



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 451</b>		DATE: <b>3/24/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 12:55 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>I am in Support of this Bill. Makes 'Common-Sense!'</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES HARRIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-761-7875</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS PROJECT</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>122 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 200</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANDREA CLARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-523-5353</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>KC HEALTHY KIDS</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY &amp; PLANNING MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>650 MINNESOTA AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66101</b>
EMAIL: <b>aclark@kchealthykids.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 2:21 PM</b>
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March 24, 2021  
TO: House Judiciary Committee  
RE: Opposition to HB 451  
Dear Chair Evans and members of the committee,  
KC Healthy Kids advances the health and well-being of children and families through community-driven initiatives and advocacy where they live, learn, work and play in the Kansas City metro. We are deeply concerned that House Bill 451 will ultimately hurt children and their families in Missouri. HB 451 is simply bad policy. Due to extraordinary costs and negligible results, Congress mandated an assessment of this policy to evaluate the cost of implementation, the impact on kids and more effective alternatives. States that have passed this policy have abandoned it for non-punitive approaches that strengthen child support programs without denying food assistance. HB 451 puts families at risk. Over 80% of kids experiencing poverty who are eligible for the Child Support program already participate. Some families who chose not to participate do so for personal safety. By requiring cooperation with the Child Support program, this policy could put parents who have fled domestic violence at risk. HB 451 means more hungry kids. Withholding SNAP benefits from parents reduces the food budget and increases food insecurity for the entire household, including kids. In Missouri, over 290,000 kids experienced food insecurity in 2020, according to Feeding America, placing them at risk of hunger. Feeding America estimated food insecurity among kids would increase 39% between 2018 and 2020. HB 451 threatens kids' long-term success. Hungry kids that lack access to nutritious food have a harder time learning in school, undermining their success later in life. Elementary school students who participate in SNAP improve in reading and math, and their chance of graduating from high school increases. HB 451 will cause disproportionate harm. The economic downturn due to the pandemic has left many Missouri families struggling to put food on the table as they experience reduced hours or unemployment. Policies like this harm Black, Indigenous and People of Color who experience disproportionate rates of unemployment during recessions. This costly policy would deny kids and their families SNAP benefits at the very time the program is meant to put food within reach. We oppose HB 451 because it is a costly, ineffective policy that will increase food insecurity for kids and families across Missouri.  
Sincerely,  
Andrea Clark  
Policy & Planning Manager



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>D. SCOTT PENMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-690-6772</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>OPERATION FOOD SEARCH</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 684</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>scott@penman.group</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 5:49 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER CARTER DOCHLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-356-4109</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (MCADSV)</b>		TITLE: <b>PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>217 OSCAR DRIVE, STE. A</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>jennnc@mocadsv.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/23/2021 1:08 PM</b>
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**MCADSV Priority Legislation for 2021: HB 451** The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) unites Missourians with a shared value that rape and abuse must end, and advances this through education, alliance, research and public policy. MCADSV is a statewide membership association comprised of approximately 120 domestic violence and sexual assault agencies. MCADSV opposes HB 451. The unintended consequences of HB 451 could be devastating for a domestic violence victim who already struggles to access safety and stability. Although there is a good cause exemption in child support enforcement for domestic violence, we continue to hear how victims are not notified of the exemption to utilize it or how information that is to be confidential is shared with the other abusive parent. For those victims who need public assistance, it is the difference between surviving and not surviving. In short: nothing good can come from denying food to Missourians who are in need of help. In 2019: • 9,057 individuals received services from a Missouri sexual assault program. This number does not include the 5,496 individuals who requested services yet were unmet because the program lacked the resources to meet the need. • 36,304 individuals received services from a Missouri domestic violence program. This number does not include the 26,068 individuals who requested services yet were unmet because the program lacked the resources to meet the need. According to The Difference Between Surviving and Not Surviving: Public Benefits Programs and Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims' Economic Security: • Nearly 80% of respondents report that most domestic violence victims rely on SNAP to help address their basic needs and to establish safety and stability. • 55% of respondents report that most sexual assault victims need SNAP to establish safety and stability. • Benefits programs such as TANF and SNAP constitute a vital safety net for victims who, trauma notwithstanding, already struggle to meet their basic needs and/or support their dependents and families. Although MCADSV staff are not there in-person, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>7200 MADISON AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64114</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH RITTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>OPERATION FOOD SEARCH</b>		TITLE: <b>MANAGER OF PUBLIC POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1644 LOTSIE BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL: <b>sarah.ritter@operationfoodsearch.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 10:12 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Chairman Evans and Members of the Committee, Operation Food Search is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring children and families in Missouri have the nutrition, food, and skills they need to live a healthy life. We respectfully ask you to oppose HB 451 because of the impact it will have on vulnerable children and their families in Missouri. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is essential to helping low-income families put food on the table. Research indicates links between SNAP participation and increased food security, improved academic performance, and better health outcomes for children. Good nutrition is fundamental to children's health and learning. However, HB 451 would take SNAP benefits away from parents and, in turn, their children. When parents lose food assistance, it reduces the family's overall food budget. This leaves parents struggling to ensure their children have enough to eat. Additionally, examples from other states show us proposals such as HB 451 are costly to implement. For example, in Tennessee, the state estimated that implementing a similar policy would cost \$6.3 million annually. Similarly, a study conducted in Utah estimated the proposal would cost between \$3.2 and \$3.6 million to implement, and likely wouldn't yield the desired results. Taking SNAP away from parents is not an effective way to increase child support cooperation. Instead, HB 451 would put the food security of vulnerable people at risk, including children. Operation Food Search is committed to ensuring all Missouri children and their families have access to the food resources they need to live a healthy life. To protect and nourish Missouri children, we respectfully request your "no" vote on HB 451. Sincerely, Sarah Ritter  
Manager of Public Policy



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VALERIE NICHOLSON-WATSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-220-4213</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>HARVESTERS--THE COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT &amp; CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3801 TOPPING AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64129</b>
EMAIL: <b>ksiebert@harvesters.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2021 12:33 PM</b>	
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This testimony opposing House Bill 451 is submitted on behalf of Harvesters—The Community Food Network, the regional food bank serving northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri. Our nonprofit network in Missouri includes more than 350 charitable organizations providing food assistance to hungry and food insecure children, seniors and adults in 10 counties. Our food bank is part Feeding Missouri, a coalition of the six Missouri food banks that together provide food assistance in every county (and St. Louis City) in the state. Collectively, we distribute more than 120 million pounds of food each year through a network of more than 1,500 charitable organizations throughout Missouri. While our networks of food pantries and kitchens are the backbone of the charitable response to hunger in Missouri, we are only part of the solution. The most far-reaching and stable source of food assistance for those facing food insecurity is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This federally funded and state-administered program provides approximately \$1 billion annually to low-income, elderly and disabled Missourians to help them purchase the food they need in local grocery stores. This bill requiring cooperation with the child support program in order to be eligible for SNAP will reduce SNAP participation, harming some of Missouri's most vulnerable families and children. It will mean less money available to spend in local grocery stores, and it will do little to increase child support collections. We know this because a child support requirement for SNAP is currently in effect in Kansas and it does not work as intended. Under current Kansas law, an applicant for SNAP nutrition assistance must check a box indicating that she/he will assist the Department for Children and Families with child support enforcement. According to Harvesters' SNAP outreach staff, nearly one-third of Kansans they assist with their SNAP applications stop when they get to the child support enforcement question and do not complete the application. This requirement does not help the state recover child support funds; this requirement creates a barrier to children getting the nutritious food that they need. We may never know how many Kansans have chosen not to apply for SNAP benefits out of fear. They may be fearful for their family's safety if they re-engage an abusive partner through the child support program. They may be fearful of losing the in-kind support the non-custodial parent provides in lieu of child support they can't afford to pay because they don't have reliable employment. They may be fearful of seeing the non-custodial parent go into debt and face legal consequences if they are unable to pay, which will impact the financial and non-financial support their child receives for years to come. The reality is that the overwhelming majority (82%) of children in poverty who are eligible for the child support program already participate; the small number of families who do not participate likely have well-founded reasons for not doing so. Threatening economically fragile families' access to food is simply not the right way to increase engagement with the child support system. We ask for your careful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will harm Missouri families and children.