



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 971		DATE: 2/14/2023
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
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: BECKI UCCELLO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: piximama2010@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2023 11:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Research has demonstrated that employment is a factor associated with an individual's overall quality of life or assessment of their well being. However, when we look at employment outcomes of students with disabilities transitioning from school to work, they have persistently lagged behind their peers with disabilities. A 2013 report from the US Department of Labor indicated that only 26% of students with disabilities are employed after high school, compared to almost 64% of their peers without disabilities. Additionally, persons with disabilities experience the highest rates of poverty of any subcategory of Americans, recorded by the Census Bureau. Of the nearly 30 million individuals with disabilities ages 18-64, 27% live in poverty. This is more than double the rate of 12.5% for the entire population. Our 13 year old daughter, Izabella, uses a wheelchair. Our family advocates for accessibility wherever we go, because disability rights are civil rights. We have conversations about what she plans to do after she graduates from Springfield Catholic High School. She wants to attend Missouri State University or Drury University. She wants to live on campus. She has asked the baristas at Starbucks what it takes to get a job. She has also talked about working with the Springfield Cardinals at Hammons Field. She wants to pursue the same activities, including job opportunities, as her typical peers. And she deserves to do so while receiving legal and appropriate compensation. As a state we cannot continue treating our citizens with disabilities as slave labor. Everyone deserves to receive a livable wage for the work they do. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIKA LEONARD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-6424	
REPRESENTING: MARF		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 2046 TRENTON CT			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: Erika@MARF.cc	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2023 10:22 AM	

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Increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Missouri workforce is the path forward.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-775-3261	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD, INC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVE.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDY GRAINGER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-584-0778	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UCP HEARTLAND		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 729 W STATE ST			
CITY: UNION		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63084
EMAIL: graingerj@ucpheartland.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2023 10:37 AM	

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I will providing support to HB 971. I am accompanying a person with a disability who is also providing support to this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA CHANEY FAUGHN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: berettajulia@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 1:28 PM
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This bill increases access to employment and allows fair wages to be paid.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-826-4400	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	
ADDRESS: 1500 EWING DRIVE			
CITY: SEDALIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65301
EMAIL: kanderson@chs-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2023 12:11 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA MARIE LISS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lisamliss13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 2:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am the parent of a 21 year old woman with an intellectual disability. Our expectation for her is that she will work in the community and be paid at least minimum wage for doing so. She has just graduated from the Special School District of St. Louis County's Vocational Skills Program (VSP) in 1/23. As part of her transition out of that, her teacher did an evaluation of her current skills and helped her to open a case with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). We had an extensive meeting with VR and her VSP teacher prior to graduation where they all but told us that she would not be deemed a "good candidate" for VR services but they would allow her to take the next step just to see. They humored us and let her participate in their Discovery and Exploration program where our daughter was taken into the community in jobs she may want and do a practice experience. She was taken to 3 locations and was also observed at her current VSP job site. At each of these sites, the job coach took extensive notes and observations of her current level. Keep in mind this was all happening during the holiday season with a person she had never met before going to places she had never been (with the exception of the VSP site). Given all of this, it was no surprise that she didn't do a stellar job. We had yet another meeting with VR, VSP teacher, and the job coach who had taken her on her Discovery and Exploration outings where, with our daughter in attendance, the job coach proceeded to nit pick every single thing she couldn't do and / or did wrong at each and every site. This meeting lasted about 45 minutes where my daughter and I literally sat and listened to someone tear her down and say she was definitely not ready for work. At that point she was referred to a Pre-Employment program and VR said they had to close her case. As part of the pre-employment program, she was assigned a new job coach who again took her on some sample work experiences, met one on one where she would try to determine what skills our daughter already possessed, and eventually said they weren't sure they would be able to find anything given her present level of functioning. **HERE IS WHERE I HAVE A BIG ISSUE WITH THE SYSTEM - I agree that given the VERY STRICT parameters that are set with these programs, she is not ready to just go out and get a job. If she was, she would not be participating in these programs which are supposed to help her. My problem is that there is no room for customizing anything in these programs. Our family provided both job coaches extensive lists of types of jobs she would be great at and names of connections we had and probably 20 places. We know that our daughter will most likely need a "carved" position (IE. something customized to her). This is why we spent so much time as a family along with a huge group of people who know her in many different ways (past teachers, family friends, past job coaches, etc.) brainstorming what types of work would suit her. Then we took it a step further and found connections / contacts at a bunch of places to use as a starting point to try to get her "in". Why are VR and other pre-employment programs not able to do this very same thing? Isn't it their job in an "Employment First" state to pursue all possible avenues before just recommending we look into sheltered work or a day program? There are SO many individuals like my daughter in Missouri who are being told the same things we were and stop there, assuming there is nothing more**

they can do. Well, we aren't accepting that as an answer. We are lucky because we have the time, education, connections, etc. to basically take this on ourselves. Not many other families are in our situation. Missouri needs to do better to support people with intellectual disabilities who may not be the easiest people to find work for, but that doesn't mean that they don't want or deserve to work for a fair wage like everybody else! I'm a parent who is supporting this bill because I don't want other families to have to go through what we are to try to get their child meaningful competitive employment.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE M SCHLOSSER		PHONE NUMBER: 913-461-8724
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOP MANAGERS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1521 PEPPERWOOD DRIVE, ST. LOUIS, MO, 63		
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: lyneschlosser@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 3:40 PM

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On behalf of the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Manager, I would like to thank the Sponsor for bringing it forward and would like to go on the record in support.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGEN ROONEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rooneyma@umsl.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2023 8:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello- My name is Dr. Magen Rooney-Kron and I am an assistant professor of inclusive education at the University of Missouri- St. Louis. Previously, I was a high school special education teacher for students with significant support needs. My class focused on preparing individuals with disabilities for work. My research currently focuses on how to prepare individuals with significant support needs for competitive, integrated employment. If there is one thing I have learned as a teacher and researcher- it is that people with disabilities will always excel- if they are just given a chance. The Employment Programs bill gives people with disabilities the chance to access to competitive, integrated employment. Our state is very sadly falling behind others in how we include people with disabilities in the workforce. According to the Department of Labor, our state has one of the largest numbers of people with disabilities who are placed in sheltered workshops. A colleague of mine, Dr. Josh Taylor, recently compared empirical research about the outcomes of people with disabilities who are at sheltered workshops and competitive employment. The data make a strong case for competitive employment and highlight how sheltered workshops did not lead to better employment outcomes- and instead led to increases in challenging behavior and low quality of life. People with disabilities are capable of working- and they deserve better. This piece of legislation is critical in helping our state move towards including people with disabilities in the workplace. Other states are successfully transitioning to employment models that emphasis competitive employment- it is possible- and we can do it too. How would you feel if you went to a job that you didn't like- had to do the same task over and over- and then were paid only pennies a week? Legislation like this one can prevent this from happening to even more Missourians. We have to believe in our state and that people with disabilities are capable of working. I promise you- they can and they can make positive contributions to our state. I would be more than happy to discuss this matter more if there are further questions. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARQUITA WARNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: NPRICE07@GMAIL.COM	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 2:13 PM
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This bill would do a lot to help persons with disabilities become independent and feel competent. Disabled people often have excellent skills to contribute and just need a chance. We want everyone who wants to work to be able to work and earn their way by making a contribution. Please support HB971



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN BRITNALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sselvey@chs-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2023 12:15 PM
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HB971



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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: 2/13/2023 8:56 AM
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After getting clarification on this bill from Rep. Unsicker, I am in favor.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DISABILITIES SERVICES		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1865		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 12:00 AM
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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: 2/14/2023 11:53 PM
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This Bill needs work and debate in its present form.		



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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: 2/11/2023 12:49 PM
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Nope.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: LEIGH ANNE HAUN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-8611
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL		TITLE: PROJECT COORDINATOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 687, 1706 E. ELM STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/14/2023 12:00 AM
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