



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
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 ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 10:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill and its Great Intension. This is some thing that has needed to be done for a long time. Every one should be able to read and clearly understand Prescription Bottles. Either Hearing, Blind or Large Print. Get this Bill to the Governor's Desk to Desk. This is a NO Brainer!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
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: CHERYL L. MEISTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: 1961clm@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 3:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a blind woman who has multiple prescriptions I am required to take daily. It is essential that I am able to identify which medication I am taking, along with the dosage and side effects and other pertinent information offered on every medication filled by pharmacists. It is also essential that the location of pharmacies are close so that the cost of getting my medications is not prohibitive. I also believe there would be no cost to the state for any equipment required by the pharmacy, and that the cost to the pharmacy is also minimal. I believe it is most definitely a safety issue and support a bill which makes it a requirement for pharmacies to offer labeling on my prescriptions in a manner I can read. Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
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: DANIEL H GARCIA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dangarcia3@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 8:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I would urge the committee to vote this bill to the floor because it is important for blind people to have a means to safely take their medicine. The technology exists to have accessible prescription labels, but not every pharmacy uses them. Transportation can present unique challenges to the blind, and it may not be practical for blind people to travel to an out of the way pharmacy that offers these labels. The small costs that the pharmacy would initially bear would be more than offset by having loyal customers that will also buy other items while at the pharmacy. The enactment of this bill into law will not cause a financial burden for Missouri taxpayers and may in fact reduce health costs for everyone if blind people do not have to go to the emergency room for having taken the wrong medicine or incorrect dose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
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 SAMUEL OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6006	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO 1336, 618 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY/MO/65101		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: dave@moretailers.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 1:10 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Many of my members have already been following the requirements of HB 812 for years.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: EUGENE COULTER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-474-3226
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF MISSOURI		TITLE: SOCIAL SERVICES LIAISON
ADDRESS: 1504 FURLONG DRIVE		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: GCoulter@NFBMo.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2023 7:19 PM

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

I believe HB 812 is a critical piece of legislation for those who are blind or visually impaired. Simply by attaching a small sticker to the bottom of a prescription drug bottle the user can know what is in the bottle and all of the other important information that is available to those who can read the label. By either using a cell phone application or a easy to use tabletop reader to announce the contents out loud.If all pharmacies in the state were to offer accessible prescription labelling it would make the taking of prescriptions much more safe. For myself, by using the accessible labels I have the confidence to know what I am taking and when to take it.This technology would have been extremely helpful to my parents, neither was blind but had poor enough vision that they could not read the bottle. My mother relied solely on the shape or color of the pills but was in trouble when the pharmacy changed the generic they were using. On the other hand, my father, God bless him every morning would take one pill from each bottle taking two, three or four from the bottles that he thought he was to take more than once a day. He would take all of the pills at once. Both of them were frustrated at their inability to tell what was in their bottles. When we took my mother to the ER she could not tell them what she was taking having no idea of the names of the drugs telling the nurse that she took a pink pill and blue pill, etc. As you can see that is a major safety concern. All pharmacies should have an accessible labeling system available and let their customers know that such a service is available if they believe the customer could benefit from accessible prescription labelling. I use a local non-corporate pharmacy and even with the cost involved of using the accessible labels they value my business enough to give me a discount on a prescription that is not covered by insurance, they evidently do not see it as a burden.Pleas send HB 812 “do pass “ out of committee.Eugene Coulter, Social Services LiaisonNational Federation of the Blind of MissouriColumbia, MO573-474-3226



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
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: JENNIFER CARMACK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jcarmack@nfbmo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 3:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a blind consumer. I am responsible for multiple medications for myself and my child. When I pick up prescriptions from the pharmacy there is a print label which provides very important information which ensures that the medications will be given correctly (medication name, directions, dosing, expiration date, potential side effects, and possible warnings). None of this information is readily accessible for me to read. There is a low cost and easy way to make this information accessible for me and many other Missourians. Through programs such as Script Talk (and others) these prescriptions will be able to be accessed in an audio format, thus reducing/eliminating the risk of taking medications incorrectly (or giving incorrect medications to my child). I am completely in favor of the passage of this bill making it a requirement for ALL pharmacies to provide prescription labels in an accessible format.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
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: JULIE L. DAWSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: julie.magnolia62@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 5:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a totally blind individual living in Kansas City Missouri this bill is important personally and will benefit the rights of blind persons throughout the state. The technology is available to make the accessible Prescription available to blind Missourians and will cost the state of Missouri nothing except the satisfaction of a bill passed to benefit blind Missourians. It is an issue of safety to make sure that a person is taking the correct drug and the correct number of times daily. It is important that a pharmacy close to the user's home have accessible prescriptions as blind, visually impaired, and elderly have extra transportation costs. Also, in the scheme of things the cost of any equipment for the pharmacy is relatively low as little as \$1,000 for them. There is no cost to the individual. For purposes of this section, the term "prescription reader" means a device that is designed to audibly convey the information contained on the label of a prescription drug. 3. A pharmacy shall notify each person to whom a prescription drug is dispensed that an accessible prescription label is available to the person upon request at no additional cost. 4. If a person informs a pharmacy that the person identifies as a person who is blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print-disabled, the pharmacy shall provide to the person an accessible prescription label affixed to the bottle that: (1) Is available to the person in a timely manner comparable to wait times for other patients and lasts for at least the duration of the prescription; (2) Is appropriate to the disability and preference of the person making the request through use of audible, large print, or Braille labels; As life years increase, the need for independence needs to be maintained for myself and other blind Missourians. This bill sponsored by Representative Stephens will further add to continuing independence along with avoiding health risks due to misunderstandings about prescribed medications. Independence and equality are necessary and advocated for and would benefit blind or print disabled individuals.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
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: MELISSA KANE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdsmith32811@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 8:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a blind Missouri citizen and as a person who works with many blind citizens, I strongly urge passage of this bill. This is a vital task that many citizens perform every day. It is a safety concern that has a simple solution that can prevent serious consequences. This bill will cost Missouri nothing and can potentially save the state money. Many seniors end up in nursing homes or with home health just because they can't manage their medications. This is a simple solution that costs pharmacies little, costs the state nothing, the technology already exists and will save Missouri lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROGER CROME		PHONE NUMBER: 573-701-8409	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF MISSOURI		TITLE: GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CHAIR	
ADDRESS: 1066 MADISON 9250			
CITY: FREDERICKTOWN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63645
EMAIL: r_crome1@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 6:39 PM	

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

I thank you for taking up this imperative and potentially life saving issue. If it were not for work obligations, I would have most certainly been in person to testify. Blind people use many methods to identify medications from the size and shape of the pill to the size and shape of the bottle. A pill can be a small circle pill for years and suddenly change to a monstrosously sized oval. Many medications look alike except for coloration or tiny score points and/or inscriptions that help a sighted person to accurately identify the medications. Without an accessible way to identify these medications, there could be errors that have the potential to result in ramifications that can be as severe as death. The labeling and information provided to pharmacy customers is invaluable due to the ability to know not only the correct medication but what to look for with regard to side affects and contraindications with prescription and over the counter medications. What 812 does is one simple but essential thing. It says that the health and well being of blind Missourians is just as important as every other pharmacy patron. It says that it is time to use the technology that already exists to offer audio, large print and even braille labels with a moderate cost to the pharmacy. There is no cost to the consumer and the benefit is off the chart. I cannot express enough how difficult it can be when you have medications that are very similar to distinguish, and the pharmacy that you have been a loyal customer of refuses to even look into the options available to provide you with the same information as everyone else. Please understand, there are already options out there to make this bill a reality. It is in no way re-inventing the wheel. For those that receive this service, the benefit is essential and works well for most people. The problem is when pharmacies won't look into what is available. It took me years to get my pharmacy to offer accessible prescription labels, and it was not I, the customer, they finally listened to. It was a company that provides these products that pointed out to the pharmacist that they were violating their own company policy by not offering the product when a customer requested it. It is the responsibility of those of you that represent us in the State House to correct issues where they exist. For many thousands of Missourians, this is an issue that exists. I implore you to vote HB 812 out of committee and encourage you to speak with your colleagues in the House to get it sent to the Senate.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
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: SHELIA BYRD WRIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sbwright95@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 11:50 PM	

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

I am blind and have been unable to read a prescription label for almost forty years. My doctors typically prescribe generic medicines and their names are never like the brand names you hear frequently but rather long old names that no one knows how to pronounce must less spell. The older I get the harder it is to keep them all straight. Though audio labels have been around for ten years or more, they have just come to my neighborhood and the pharmacy I use. The have Spoken RX. The pharmacy provided me with a small device, and when they fill my prescriptions they place a sticker that has a chip on the bottom of the bottle or on the prescription label on boxes. I can place the bottle on the device and the machine will read all of the information on the prescription label out loud. This is one way that my pharmacy can meet the needs of their customers and is very much like the Script Talk that I heard about years ago. The key is that the accessible label should be affixed to the bottle or container .There are thousands of seniors who become blind each year due to Diabetes, Macular Degeneration, Strokes, and age-related conditions. Some statistics say that one in four seniors will loose vision. It just is not realistic to think that these seniors always have someone in the home to dole out their medications at the appropriate and even if they do what kind of dignity does someone have when they are forced to be dependent. I have known blind people particularly older blind people who have been sent to a nursing home simply because they could not see to manage their medications themselves . What a real expense to the family or in most cases Medicare/Medicaid.I talked with one company that built a system like I described above and for a small pharmacy it cost \$1,065 to get the software for the audio plus 250 labels and 60 hanging labels. Pharmacies can integrate the software on their main computer system or sometimes they dedicate a laptop to the program. They scan the label and save it to the chip.Large print labels may be helpful for some blind and low vision but as their vision decreases this will not work any longer. Then there are some that will prefer Braille but the majority of older folks will not know Braille and the real estate on the label itself will limit how much of the label will fit on the bottle. It is very possible that other methods will be developed when accessibility is a priority. It is a real matter of safety and independence. In fact, it may even be a matter of life and death. I trust that safety is a concern for each member of this committee, our entire legislative body, and every pharmacy in Missouri. Please do all that you can to assure that Accessible Prescription Labels which HB812 calls for becomes a reality in Missouri. Shelia Wright7928 NW Milrey DriveKansas City, MO 64152Phone: 816-679-5258Email: sbwright95@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 812		DATE: 3/6/2023	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
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: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2023 9:23 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			