



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2524	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION: MO GROCERS ASSN; MO TIRE INDUSTRY ASSN		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 618 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: dave@moretailers.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The minimum wage should be based on a national federal rate. Decades ago we were approached by Rep Pat Hickey to legislate the federal rate into our state statues. Unfortunately that statute was used by petitioners to create the current state rate. We strongly belief Missouri should not have a rate different from the federal rate.The current state rate has a negative impact on youth as well as unskilled job seekers.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW PANIK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 428 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mpanik@mochamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 9:26 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL GROTE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-5120	
REPRESENTING: COX HEALTH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 638			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RAY MCCARTY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT/CEO	
ADDRESS: 3234 W. TRUMAN BLVD.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: rmccarty@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 7:02 PM

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We support having the federal minimum wage in Missouri. The increasing state minimum wage is increasing wage rates and making it more difficult to employ people at all levels of employment.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY GARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: timothy.gartin@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 8:02 PM
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As a resident, small business owner and economics teacher, I absolutely support the changes proposed by Rep. Smith's measure. This change will allow job creation at a market rate for labor with no real downside effect.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLEN KLOTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: allen_klote@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/19/2021 7:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I Have Been a Laborer at MIZZOU for almost 24 Years. I Have Paid Local Union Dues for 23 of those Years. I Work Hsrd and Am Treated Well in my Unit.. I Unfortunately Feel like I've Been Under Attack by Jeff City The Whole Way Through. I Adore the Students and Professors there and Love My Work. In May of 2019 I won the Chancellors Leadership Award. I desperately needed the \$2k Cash Prize; and I got to Make a Pro-Labor Speech to a Couple Hundred folks in Jesse Hall. It just seems at every Turn of the Season We Have Anti-Worker Legislation coming down the Pike..We Petitioned Right To Work Down. It is Ignored and Reintroduced a Mere couple years later. This is ANTI-DEMOCRATIC. I get a Response from Vicky Hartzler telling me how Wonderful RTW is; Families in RTW states earn almost \$9000 Less Per Year..and I can't Hardly pay my Damn Bills Now... We Petirioned for a Higher Minimum Wage...Again it has been shoved back down our throats. This is a Disgrace. PERIOD. I had to take a 2nd Job- i dont even have Time to attend my Damn Union Meetings. Are we really not gonna care 4 the Working Poor?? Taxpayers will foot the Bill for Welfare programs and Bankruptcies when guys like me fold Up. I Love my Job at MU. I Unfortunately have not been able to make enough over the Years there to avoid Financial Hardship. It is Not MIZZOU's fault. It is All this Terrible Legislation coming up from 30 Miles South. Fortunately my 2nd job allows me some downtime to write stuff like this. If the PRO Act is not passed; I may be forced to take early retirement sacraficing part of my University Pension.. Why? Not enough Steaks in the Freezer. Gonna have to Move to a BLUE State in order to Make enough to Live. I can't make it in this Anti-Worker Area. SHOW ME some Respect. Get Your Act Together Jeff City?? Allen



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLEN KLOTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: allen_klote@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 6:44 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Right to Work is A Ripoff 4 Working folks. We opposed and Petitioned this Down Once. But u Shove it down our throats again- ANTI-DEMOCRATIC. You Fools Again oppose the Mlnimum Wage Hike- Idiots. By Not Supporting the Working Poor with Wage increases- u will support them with higher taxes. Pure Idiocy PERIOD



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:56 PM

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I am opposed to this Bill and its intent. It is taking away the will of the People in Our Constitutional Vote of us the Citizens of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Aydenmama2019@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 5:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Barbara J, I work at Jack n the Box It Would This really would affect me In The Worse Of The Worse Way ! Because I only already get paid twice every month !! So that's gone make me stretch my money more than I have to ! & That's Going To Make Me Late On My Bills & Also Make Me Put Some Things I Need Or Want To Do On Hold Until I Have Enough Money Saved Up !!



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH LOW-SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 816-585-4738	
REPRESENTING: GREATER KANSAS CITY FOOD POLICY COALITION		TITLE: VP POLICY, KC HEALTHY KIDS, AND DIRECTOR, GREATER	
ADDRESS: KC HEALTHY KIDS, 4600 MADISON SUITE 1100			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64112
EMAIL: blsmith@kchealthykids.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 12:40 PM
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Dear Chairperson Schroer and members of the committee, The Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition is an alliance of individuals, businesses and organizations cooperating to advocate for a strong regional food system in which all residents have access to healthy, affordable food. We oppose HB 726. We all rely on minimum wage workers for the food we eat. Farm and factory workers, grocery clerks and delivery workers have been deemed essential. So are their lives. Their work is often physically demanding. This year it has also been dangerous. We have all seen how quickly our food supply is disrupted when these workers are unavailable, unwilling or unable to work. Despite this, a large share of the people who grow, harvest, transport, sell, prepare and serve our food earn minimum wage. Though they work hard, many food chain workers can't cover basic expenses with their wages. This makes them vulnerable to hunger, health issues, homelessness, and more. As a result, our food system is less resilient during periods of stress or crisis. Missouri voters know there is dignity in earning a living with hard work, and they've approved wage increases which help more workers cover basic expenses. Too often, essential workers we all rely upon for our food must seek assistance to eat. Increasing the minimum wage will decrease reliance on government nutrition programs such as SNAP (food stamps). The impact of increasing the minimum wage on government nutrition program participation was noted by a Congressional Budget Office February 2021 report, The Budgetary Effects of the Raise the Wage Act of 2021; "Effects on Spending for Nutrition Programs Spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and child nutrition programs would decline, on net, because increases in income for low-income households would reduce both the number of beneficiaries and their average benefit amount. Those effects would be partially offset under the bill by increases in enrollment stemming from reductions in employment and by increases in price indexes used to calculate benefit amounts." We oppose HB 726, which will increase the number of people who experience food insecurity and will make our food system less resilient by harming food-chain workers. We urge the committee to respect the will of Missouri voters and allow minimum wage increases they approved to take effect. Sincerely, Leigh Wagner, PhD, Registered Dietitian 2021 chairperson Beth Low-Smith director



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN WARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bwardhome@rocketmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 1:37 PM
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Minimum wage law ensures the least trained of us are less likely to be taken advantage of. \$7.25/hour has been the federal mandate since 2009. Adjusting for inflation per HB 726, the 2007 minimum wage would be \$8.25/hour today. Proposition B was overwhelmingly approved by the voters of Missouri raising the minimum wage to \$12/hr by 2023. This bill is another attempt at overriding the will of the people.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE SHERWIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Csherwin3@my.stlcc.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 7:37 PM
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Thanks! This is long I know, sharing my testimony on HB726. #moleg Hello, my name is Catherine Sherwin. I live in Saint Louis County. I work two minimum wage jobs nearby, as a cashier at a Dollar Tree Store and cleaning and serving food at a McDonald's, where I've been unable to work for months, as the lobby has been shut down. Once upon a time I had a great job that I loved. A few years ago, Grade IV brain cancer took it away. Now I go to school and work part time. I suddenly got so sick last February with COVID-like symptoms that my customers called for the paramedics. We weren't wearing masks or distancing yet. While luckily, I recovered quickly from that, and I have been taking many precautions that are almost impossible to sustain in a busy retail store. They gave me a T-shirt that says I'm "essential," yet they pay me the legal minimum wage. The irony is absurd, of course. We got some extra pandemic pay at Dollar Tree for a while, but it ended long ago. I get paid more now at both places than I did when I was hired two and a half years ago. I knew to expect this increase, so I felt I had to point out the reason for the increase when a manager at one place sat me down for a performance review and announced the increase. Yes, we all were going to receive a raise, the one that Missourians overwhelmingly voted for. The floor wasn't quite as tough to live on as it was. Good news. I didn't just sign the minimum wage initiative petition, I'm one of so many union members who helped circulate it, to allow us voters to raise the wage. Surely each of you has seen the important roles that us low wage workers are filling every day, no matter the conditions. So many of my coworkers live in poverty. I'm able to afford to work for poverty wages, as a disabled union retiree. Gutting the minimum wage law now is not just heartless and cruel, but it will make it even more difficult for the people you-we-all count on to live and work and serve these essential functions of our society. I wish I could be there today to tell you how strongly I oppose HB 726, but I'm scheduled to be at a cash register working for minimum wage. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLOTTE BLACKELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Cinderrelic@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 10:24 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Two years ago nearly 1.5 million Missourians, more than 62% of Missouri voters, voted to increase the minimum wage to a meager \$11.15 per hour which is to go in effect Jan 1, 2022. Now Rep. Smith has introduced HB726 to cut Missouri's minimum wage by more than 30%. If HB 726 were to pass, the minimum wage would go back to \$7.85-an-hour , \$3.00 every hour out of low-wage workers' pockets. This would be a massive pay cut to nursing home workers, retail clerks, child care providers, and food service workers- the very workers we have deemed 'essential' during this pandemic. I can say as a former small business owner that Missouri small businesses don't need this reduction as they will be getting aid from the newly passed covid 19 economic relief bill. Shame on those who would even consider tampering with the livelihood of our lowest income citizens. Passing this bill would be is a moral travesty and would disenfranchise the votes of the 60 plus percent of Missouri voters who voted in this minimum wage increase.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARK BROWN		PHONE NUMBER: 417-894-9350	
REPRESENTING: SEIU MO STATE COUNCIL - SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTL UNION		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 9726			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65801
EMAIL: brownc@seiu1.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:02 PM	
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Legislation proposes to override the choice/will of Missouri voters.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFFORD WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hammerdul@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2021 11:33 AM
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The voters of Missouri spoke in 2018. They want a higher minimum wage. I oppose this bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COREY FORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cford9563@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 4:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Corey I am a former fast food worker, I work at Walmart now. I am furious that a bill is even talked about that could decrease minimum wage. When I worked at McDonald's back in 2011-2012 I was making that amount. To be honest 10.30 is not enough, I bounce jobs a lot because it's been a struggle trying to get a job with 20 or more hours. Since the pandemic has happened, everything has went up. I barely make ends meet with 7.25. Please do the right thing and let working families keep the 10.30. If we want to be honest that's not enough. I want you to try to live off 7.25 and tell me if you can pay your bills and support your family.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAMON MEHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Advantage020@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:28 PM
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The minimum wage law enacted In the state of Missouri passed by a vote of the people and by a pretty good majority. That means two things. One, that many people from all affiliations were in favor of this including many Republicans. Two, the fact that the people voted this in is the most sacred parts of our democratic republic and it is my belief that most Missourians feel that the repeal of any law that came to pass like this by anything other than another vote of the people is audacious and those who take it upon themselves to try to do this will pay for it at the ballot box because they think that the people of Missouri don't know what is best for themselves and must be told what to do.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANNY SALLIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dannysallis98@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 6:37 PM
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The minimum wage is not nearly enough to support a family right now. Rolling it back in future years as prices continue to rise is unthinkable. So many will slide deeper into poverty and not have enough money to survive. All for what? So that corporations can make a few extra dollars? Please don't put corporations do far about human lives.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID L FARQUHAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dfarquhar@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 9:42 PM
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While perhaps a minimum wage of \$7.25 is OK for Carthage, I neither know nor care because I don't live there. If the people of Carthage are fine with that, that's their decision. I do live in St. Louis County, where we raised our minimum wage because \$7.25 is inadequate here. Now a Representative from Carthage is attempting to overturn something St. Louis passed by a fair and free election. If Cody Smith were to come to St. Louis County and try to live on \$290 a week up here, he would quickly find it unlivable. If you make \$7.25 an hour, you can only afford \$290 a month for housing. The current minimum wage of \$10.30/hr in St. Louis provides an extra \$130 per week, which raises the amount for housing they can afford to \$420 a month. Housing is still difficult to find at that price, but more feasible. By the time you pay for utilities and transportation, someone making \$10.30 an hour still won't have much left to save at the end of the month.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID SINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: singerdw@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 7:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

All Missourians deserve a living wage. To set the standard as stipulated in the bill is to institutionalize poverty. Poverty fosters crime, rising health costs, racial and class disparity, and general social decline.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH HALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: peacemonger99@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 7:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is not possible to live with dignity on what is proposed much less what you are proposing. I implore you to do an experiment: try it for yourself to budget your life around that amount of money. I KNOW that you cannot do it and hope just the thought of it gives you humility and empathy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2021 9:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 726 would lower the minimum wage which would reduce Missouri's competitiveness in the nation. Businesses simply do not want to locate in a state that is not progressing. The Economic Policy Institute—an independent, nonprofit think tank—found that increasing the minimum wage would stimulate the economy. Missouri needs to keep moving forward, I urge a NO vote on HB 726



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ewardhome@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 10:17 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In the midst of a global pandemic, where so many Missourians are already struggling to make ends meet, decreasing our minimum wage will only hurt our state's families and children. Increasing the minimum wage has been shown to help move families out of poverty, reduce the number of families receiving public assistance, and stimulate local spending. As public servants, your job is to represent the people of Missouri. In 2018, Proposition B, which increased our minimum wage, was passed by overwhelming majority of voters across the state and received bipartisan support. Seventy-two percent of Missouri's counties voted in support of the bill. I urge you to respect the will of Missouri's voters -- your constituents -- and vote no on HB 726.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ellenwentz@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/19/2021 7:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The people have spoken, leave the minimum wage alone. As it is, it's already so low that we, the taxpayers, are already helping to support these workers through government assistance. I urge you to vote no.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERICA GARCIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ericagarcia6742@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 3:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Lowering the minimum wage in Missouri would have disastrous affects on the working class. Here are a few examples of people that would be effected by this bill. - college students - children of lower income households- single mothers- high school students/graduates- those working more than 1 job to pay the billsHere's how the people may be impacted:- increased stress- exodus of post secondary students- lower quality of life- increased health risks- unstable housing- higher unpaid debt- lack of security of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.)- increased number of people unable to access medical care (costs too much, can't afford to lose job due to medical issues etc.)We do not need to lower the minimum wage as it is already too low for someone to live off of. Working class people of Missouri need a higher minimum wage to live.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANCES ELIZABETH FARAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: franjac100@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/17/2021 6:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The people of MO have already decided to raise the minimum wage. This bill is a deceptive betrayal of the will of the people. This bill is a waste of taxpayer money. It is just duplicitous and an effort to hurt the people who work.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANCES HOLMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Francesholmes210@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 4:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is truly unfair to the people of Missouri. I want to know what am I too do to provide for my family how am I suppose to stretch 7 dollars and some change when I'm barely getting by off \$11. I would like you to go and live off 7 and hour for a month if you can do it then.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY NEWCOMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: garybnewcomer@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/18/2021 6:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

When voters went to the polls in 2018, they told our leaders that we need a graduated minimum wage increase to \$12/hour. Not only is this the will of the voters, it also aligns with our neighboring states and those around the country. Illinois is increasing its minimum wage gradually to \$15/hour and Arkansas is increasing theirs to \$11/hour. Nationwide, more than half of all states are increasing their minimum wage this year. Working families have fought for and planned their lives around these wages. To undercut the current minimum wage would pull the carpet out from hundreds of thousands of working families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACOB HUMMEL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2115	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI AFL-CIO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 131 E. HIGH STREET STE. 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jakehummel@moaflcio.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 1:00 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Missouri HouseSpecial Committee on Small BusinessChair Representative SchroerHonorable Representatives of the Committee,The Missouri AFL-CIO, the voice for working Missourians, respectfully opposes House Bill 726. In November 2018, Missouri voters went to the polls; they overwhelmingly supported Proposition B, which increased the state minimum wage to \$8.60 per hour with 85 cents per hour increase each year until 2023, when the state minimum wage would be \$12.00 per hour. Missouri voters said yes; 62% of them to 37% opposed. Yet, HB 726 would repeal what Missourians decided. The Missouri AFL-CIO believes that every Missouri worker is entitled to not just a minimum wage but also a living wage. We must remember that the minimum wage worker in Missouri is not just your high schooler in an after school or summer job, but that worker is a real person with a real family trying to make ends meet. Financial security is the first element necessary for a solid family foundation. Many of these minimum wage workers are single-family parents. Could you support your family on \$21,000 a year and have a solid family foundation? Minimum wage is not a living wage but the current minimum wage and the future increases are a step in the right direction. Workers deserve a just wage that allows them to live in dignity, support their families, and contribute to the common good. The Missouri AFL-CIO cannot support any change to the minimum wage except to raise it for the good of Missouri workers. The Missouri AFL-CIO respectfully urges a "No" vote on House Bill 726 because Missourians have already decided. Jacob HummelPresident Missouri AFL-CIO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jdesh@loyno.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2021 5:30 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This bill is wrong. Not the will of the people. Not the American way — unless the meanest among us



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES COOPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jcooperstl@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2021 6:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I oppose this bill because it's another Republican attack on Missouri workers. Raise the wage.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAN LANCASTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: perdittle@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 11:45 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Time and again we are seeing issues that have been passed by voters trampled on by this Republican legislature. This bill is just the latest attack on the petition process--our freedom of speech--but it is perhaps the most hurtful to Missouri's essential workers. This will cut wages by a third if passed. This means that in this time of pandemic, the legislature is not only unappreciative of the heroic job these workers have done for all of us, but have a cruel disdain for these workers and the sacrifice their families have made. Those affected are nursing aides, grocery and food service workers, nursing home workers, bus drivers, teacher aides, retail workers, mechanics, school bus drivers, delivery drivers, tow truck drivers, and too many others to list. This legislature has systematically attacked every issue passed by voters' petition in recent years. Last session a Missouri senator announced in committee that, "Voters need to learn that Missouri is not a democracy." Passage of this bill will prove he was right. I believe you will fully appreciate voter reaction to these attacks on democracy when you next run for re-election.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF HOLZEM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jeff2002h@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 11:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

With salary and per diem you make over \$45,000 for a five month session and will get another 5% increase. You have the potential to earn a good deal more during months you are not in session. Please let me know if you support HB 726. It would overturn a measure passed by 62% of voters and your constituents would lose 20% of the meager \$21,000 they earn working an entire year at minimum wage. At the current rate a single parent with two children is below the poverty level now. If you support the bill, please help me understand how you can justify a 20% pay cut for minimum wage workers. Would you be willing to take a 20% pay cut?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFERSON W. SUCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jsuchman1748@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 7:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 726 is a ridiculous attempt to subvert the will of thousands of Missourians who participated in the petition process and the hundreds of thousands of Missourians who voted to increase the state minimum wage. Rep. Smith and any other representatives who support this bill should be ashamed of themselves. I'd like to see them live on \$10.30 an hour.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER AKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jrjakins@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 8:57 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Our community voted to raise the minimum wage. It is cruel to try to overturn the will of the people and force people to work multiple jobs. The toll on the families is great.m. Why don't you try to live on \$7.25 an hour?We voted on this as a ballot initiative. Stop being Anti-Democracy and overturning our voice. If you don't want to represent the voters of Missouri, resign.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSE CHAPMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jesse.k.chapman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 8:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: julieallenfort@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 5:35 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The citizens of Missouri voted for current Missouri law and I do not recommend changing it. Please do not support or vote for this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE LEE HILDEBRAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: katieleehildebrand@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/19/2021 7:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It's incredibly infuriating to see that the legislature is going against the will of the people, who voted in support of Prop B to increase the minimum wage to \$12/h by 2023. Even the current minimum wage is too low at \$10.30/h -- you can't work 40 hours a week at that wage and afford fair market rent for a 1 bedroom apartment in KC, so you certainly can't afford it if we drop the wage by nearly 20%! The cruelty of this is just senseless. If you can't find it in yourself to empathize with the adults trying to make ends meet on minimum wage, at least think of their children -- if this passes, you will be directly responsible for increasing the number of children growing up in poverty through no fault of their own. If you care more about the business owners who are essentially running unviable business by not compensating their employees decently than you do about children, maybe you should think about how this will look across the country and across the world. When all around the country, conversations are being had about raising the minimum wage to \$15/hr, Missouri is actually going to LOWER the minimum wage? What backwards nonsense! Please do the right thing and vote against this asinine bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KERI KOEHLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF GREATER ST. LOUIS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: keri.koehler@wfstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 3:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Raising Missouri's Minimum Wage to \$12.00 supports women and their families. Today, someone working full-time at minimum wage earns \$378 a week (about \$19, 650 per year before tax). 6-7 of every 10 minimum wage workers are women, many of whom are raising families. With the average annual cost of childcare a \$5,000-\$8000/child, it is difficult for many working families to make ends meet. The minimum wage is a labor standard that was originally established to keep employees and their families out of poverty, but the current federal wage floor falls far short of that promise. In fact, a woman working full time at Missouri's current minimum wage of \$9.45 makes \$19,650 per year before taxes which falls almost \$46,000 short of what it takes to raise 2 kids in St. Louis County. Raising the minimum wage as planned will benefit hundreds of thousands of women across the state who comprise 6-7 of every 10 minimum wage workers. Over 260,000 children have a parent who will benefit from the minimum wage increase, as well as over 100,000 minimum wage-earning seniors.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KERI MCCROREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kermccrorey@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/19/2021 9:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members, Missouri Voters overwhelming passed the minimum wage increase. As elected representatives it is your duty to uphold the will of the people. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to respect the voters decision to raise Missouri's minimum wage. I respectfully ask that you oppose HB726



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN PRANGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kevprange@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 7:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

House Bill 726 is a cruel and cynical attempt to nullify the will of the citizens of Missouri. In 2018, over 60% of voters from all corners of the state voted to modestly and gradually raise the minimum wage in the state to \$12 per hour. Now our legislators want to punish Missouri voters for standing up for themselves. This bill will pull the economic rug out from under the most vulnerable in our communities. I know of parents who must work minimum wage jobs in order to put food on their tables for their children. To take away these modest gains is anti-family and anti-children. You are pushing Missouri workers backward. I demand that this committee vote "no" on this bill and that Rep. Smith issue a public appoloigy to the workers and families of Missouri for his disrespect for their needs and their voices.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN PRANGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kevprange@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 3:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I cannot tell you how much my heart ached when I learned about HB 726, a bill to tie the Missouri minimum wage to the federal minimum wage. This bill will effectively undo, yet again, the will of the people of Missouri, yanking the sliver of hope for minimum wage workers to begin to move out of poverty. In 2018 the Missouri voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition B, setting Missouri on the path to raising the minimum wage from \$7.85/hr to \$12/hr - a modest boost that was well overdue. Sixty-two percent of voters, Republican, Democratic, and independent, approved Proposition B, passing in every single county in the state. This effort to undo that vote is cynical and cruel. I am not currently a minimum wage worker, but in 2019 I lost the job I had held for nine years. I know how precarious employment can be. Having a well-paying base salary in the economy protects all workers, ensuring viable options, even temporarily, when one's career hits a bump in the road. But let me tell you one more story. During the Christmas season of 2019, I stopped into a fast food restaurant for lunch, where a friendly young woman took my order. After sitting down, I noticed two young kids patiently entertaining themselves at a nearby booth. They were the son and daughter of the young woman behind the counter. Because schools were on winter break and she worked a minimum wage job, she could not afford to pay for daycare or take time off. It was a living example that raising the minimum wage means the world to real families that struggle and do the best they can to make do in the world. To pass this bill and reduce the minimum wage from its current level of \$10.30/hr to \$7.25/hr is downright evil. It will subject struggling Missouri families to unnecessary hardships. It will force them to turn to the state and federal governments for assistance. Stop overturning the will of Missouri voters! And stop intentionally hurting Missouri workers, families, and children at the bottom of the economic scale! Do not pass HB 726!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KITRINA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kitrina.miller@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

A living wage for 1 adult in Missouri with no kids is estimated to be \$13.72. This Bill will deny the people of Missouri a fair, sustainable, and equitable wage which will place more people in poverty and continue to perpetrate the systemic racism with our country. Not only this, but Missouri voters passed Prop B in 2018. This Bill actively goes against the people of Missouri who cast their ballot in support of raising the minimum wage. Our Representatives should never go against the voices of their constituents as they are then no longer truly a representative of the people. I urge you to oppose and vote against this Bill as the people of Missouri have the right to a living wage and deserve to have their votes respected.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTEN LYLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kristen.e.lyle@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 11:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As we continue to fight a global pandemic, I am shocked to learn that anyone would attempt to undermine the vital work that people do at minimum wage in our state. So many of those that we applauded as essential workers a year ago are doing the essential work of keeping Missouri going on a minimum wage that is already too low. To think that any Missouri representative would consider forcing a pay cut on these essential workers is beyond heartless. HB 726 is a slap in the face to Missouri's essential workers. Missourians need help to get back on their feet. We need livable wages as inflation and cost of housing continues to skyrocket. We need a state government that supports us rather than undermining us. Please vote to end this absurdity and uphold the will of a majority of Missourians, which they made clear in 2018. Do not cut the minimum wage.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI BRANSTETTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: klbranstetter@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 8:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am Kristi Branstetter, a lifelong Missouri resident. We do not need to rollback on the minimum wage! I have had to live on \$8, \$9, and \$10 an hour as recently as 2017. It is an absolute struggle. Rent is constantly going up in the state. Utility costs are high. Many low wage jobs are part time. People are often underemployed. The Missouri legislature needs to stop attacking low wage workers, many of them who are people of color. They are the heart and soul of our work force and deserve a living wage. Don't repeal the minimum wage that the people in Missouri voted for in 2018!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA ROBERTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lroberts@cwa-mswu.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 8:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please vote no on this bill! Our working-class families in MO are struggling so hard right now. Every family deserves a living wage. I have many family members who work min wage jobs and are barley getting by now, I was a former FSD worker and I spoke with many clients who made min wage and still required public assistance. If we continue to decrease wages we will have more families in need of our public services. How is that helping our economic development as a state? It's time this legislature listens to the citizens of MO!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA WARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lisaward1962@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 8:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please understand how harmful this is to so many Missourians. Reducing the already sub-poverty-level minimum wage rate will drive more residents further into poverty at the same time putting less money into the economy from spending dollars. Do what is right for the people of Missouri and kill this bill!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: JonesL5@netscape.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2021 5:24 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The current minimum wage IS NOT a living wage and it IS NOT a housing wage. Many adults are earning this wage and it is insufficient for sustaining a household. It is incomprehensible that after a year-long pandemic where many people lost income and realized financial threats that they have never experienced before that you would think this is the ideal time to cut the minimum wage. It is obvious that you have no thought or care for what your constituents and many of the MO residents are experiencing. Additionally, not caring for people is the exact opposite of what Jesus would do. Let's put an end to GOP policies that do nothing but ingratiate the politician with his/her small donor base and get back to doing the things that benefit the majority or the common good!



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 308 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mallory@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our work, we organize a statewide Food Security Coalition. This coalition is made up of individuals and organizations who are working to ensure every Missourian has access to healthy and nutritious food and that Missouri has a strong safety net for those who need it. We also convene a statewide Affordable Housing Commission that represents hundreds of individuals and organizations working to ensure all Missourians can access safe, secure, stable housing. Reducing the minimum wage will cause immediate negative effects for workers across Missouri. Our citizens have resoundingly called for a phased increase to the minimum wage to \$12/hour over five years, which was passed by 62% of Missourians in 2018. When the bill passed, it was estimated that 600,000 Missourians would benefit from an increase in their wages. This legislation seeks to overturn the will of the voters, the people that elected you to office to protect their best interest, and lower the wages of over half a million workers in this state. As an organization whose mission is to lift up the voices who are struggling to have their basic needs met, we emphatically oppose this legislation. As you may know, 12% of Missourians struggle with food insecurity. A 2016 study by The Century Foundation found that increasing the minimum wage significantly improves food security. It also found that an increase in the minimum wage enables households to worry less about meeting their food needs, to maintain a supply of food, to reduce their reliance on low-cost food, and to afford more balanced meals. Families struggling with food insecurity often end up eating cheaper, lower quality, more processed foods. This type of diet can lead to serious medical conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Therefore, increasing the minimum wage not only reduces hunger across the state, but will reduce state-funded medical costs as well. One final note—we assume that this bill is being heard in the Special Committee on Small Business because of a fear of the impact of minimum wage increases on small businesses. I wanted to note that under federal law, employers engaged in retail or service businesses whose annual gross income is less than \$500,000 are not even required to pay the state or federal minimum wage rate, so those businesses are already protected from the scheduled increases. And for small businesses that are being affected, economic literature has found that increases in worker productivity, reductions in turnover, and aggregate increases in consumer spending offset a large portion of the increased payroll costs. We respectfully ask this committee vote against passing HB 726.



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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW STEPHEN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: thehipi@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 8:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I wish to voice my strong opposition to this undemocratic attempt to thwart the clear will of Missourians. It's disappointing to see the legislature seek to contradict the clear and unambiguous will of the people to raise the minimum wage paid to the most impoverished workers in this state. It seems Mr. Smith believes he knows better than 70+ percent of Missourians who voted for the raise he seeks to remove. Is this what democracy looks like? The clear will of the Missouri people that workers are paid a living wage is not just an economic issue. It is also a govt budget issue. Companies that pay minimum wage - what Rev. Martin Luther King Jr called 'starvation wages' - force their workers to depend on government aid to survive. This bill would ensure that the state of Missouri and the US govt continue to subsidize these immoral companies, forcing taxpayers to foot the bill so companies can continue to pay starvation wages. Most importantly to me and many Christians in Missouri - this is a moral issue. All work has dignity and to allow starvation wages to exist is to deny the dignity that all God's children deserve. In the words of former US President Benjamin Harrison, "I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap that the man or woman producing the cloth will starve in the process." The minimum wage is lower today, adjusted for inflation, than it was in 1968. Truth be told, the fair wages this bill seeks to deny Missouri workers does not constitute a 'raise.' We are simply undoing wage cuts over the last 50 years. Missouri legislators should not stand in the way of the people's will - the 'Supreme law' of our great state according to the state motto. I urge all Missouri legislators to vote No to HB 726.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA FOERSCHLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mfoerschler@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 2:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The people of Missouri have spoken and they voted to raise the minimum wage. I'm really disgusted by the Missouri legislators ignoring our voices. Once again they're treating our democratic process as something to destroy for a buck. Enough.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELVIN H. WALDRON III		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ballmark8989@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 1:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Politicians need to represent their constituents wishes. The voters have twice now voted on raising the minimum wage. The first instance I felt was good in that as long as the economy kept growing, it would trigger the minimum wage to increase. I do have a little more of a mixed feeling on the most recent wage increase that was passed, I'm slightly concerned that the jumps in increase was a little high, and couldn't find any information on it continuing to increase once it hit \$12.00 and I am concerned it might stagnate there. I haven't seen an issue currently with many businesses regularly starting positions above the current minimum wage, because of the current job market dictates that need to find employees to hire.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL MUSHKIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mushkinmb@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 4:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Lowering the minimum wage serves exactly one purpose: to enrich companies at the expense of their employees, who have little to no bargaining power to begin with. Despite their constant claims to the contrary, no business hinges on being able to afford labor that costs less than it takes to live comfortably. That we allow multi-billion dollar enterprises to extort labor at Missouri's already low minimum wage is unconscionable, but this bill proposes to lower it even further. It's a testament to the absolute depravity of the legislators involved that this is even being considered. The minimum wage is the floor for what we promise people seeking the American Dream of a good life in exchange for their hard work, and that floor needs to be enough to live and sustain a family on. Shame on anyone trying to devalue the work of people simply because they can't out-negotiate their employers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL ROLLEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-204-7798	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OPHELIA's BLUE VINE FARM		TITLE: HTTPS://OPHELIASBLUEVINE.COM/	
ADDRESS: 1311 MAGNOLIA DRIVE			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL: mikebrollen@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 10:07 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Ophelia's Blue Vine Farm brings locally grown organic produce directly to the community to help improve the overall health of our society. In memory of my grandmother Ophelia Woodard Richardson, I started Ophelia's Blue Vine Farm to inspire more people to embrace urban agriculture within the city and to provide neighborhood fresh seasonal local organic fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Our location at 2416 Vine Street Kansas City, MO 64108 (Tract 29095016200) in Jackson County, Missouri, has a relatively high number of households without vehicles. According to USDA, 264 of 529 total households (49.8%) are more than 1/2 mile from a supermarket. Easy access to fresh fruits is something many of us take for granted. Low-income residents have limited availability and access to fresh produce. We believe that HB 726 Will negatively impact income and would therefore increase food insecurity. HB 726 will hurt struggling families trying to survive this pandemic. Ophelia's Blue Vine brings locally grown organic produce directly to the community through a CSA as well as an on-site weekly farm stand. As a 2019-2021 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program authorized Farmer I have seen firsthand how hard people are struggling to feed their families. Ophelia's Blue Vine Farm would like the committee to vote against the passing of HB 726. Sincerely, Mike Rollen OWNER OF OPHELIA'S BLUE VINE FARM



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE WITTHAUS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-537-0277	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GENERATE HEALTH		TITLE: POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3407 S. JEFFERSON AVE. #135			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: mwitthaus@generatehealthstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/17/2021 12:37 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To: Rep. Nick Schroer, and Members of the Subcommittee on Small Business
From: Kendra Copanas, Executive Director, Generate Health
Re: Opposition to HB 726
Generate Health, an organization that mobilizes and inspires the St. Louis region to improve pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health, opposes House Bill 726 which is a despicable attempt to overturn the will of Missouri voters who voted to raise the state's minimum wage. In 2018, Proposition B, an effort to raise Missouri's minimum wage to \$12/hr by 2023, passed by overwhelming majority across the state. Prop B received bipartisan support and 82 of Missouri's 114 counties voted in support. As elected officials in a representative democracy it is your job to represent the will of the people. In the instance of minimum wage, Missourians have boldly shown their support for increasing the minimum wage. House Bill 726 does not seek to uphold the will of Missourians and overturning Proposition B is a direct attack on our democracy. Keeping the minimum wage stagnant, at the \$7.25/hour Federal rate, is detrimental to the health and well-being of families and children. The annual minimum wage increases outlined in Prop B affect 282,000 Missouri workers, 63,000 of which are frontline workers in the healthcare field. Increasing the minimum wage has been shown to: • Help move families out of poverty • Reduce the number of families receiving public assistance • Stimulate local spending
We all thrive when the health and well-being of our most impacted communities come first. It is our responsibility to ensure that Missourians can access jobs that provide a living wage. We are asking you to please vote NO on HB 726. Sincerely, Kendra Copanas Executive Director



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKAYLA FRYE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mifrye@umich.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 9:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In 2018, Proposition B, an effort to raise Missouri's minimum wage to \$12/hr by 2023, was passed by overwhelming majority of voters across the state. Prop B received bipartisan support and 82 of Missouri's 114 counties voted in support. Reducing the minimum wage to the \$7.25/hour Federal rate would be detrimental to the health and well-being of families and children. This bill would reduce wages for 282,000 Missouri workers, 63,000 of which are frontline workers in the healthcare field. Increasing the minimum wage has been shown to help move families out of poverty, reduce the number of families receiving public assistance, and stimulate local spending.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NAVA KANTOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nava.kantor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/18/2021 12:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Aligning our state's minimum wage with the Federal government's LOWER minimum wage would take hard earned dollars out of the pockets of 282,000 the lowest paid workers in our state -- 63,000 of which are front-line health care workers. In 2018, Proposition B, an effort to raise Missouri's minimum wage to \$12/hr by 2023, was passed by overwhelming majority of voters across the state. Prop B received bipartisan support and 82 of Missouri's 114 counties voted in support. Lowering the minimum wage is moving in the wrong direction and is not supported by voters. Increasing the minimum wage has been shown to help move families out of poverty, reduce the number of families receiving public assistance, and stimulate local spending. Reducing it would have the exact opposite effect, to our state's detriment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 4:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missouri NEA Testimony on HB 726 to the House Special Committee on Small Business March 23, 2021 Otto Fajen, MNEA Legislative Director The Association appreciates the opportunity to present written testimony regarding HB 726. The Association opposes the bill. The Association supported Proposition B in 2018 to eventually raise the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour for most workers. The state's minimum wage is currently \$10.30 per hour, and the bill would reduce the Missouri minimum wage down to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. This would be significant loss of income for many Missourians during a time of difficult economic challenges. Many of the affected workers are the essential workers we rely on every day. The Association urges the legislature to support working Missourians and maintain the current minimum wage law. On behalf of the Association, I thank you for the opportunity to offer our testimony on this bill. Otto Fajen MNEA Legislative Director



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA A WOODWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: awoodwd@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 1:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is my understanding that this bill would return the minimum wag to what it was prior to current legislation. I was also under the impression that the vote was in favor of the increase. I am a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer at my local parish and I see folks who depend upon minimum wage "jobs" to support themselves. I am unable to see the vision of what this legislation is trying to accomplish.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK MELONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melonepatrick@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2021 1:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am one of the majority of voters in 2018 who voted YES on Prop B in favor of increasing the minimum wage by \$0.85/hr each year until reaching \$12/hr in 2023. It seems modest in comparison to the \$15/hr effective immediately that's being made by minimum wage workers across the nation. Over the last year, minimum wage workers have been the first ones to be thrust out into "the economy", facing an increased exposure to coronavirus (which is real, though I'm sure some of you might still dispute that, considering the absurdity of your actions so far this year), working service jobs where their health was put at much higher risk than their bosses, without any kind of safety net in place if they were to get sick at work and be required to miss shifts. Studies have shown that \$15/hr is still too low to afford to live in a lot of places, so maybe you need to tell whatever lobby group wrote this bill that they should be happy we only want their mega-corporate clients paying \$12/hr and that they still have TWO YEARS before it gets there. A lot of you would have been on the same ballot, which means that the same people that voted for you to have this job already told you how they want this to be handled. This bill is a direct contradiction to the mandate set by the voters of Missouri in 2018.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL A LEYKAMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: leykamp.paul@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/15/2021 12:37 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

By 2023 the minimum wage should be at least \$12.00/hour. This bill would stop that for no particular reason



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-0466	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2725 CLIFTON			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL: richard@mojwj.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 8:30 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

In November of 2018, one million four hundred ninety nine thousand two Missouri voted to raise the minimum wage in our state gradually by eight five cents a year until it reaches \$12 by 2023. Missouri voters knew then, and know now, that no Missourians that works hard should live in poverty. Estimates are that 282,000 Missourians have seen a direct pay increase because of these increases and an additional 250,000 have seen increases indirectly. To pass this bill would be to silence the voice of 1.5 million Missourians and to cut the pay, potentially by over 20% of half a million workers. Doing so would rob Missouri businesses of a customer base with income to spend and plunge families currently struggling into poverty. Missouri voters in 145 of 163 House Districts voted to increase the minimum wage. This is not a partisan issue to voters, it is an issue of justice. We hope that our elected officials will respect our vote and will just as overwhelmingly reject this bill as we did in passing Proposition B in the first place.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RUBY PIPPENGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rube2sda53@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 10:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Do not support this bill. We the people have spoken. You still do not listen nor respect our voices or our vote. This bill is a direct betrayal of the people of Missouri. This wage is the base for all wages and establishes the basis for poverty and health care. Enforced poverty is inhumane and cruel. We deserve a living wage and the ability to rise out of poverty and economic slavery. We the people will be voting soon. Your future is not written in stone. You all are temporary employees. We hired you and we can an will fire you. You are there to work for us not against us. Do not support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA A SARRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sansarry@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2021 5:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Minimum Wage of \$11.-- was voted in by 62% of the voters in 2018. Now if HB 726 is voted in minimum was will loose \$3.00 a hour on January 2022. \$7.-- an hour is not enough to survive on let alone the \$11.-- an hour minimum wage. It keeps people way below poverty.Please Do Not Let HB 726 be Voted IN.Sincerely,Sandra Sarry03-20-21



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCKELLAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mck9@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/20/2021 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Why is this bill even being considered? Have not We the People already spoken on this issue, loudly and unmistakably? Missouri does not want a return to modern day peonage. No decent person wants that. Anyone favoring this bill is either a would-be feudal lord or a toady to would-be feudal lords. We the Peons reply: no, they won't-be, and our pitchforks are in hand.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 726		DATE: 3/23/2021	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY SWOYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: swoyer2002@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 4:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in opposition to HB726, the proposal to cut the minimum wage. In 2018, the citizens of Missouri initiated a petition to raise the minimum wage incrementally over a five year period. The proposal passed overwhelmingly, by a margin of 62-37%. Now, legislators are considering undermining the will of the people and passing legislation that would overturn the new minimum wage law. This is not what democracy should look like. The minimum wage is currently \$10.20 an hour, a sum that is not making anyone wealthy. Consider a single mother with two children working at minimum wage. If she works 40 hours a week 50 weeks a year, her income is \$20,400, a figure still below the federal poverty level of \$21,720 for a family of three. At \$8.00 an hour, that family would be living on \$16,000 a year. Just how is a working family supposed to survive on that amount? Yet, sadly, many workers in day care and nursing homes, restaurants, and other service fields are living on minimum wage. Even when our minimum wage reaches \$12.00 an hour, it will not be sustainable for a working family. Missouri Legislators earn a salary of \$35,915 for a job lasting approximately five months, plus a per diem of \$121. If you work 17 weeks a year, five days a week, that per diem amounts to \$10,285 for a total of ~\$46,200. Just for a minute, try to imagine what it would be like to live on \$20,400 per year. Do you personally know someone living in these circumstances? We are coming out of a long pandemic. Families are struggling to pay rent and utilities and to put food on the table. This is not the time to cut wages when people are dealing with so many other problems. Please stand up for working families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN W. SKRAINKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: steve.skrainka@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2021 6:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I worked hard to pass Missouri's minimum wage increases. I collected signatures on the petitions. Almost no one opposed it. 68% of Missourians voted for it. HB 726 is an outrageous attack on the workers of this state. It devalues the vote of nearly 1.5 million Missourians and threatens the financial stability of tens of thousands of Missourians. I am sick and tired of Missouri legislators deciding they know better than the voters who they are supposed to represent. Many states have higher minimums than this. This increase helps those who need it; helps our economy by helping desperate consumers have money to spend, and it does not hurt small employers. There is virtually no objective study or honest data showing any small (or large) businesses will be hurt or that there will be any significant job loss from this increase. As an attorney representing management for over 50 years, I have carefully studied the minimum wage economic data and studies for many years, and I was a co-author of a treatise on the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. We cannot move forward as a state with legislation that constantly seeks to move us backward. This would be a massive pay cut to nursing home workers, retail clerks, child care providers, and food service workers - the very workers we have deemed 'essential' during this pandemic. Please, stand with the voters and the workers of the state and reject this attack on our livelihoods. Please stop jeopardizing Missourians' health, safety, and ability to make ends meet by stopping HB 726 right now. Thank you for listening and voting NO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN P PISONI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sppisoni@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 8:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I voted for the minimum wage increase with the majority of other Missourians. I am in favor of a \$15 minimum wage.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN CANNON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: denimlacebandsinger@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2021 9:23 PM

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I do not support the legislators changing a law that was passed directly by Missouri voters.
Additionally, I do not favor lowering minimum wage.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/19/2021 1:35 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose this bill. An overwhelming majority of Missourians affirmed that we want the minimum wage to increase substantially in the election of 2018.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2021 5:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Prop B passed in 2018 with 62.3% of the vote, raising the minimum wage in Missouri. This bill seeks to cut the minimum wage back to the 2006 standard that Missourians have already said wasn't enough. Stand with MO workers and vote NO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2021 1:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We had an initiative petition about this. The legislature must stop trying to undermine the people of Missouri! All workers deserve a living wage.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY LUPARDUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tlupardus@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 9:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My Mother has to work two jobs to make her mortgage. One of the jobs is at Hy-vee grocery stores in Blue Springs Mo. Lowering the minimum wage would significantly hurt her chance of getting a raise and quitting one of the jobs to spend time with her grandchildren.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Small Business			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER MCCLAY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1022, 600 CLARK AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: mcclayt@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2021 10:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To: House Special Committee on Small Business From: Missouri Catholic Conference Re: Opposition to HB 726 Minimum Wage Repeal Date: March 23, 2021

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) respectfully offers this testimony in opposition to repealing the minimum wage increase approved by voters in 2018. At the time of the ballot initiative, the Missouri Catholic bishops issued the following statement in support of the effort: We have seen within our own parish communities the effect that unemployment, underemployment, and low wages have on our own parishioners and on society at large. Too many Missouri citizens live at or below the federal poverty level, including some who work more than one job to support themselves, and a significant percentage of children, who are often supported by the wages of just one parent or caregiver. Many others suffer from despair and hopelessness due to lack of opportunity for meaningful work. We affirm the basic principle of Catholic social teaching that states "a just wage is the legitimate fruit of work." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2434) Remuneration for work should guarantee workers "the opportunity to provide a dignified livelihood" for themselves and their families, "taking into account the role and productivity of each, the state of the business, and the common good." (CCC, No. 2434) We are not economists and therefore do not opine on what the minimum wage ought to be. We recognize that too high a minimum wage can have a chilling effect on hiring, especially in those industries where profit margins are slim, and/or when teenaged or entry level workers are sought. We support, however, the intent of this proposal which seeks to raise the living standard of the working poor, for whom minimum wage jobs can be all that are available. We recognize that people of good will may disagree on whether this proposal is appropriate for all sectors of Missouri's economy, or as it would be applied to urban versus rural communities. This proposal, however, seems reasonable to us as one means of ensuring that those working for minimum wage can make ends meet and provide for the needs of their families. The Missouri Catholic Conference respectfully urges you not to repeal the minimum wage increase approved by 62% of Missourians just three years ago.