



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 3		DATE: 9/28/2022	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 11:59 PM

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I am in Favor of this Bill over the House Bills with the \$150-Million & \$200-Million Threshold over three (3) Fiscal Years. Why were these Bills secret and the discussions kept away from the Missouri Public?



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRAD JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-3077	
REPRESENTING: NFIB		TITLE:	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: Brad.Jones@nfib.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 11:17 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY CADY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY - MISSOURI		TITLE: STATE DIRECTOR	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK ISHMAEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-454-0647	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SHOW ME INSTITUTE		TITLE:	
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CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 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 AND CEO	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
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Associated Industries of Missouri supports cutting taxes in a responsible manner.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY HARDENBROOK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-810-2066	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AARP MISSOURI		TITLE: ADVOCACY DIRECTOR	
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EMAIL: jhardenbrook@aarp.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 8:30 AM	

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None of the bills under consideration will provide significant tax relief to older Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY LAFAVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 612 WEST 69TH STREET			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
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MNEA's vision is a great public school for every student. The Legislature has an aligned duty to establish and maintain our public schools. The Association believes that SS/SCS/SBs 3 & 5 will adversely affect the state's ability to meet that duty and opposes the bill. There are currently challenges in how the state is able to meet that duty. The state of Missouri is only funding about 30% of our public school expenses, which are average overall, while states typically are funding about 47%. This matters. The consequence is that the state can't ensure equitable funding for all students – school funding varies widely by locale. Also, Missouri has low starting teacher salary and low average teacher pay, particularly in rural areas. This makes it harder to recruit and retain teachers. There are currently some encouraging efforts: The state's Blue Ribbon Commission will make recommendations to help teacher pay and other factors. The current budget includes a one-year boost for salaries and revises and funds Career Ladder. The current budget also fully funds pupil transportation, but only for one year. Why should full funding of a core program be a one-time event? With these continuing challenges and the promising efforts to address them, there should be concerns about enacting more permanent tax cuts. Missouri is in the midst of an unusual financial situation. State revenues are bumped up by direct federal funds and the effects of other federal funds received by Missourians. Missouri will likely return in a few years to something like the \$300 billion economy it had before the pandemic. MNEA encourages the legislature to avoid both of the big budgetary mistakes that are sometimes made when receiving one-time funds: 1) Don't build core budgets based on one-time funds 2) Don't slash future tax revenues based on one-time funds. Since enacting SB 509 in 2014, Missouri hasn't done a budget with a 4.8% top income tax rate in place, much less a budget with a normal economy in the state. Enacting further cuts makes it all the more likely that Missouri will struggle to recruit and retain teachers in our public schools and large inequities will remain in funding for students around the state. The Association encourages the legislature to reject additional permanent tax cuts, particularly at this unusual time when the long-term effects of those cuts are difficult to fully anticipate.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RUTH EHRESMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-504-3616	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE		TITLE: BOARD MEMBER, WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUS	
ADDRESS: 1950 WITHNELL			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: rrehresman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 9/27/2022 12:18 PM	
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My name is Ruth Ehresman. I am writing today as a Board member of Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice (WV), representing the organization. WV is a membership organization of more than five hundred individuals in the St. Louis Region. Our mission and vision energize us to build a world that advances equity and justice for all, abolishes discrimination, and cares for our planet. We work to advance the common good of all in our society, particularly those who are most vulnerable. To accomplish these goals in Missouri, we need a tax structure that is fair, balanced, and adequate to support critical public services such as education for our children, higher education to create a workforce that meets today's challenges, health care, child welfare and public safety. These create the public foundation that allows all Missourians to thrive. WV opposes SB 3 as passed by the Senate. We believe that neither SB3 nor other current proposals meet these criteria. Missouri's economy is healthy. Billions of federal COVID-related dollars have allowed us to generate a large reserve. This is a temporary largesse. We do not believe it is prudent to enact tax cuts. Should Missouri's economy return to normal, or in the event of a recession, Missouri cannot afford to make deep budget cuts. Given that the State has a small cushion, we suggest that we consider ways to make permanent the temporary increases in teacher salaries, assure that state employees' salaries are competitive to enable sufficient personnel to staff services that include mental health, housing and health services for veterans, child protection, public safety, health care and other social services. SB3 and other proposals being considered by this Committee do not include the Missourians who would most benefit from increased income. These proposals currently leave out 33 percent of Missouri taxpayers entirely, including low wage workers and older adults who rely solely on social security income. These individuals, who include older adults living on fixed incomes and families with children who earn low wages, have been disproportionately impacted by recent increases in sales and property taxes due to inflation. WV supports changes that make Missouri's tax system more progressive. In Missouri, the lower your earnings, the more you pay in state and local taxes as a share of what you make. According to the most recent analysis completed by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Missouri families in the bottom quintile of income pay 9.9 percent of their income in state and local taxes, compared to just 6.2 percent paid by the wealthiest 1 percent of families. We urge you to build on the current plan to ensure that it provides benefits to all Missourians. One important policy that should be included is a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). While the credit is modest, it has a significant impact on those who struggle to meet basic needs of rent, utilities, transportation, and childcare. Its benefits are structured to reward work. By adding a refundable EITC an estimated 495,000 households would benefit who are either completely left out of the current proposals or whose benefit

is such a small amount that it is not meaningful. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. Respectfully, Ruth Ehresman



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERYL FOSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: emailfromsheryl@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 9/27/2022 11:27 AM
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Missouri was fortunate to receive a surplus of federal funds to fortify the state economy during the most challenging stages of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, Missouri legislature's plan to squander these funds is short-sighted and irresponsible. These funds are temporary and bills creating significant tax cuts bases their premise that the state will always have this surplus and adequate revenue streams to replace it. The proposed tax cut is fiscally unsustainable and will close the spigot on future revenues that will be deficient to provide services to Missourians. You are also creating problems for another legislature after all of you are long gone. This situation will be further exacerbated by the Hancock Amendment that will stymie attempts to raise crucial additional revenue to cover the losses of over one billion dollars per year. Furthermore, these tax cuts will provide little to no relief for most Missourians. Senior citizens on fixed incomes and low-wage earners are among the 33% of Missourians that will not receive any tax cuts, yet this group pays sales and property taxes. In Missouri, the lower your income the more you pay in these taxes as a proportion of your income, 9.9% for the lowest income level compared to just 6.2% for the wealthiest 1% of families. The tax savings for middle wage earners is paltry and will not have a significant impact on household finances. I am encouraging Missouri legislators to add a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit to the bill that will include greater numbers of Missourians, especially those 495,000 in lower-income brackets that are struggling and reduce or eliminate the tax cuts for the wealthiest Missourians.



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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: 9/22/2022 8:37 PM
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This proposal is ill-advised. Even with Missouri's current robust budget, we have many unmet needs as a state – including struggling to take care of abused and neglected kids, as well as Missourians facing mental health crises. In that context, we should be doubly-sure that any tax changes actually reach the people who need it the most. The Committee should build on the plan and help ensure that every working Missourian benefits by adding a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit to the bill. The credit is modest, but has a significant impact on families who are currently struggling to make ends meet. The EITC would reach 495,000 households that are currently largely left out of the bills.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
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CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 9/28/2022 8:01 AM
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My name is Robyn Schelp and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Kids Win Missouri. We advocate on issues of child well-being ranging from early childhood education, foster care issues, health care, and other issues impacting children and families in Missouri. As the Committee looks to shape and pass a potential tax cut, we ask the committee and sponsor to consider making the bill more inclusive of all Missourians by ensuring that all families receive a significant benefit. Please include provisions which would support Missouri families at the lowest income levels, like a refundable earned income tax credit. While these working families do not pay much in state income tax, they pay sales tax on a disproportionate share of their income. Inflation is hitting these families hardest. Providing those living at the edge a small amount of money goes a long way to ensuring they stay out of poverty and can provide for their children's basic needs, helping to prevent child maltreatment and neglect. Thank you for your time and consideration.