



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 312		DATE: 4/5/2023	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
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: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-289-4303	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD, INC.		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: joxford@paraquad.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2023 11:01 AM	

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

Paraquad would like to go on record in support of HB 312 and thanks Rep. Riggs for sponsoring this bill and Chairman Murphy and members of this committee for holding a hearing on it. Clearly careful scrutiny of our social service system is needed, and modernization and other policy changes could create a more compassionate and reality-based system that is better able to produce healthier individuals and communities. Here are just a few of the issues that should be studied: Income guidelines for many programs do not reflect the true cost of living. They create benefits cliffs that punish Missourians for work and/or for marriage. Among bills this year that are trying to address these benefit cliff issues are HCS HBs 971 & 970, HB 719, and SB 82. Our state employees are not adequately paid, leading to difficulty recruiting and retaining workers. We have tended to rank last or next to last in the nation. Our computer systems are outdated (“legacy systems”) and are not integrated into a comprehensive whole that works well across departments of government. Benefit levels have not kept up with the cost of living, and neither have tax relief programs. The Circuit Breaker has not been updated since 2008. We are thankful that this may be addressed through HB 1134 or SB 8. TANF benefits remain where Aid for Families with Dependent Children benefits were in 1991 (\$292 maximum for a family of three), and the 1991 benefits went up by only \$3 from where they were in 1975. The work of some task forces has produced public policy changes that have helped our state. We can note that this has worked well on domestic violence and human trafficking issues. This task on social services gaps can also move Missouri forward, but it will take commitment by General Assembly members. The report must not simply sit on a shelf to gather dust; it must be studied carefully, and the political will must be developed to enact evidence-based best practices. About Paraquad: We are one of the oldest and largest independent living centers in the country. Centers for Independent Living are unique because more than 50% of our board and staff are people with disabilities. Paraquad’s mission is to increase equity and independence for people with disabilities through services, partnerships, education, and advocacy.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2023 11:46 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill as we do NOT need to waste time, effort, money and energy on a useless "Task-Force!"