



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 492</b>		DATE: <b>4/5/2023</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GARRETT WEBB</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>219-229-1104</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS</b>		TITLE: <b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST</b>
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CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63104</b>
EMAIL: <b>webb@coestrategies.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/5/2023 7:25 AM</b>
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**The Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and our more than 1,100 physician, trainee, and pediatric-provider members strongly support this legislation.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA Z. BROWN BILLHYMER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-402-3537</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>GATEWAY MEDIA LITERACY PARTNERS, INC.</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, GATEWAY MEDIA LITERACY PART</b>	
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Greetings and Thank you for this amazing bill. By enacting House Bill #492, the Show-Me State has a formal vehicle that makes way for media literacy educators to provide the needed evidence to all Missourians that sustained media literacy education works, and that it can provide our young people with a critical-thinking skills tool box, ready to access at any time, in order to tackle the barrage of media messages they digest daily. Further, with Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) designated to lead the pilot program, we have, in this role, one of the state's foremost and longtime supporters of media literacy education. DESE is indeed a trusted education leader, and its longtime appreciation for the need for on-going media literacy in our communities as well as its experience facilitating numerous educator workshops over many years, gives this proposition two thumbs up and a vision of nothing but success. Passing this bill would represent another landmark occasion in Missouri's rich media literacy education history--possibly as profound as the work media theorist Marshal McLuhan and Father Walter Ong did in St. Louis in the late 1930s--because this bill adeptly acknowledges our complex media landscape and the great need to teach the critical-thinking skills media literacy education provides. In closing, our youth, with these learned skills, have the opportunity to become vital, healthy, and responsible citizens for life, contributing to the sustained economic development of our communities. Thank you for your considering my testimony in behalf of my organization, Gateway Media Literacy Partners, Inc. [www.gmlp.org](http://www.gmlp.org) Jessica Z. Brown Billhymer, President and founder



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIE M SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
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Missouri has a chance to be a leader here in media literacy education. Media literacy is the simple act of questioning the 11-12 hrs/day of electronic mass media that we consume. Who is the sender of the message? What's their motive or intent? How is the message designed? What information is left out? Who benefits from this? Students need to be taught to ask these questions about TikTok videos, Netflix, newspapers, websites, memes, textbooks, news conferences, Spotify, radio stations, novels, commercials, smishing attacks, terms of service, tweets, et al. Media literacy skills are not political. They are simply critical thinking skills that our students desperately need. Not only will critical thinking skills help our students navigate the digital world in which they live, but employers are recently listing "critical thinking" as something they look for when hiring. This is not indoctrination, this is not anti-media. We merely say "If we're spending THIS much time with something every day, we should be talking about it more than we do." Media literacy education is required in the UK, Australia, Finland, Illinois and New Jersey. Let's put Missouri on that list.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA BOUDEAU</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-603-2892</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ICIVICS/CIVXNOW</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICY</b>	
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CITY: <b>CRESTWOOD</b>		STATE:	ZIP: <b>63126</b>
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA FOEHNER BOUDREAU</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-603-2892</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ICIVICS/CIVXNOW &amp; MISSOURI CIVIC LEARNING COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICY</b>	
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**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education Hearing on HB 492, The Critical Thinking & Media Literacy Act House of Representatives, State of Missouri April 5, 2023 Testimony of Lisa Foehner Boudeau Director of State Policy, iCivics/CivXNow and Founding Member of the Missouri Civic Learning Coalition Good morning, I'd like to thank Chairman Pollit, and esteemed members of the committee for holding this hearing. I'd also like to thank Rep. Murphy for introducing HB 492 The Critical Thinking & Media Literacy Act. My name is Lisa Boudreau, and I serve as Director of State Policy for CivXNow, a project of iCivics. My main role at CivXNow is to partner with legislators in states to leverage bipartisan state policy recommendations for civic education. I am also a founding member of the Missouri Civic Learning Coalition (MOCLC). The Missouri Civic Learning Coalition advances civic education and engagement by convening a broad range of cross-ideological stakeholders. We are building a community network of people who are passionate about civic education and engagement, who come together to strategize, share resources, and advocate for a Missouri that provides access to comprehensive civic education. This includes media literacy and critical thinking. We envision a Show Me State where all students have opportunities to be thoughtful, informed, and engaged members of their communities. Before detailing recommendations by the national CivXNow Coalition and MOCLC and addressing the merits of House Bill 492, I want to speak to the perilous state and our collective struggle with information literacy. According to research by the Kaiser Family Health Foundation, there has been a drastic increase in the amount of time children and youth are spending with the media over the last decade. Children ages 8 to 18 now spend an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes per day with entertainment media outside of school. Millions of older Americans are reading their news online too, mostly on Facebook, and then forwarding it to their friends and family. A recent study out of Princeton and NYU found that adults over 65 are seven times more likely than those under 29 to post articles from fake news domains. In a 2022 Media Literacy Now, national survey regarding exposure to media literacy education, only 38% of respondents reported learning how to analyze media messaging. The Reboot Foundation in a first-of-its-kind survey looking at critical thinking education found that critical thinking skills are highly valued, but not taught or practiced as much as might be hoped for in schools or in public life. The same survey found that teachers need more resources and updated professional development. To develop the next generation of engaged, informed citizens and community leaders, young people need the awareness and abilities to critically evaluate, question and create media are essential skills for active participation in our democratic republic. CivXNow's recent state policy scan found that 18 states include information literacy in their learning standards, 3 states have established funding for training and/or resources for teachers, and 1 state offers an information literacy course as an elective. The solution for Missouri is not immediate nor singular, but we embrace the information literacy recommendations that were identified by the 2021 report entitled "Developing Digital Citizens."

They include: Embedding information literacy curricula across subject areas; Maintaining up-to-date school facilities, school libraries most critically; Ensuring librarians have ongoing access to professional development; Transparent monitoring and reporting of students' access; Additionally, CivXnow recommends educational practices centered in an inquiry process for learning; this is critical thinking. This bill would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a pilot program for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years in five to seven school geographically diverse school districts. In addition to addressing media literacy, the pilot must develop strategies for student learning in classroom curricula, and demonstrate various literacy strategies used. Each school district will have the chance identify best practices, high-quality materials, and make recommendations to DESE, for consideration during the standards revision process. The bill requires that a report be compiled and submitted to the legislature when the pilot ends in June 2026. Before I close, I'd like to note that this bill is bipartisan. HB 492, sponsored by a Rep. Murphy, a Republican, has a virtually identical companion version of this bill, HB 1249, that is sponsored by Democrat, the Ranking Minority Member of this Committee, Rep. Paula Brown. The main difference between the two bills is the latter includes \$200k for policy implementation dollars. My point is that media literacy is indeed something we can work on together and accomplish this session. CivXNow and the Missouri Civic Learning Coalition believe that the program outlined in this bill will help move this work forward in a meaningful way. We urge the members of this committee to support the passage of this bill. Thank you for your time, I look forward to any questions, or can take them via email at a later time.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARGO SAMPLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
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**I support!!**



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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RANDY SCHERR</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-6200</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD VOGEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
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ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rvogel@culver.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/4/2023 11:49 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear honorable members of the Missouri legislature and staff. Thank you for taking in the task of addressing the need for media literacy at all levels of education. My name is Richard Vogel, PhD, Fulbright Scholar, Schusterman fellow and Assistant Professor of Media and Communication at Culver Stockton College in Canton, MO. My Fulbright focused on creating a K-12 media literacy/critical thinking curriculum and was spent in Thailand and Malaysia, with visits to China and Myanmar. We all require training to use tools effectively. A mechanic learns how to use tools as does the surgeon as does the media content producer. Those in political office must use the tools of research, voter outreach and the synthesis of ideas to serve their constituency. Technical knowledge is just one component towards effective use of tools. Technical knowledge is insufficient to be truly effective. Learning how to use tools wisely is the purpose of education and the focus of media literacy. Media literacy education teaches young people how to use the tools of media content acquisition and production wisely and responsibly. Given the many hours of unsupervised media usage by young people of all ages, it is imperative that this bill to support and implement media literacy education be accepted today. However, as you proceed and debate on this bill please keep in mind that the need for adequate tools extends to the teachers. What plan does this bill have to assure that those bound to teach media literacy have the training and tools to communicate the multiple levels of messaging involved within the field? The bill is excellent at stating the multiple goals of media literacy. However it lacks a means of assuring that the teachers have the specific training and tools to communicate all the messages. The plans seem vague and overly time consuming. Such education for teachers can occur concurrent with any pilot studies. The amount of time taken to conduct and evaluate pilot studies can be shortened and the training of teachers can occur within that shortened time frame. I am among many ready to work with teachers of K-12 anywhere in the state to assure their readiness. As a university professor for some time now, I see the end result of K-12 education. Pew research and other studies show that our students can be manipulated by media quite easily. It is your responsibility as legislators to assure an educated next generation and that education must include critical thinking skills and media literacy from K through 12. Thank you again for starting this process. I respectfully request that this time line be shortened to assure media literacy education is not delayed more than it needs to be. Respectfully submitted, Richard Vogel, PhD. Assistant Professor Culver Stockton College Canton, MO rvogel@culver.edu 419 606 6130



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUNG EUN PARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
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EMAIL: <b>sungeunpark@webster.edu</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/3/2023 12:15 PM</b>
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I support the media literacy and critical thinking act because it is an important issue that needs to be heard.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TARA J SPARKS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tsparks@lindberghschools.ws</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/4/2023 5:11 PM</b>
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Media literacy is an ever-increasing need for our students and citizens. This bill provides support to develop resources and structures for future implementation in schools. As a Chief Academic Officer, I would be interested in being a part of this pilot work to help our students navigate the challenges posed by our media-rich society. The outcome will be students who apply critical thinking and practice responsible decision-making.



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<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
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CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
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**I am Opposed to this Bill. We do NOT need yet another Program and Pilot Project.**