implementing policies that will ensure success for all students. Equity is not just a geographic issue. SPS has under-resourced students across our entire district. It is to no one’s advantage to pit school board members against each other to get more resources into their district. The focus must stay on all the students in the district. SPS’s commitment to supporting schools with high FRL rates is greater now than ever before on all fronts. It makes no sense to break up a system that works extremely well for all students. HB 164 is not needed and therefore should not be passed. Thank you for your service and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT MORROW		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PRESIDENT AND CEO	
ADDRESS: 202 S. JOHN Q. HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: lmustoe@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 4:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chairman Basye and members of the House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education: On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our over 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of opposition for House Bill 164. In the current Springfield Public Schools (SPS) district, all seven school board positions are at-large seats that represent the entire SPS district. The current board works to evaluate and represent the district as a whole to make financial, operational and policy decisions. This bill would alter this structure, dividing the district up into seven smaller zones with no at-large seats. The Chamber is opposed to modifications that might negatively impact decisions being made from a district-wide perspective or are driven by the representation of one zone of the district over another. The Chamber, along with many partners, has been a part of an effort to recruit quality candidates for the board of education for over a decade. That group is thoughtful and intentional about working to recruit candidates to represent all geographic regions of the community. This effort has proven to be an effective approach, and forcing candidates from five, much-smaller individual zones, may not result in the most qualified candidates running for school board. The Chamber supports this current structure of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education comprised of seven at-large positions with three-year terms, and we thank you for your consideration of opposition to HB 164. Sincerely, Matt Morrow President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce 202 S John Q Hammons Parkway Springfield, MO 65806



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA N MURRAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pamelanmurray@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 8:56 AM
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My name is Pamela Murray and I was a school board member from 2015 through 2018 in the Jefferson City School District. This district based in Jefferson City (Cole County) includes a portion of Callaway County, north of the Missouri River. I am in favor of changing current regulations as my experience has been that the boards lack geographic diversity as well as diversity of experiences. There needs to be a better way to assure all areas of a district truly have a voice on the Board. However, I feel HB 164 while well intentioned is flawed. It would allow for dividing a suburban district in seven (7) subdistricts or remain as is. Some districts may want to divide into, for example, three (3) subdistricts with two (2) board members per district and one (1) at-large member. The bill does not outline how a district could convert to subdistricts absent removing the entire board and electing an entire new board. I respectfully request an alternative method of electing boards be established: With three year terms a seven member board elects either two or three board members each year with the top vote getting members being elected. Voters are asked to vote for either two or three candidates, depending on the year. If voters were given the option to use proportional voting, that is using their two or three votes in a manner of their choosing, the voter could opt to use all their votes on one candidate thus increasing the chance a board member from their community is chosen. I thank the Committee and Representative Veit for bringing forth HB 164 and recognizing there is room to improve the manner in which school districts choose their elected officials. Perhaps a