

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 82				DATE: 4/4/2023
COMMITTEE: Children and Fami	ilies			
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA CLARK			PHONE NUME	BER:
REPRESENTING: GREATER KC FOOD POLICY COALITION DIRECTOR OF FOOD SYS PLANNING				
ADDRESS:				
CITY: KANSAS CITY			STATE: KS	ZIP: 66101
EMAIL: aclark@kchealthy	kids.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 3/31/20	DATE: 123 2:41 PM

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

On behalf of the 21-member steering committee of the Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, we support SB 82 proposing transitional benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Tapering down benefits gives working families time to adjust their budgets and avoid a sudden decrease in or loss of benefits as their income increases. Here are a few reasons why we support SB 82.Hunger is bad for health.About 696,000 Missouri residents (11.4%) and 794,000 kids under 78 (14.7%) didn't have consistent access to enough food to live a healthy life in 2020. Hunger and food insecurity are connected to poor health outcomes for kids and adults of all ages. Food service workers can't afford food.Wages in Missouri haven't kept up with the rising cost of food. In 2021, 42% of SNAP recipients were working families. The food service industry pays some of the lowest wages in the state and has the highest number of workers participating in SNAP.SNAP dollars support local economies.Through SNAP, nearly \$1 billion in federal funds were funneled into Missouri in 2019. For every SNAP benefit dollar spent at the grocery store or farmers market, about \$1.50 in economic growth is generated during an economic turndown. The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, a program of KC Healthy Kids, convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in greater Kansas City and promote policies for the nutritional, economic, social, and environmental health of the community.



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		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONES"	T-ABE" DIENOFF-STAT	E PUBLIC ADVOCATE	PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			•	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yah	oo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/4/202	DATE: 23 11:08 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill on its current face. I am in Support of Assisting Families to get off Public Assistance and the T.A.N.T.I.F. Program.



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		WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:				
WITNESS NAME: BEVERLY ISOM			PHONE NUM 314-451-		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO OPERATION FOOD			DIRECTO ADVOCA	OR OF POLICY AND	
ADDRESS: 1644 LOTSIE BLVD.					
CITY: OVERLAND			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132	
EMAIL: beverly.isom@ope	rationfoodsearch.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/3/20	DATE: 23 5:03 PM	

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

April 4, 2023, Representative Hannah KellyHouse Children and Families CommitteeMissouri House of Representatives 201 W. Capitol Ave, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chair Kelly and Members of the Committee, Founded in 1981, Operation Food Search (OFS) is a hunger relief organization that provides food, nutrition education and innovative programs in order to reduce food insecurity and increase equitable access to food. We serve 200,000 people every month through a network of 330 partners in 27 counties in Missouri and Illinois. We use a combination of immediate food assistance and supportive services, while also working on long-term solutions and systemic changes to help solve the problem of hunger. We respectfully ask for your support of SB 82 to establish a transitional benefits program. Currently, when an eligible household reaches the income ceiling for an assistance program like SNAP, TANF or Child Care Assistance, they lose all of their benefits. A small promotion or raise above the programs' income threshold can result in the household being worse off after losing all public assistance. This leads to folks turning down work advancements, which is counter-productive to becoming self-sufficient. Establishing a transitional benefits program supports financial advancement by gradually decreasing benefits as their income increases above the maximum benefit threshold. Creating pathways out of poverty is needed across Missouri, as one in seven Missourians struggle to put food on the table and high rates of food insecurity are found in both rural and urban counties (1,2). Food insecurity is linked with poor health and economic outcomes for people of all ages (3). A vast body of research shows benefit programs such as SNAP play a critical role in reducing hunger, poverty and improving health, education and economic outcomes (4). Eliminating the benefits cliff that currently exists would mean that low-income households would no longer need to choose between taking a modest advancement at work and getting a needed boost to help cover their basic needs. We believe that establishing a transitional benefits program encourages low-income earners to seek higher paying jobs without financially hurting their families in the process by losing full access to essential benefits like SNAP. The prevalence of food insecurity and its impacts on health illuminates the need to make benefit programs that support a path to financial independence. For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote "yes" on SB 82. Sincerely, Beverly IsomDirector of Policy and Advocacy.1. Feeding America. (2020). Hunger in America: Missouri. Available at: https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/missouri2. Bass et al. (2019). Missouri Hunger Atlas. University of Missouri Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security. https://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-Missouri-Hunger-Atlas FINAL-

2.pdf3. Gunderson, C. & Ziliak, J.P. (2015). Food Insecurity and Health Outcomes. Available at: https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0645 .4. The Role of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Improving Health and Well-Being. Food Research and Action Center. (2017,

December). Found at https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/hunger-health-role-snap-improving-health-well-being.pdf



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INF	ORMATION	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:					
WITNESS NAME: CURTIS JOSEPH V	WICHMER			NUMBER: 335-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHO	LIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:		
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.					
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE MO	:	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocat	holic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		JBMIT DATE: 3/2023 4:2	5 PM

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This legislation offers transitional benefits for those who receive an increase in income that would otherwise make them ineligible for any government assistance. This act would simultaneously support those in need while encouraging them to increase their income to the point that government assistance is unnecessary.



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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVE BERRY			PHONE NUME 573-382-0	
REPRESENTING: CATHOLIC CHARI	TIES OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4445 LINDELL BL\	/D			
CITY: ST LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/4/202	DATE: 23 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WEIS	S		PHONE NUMB 314-977-46	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI APPLE	SEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 100 N. TUCKER BI	LVD., ROOM 840			
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/4/202	OATE: 3 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACK GAMBLE			PHONE NUME	ER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ALLIAN	ICE OF YMCA's		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/4/202	OATE: 3 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED L	OBBYIST:				
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT	OXFORD			NUMBER: 89-4303	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD, INC.				IC POLIC	Y & ADVOCACY
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND A	VENUE				
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO		ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: joxford@paraquad	d.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		BMIT DATE: 4/2023 10:	14 AM

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

Chairman Kelly and Members of Children and Families, Thank you for hearing SB 82! Paraguad would like to go on record in support of Senate Bill 82, and we thank Sen. Coleman for bringing this bill forward. Tremendous harm has been done by eligibility guidelines that do not reflect the true cost of living or the reality of living with physical and/or mental disabilities. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) has not accurately measured poverty in decades. The current official poverty measure was developed in the mid-1960s by Mollie Orshansky, a staff economist at the Social Security Administration. Poverty thresholds were derived from the cost of a minimum food diet multiplied by three to account for other family expenses. The formula was accurate then, but it is far from accurate now, which is why you will see some programs offer assistance to 300 percent of the poverty level while others go to 133 percent or 185 percent, etc. Basic human needs like rent, food, utilities, transportation, clothing, etc. have gone up in price by different percentages, and a "marketbasket" approach, taking into account the true costs of all essentials, would lead to a much more accurate FPL. However, an honest accounting would also mean that the number of people officially deemed "living in poverty" in the U.S. would more than double, so there is inadequate political will in Washington, DC, to change the numbers to reflect reality. Whenever we do not use honest numbers for eligibility guidelines, people will get hurt. Sen. Coleman's bill attempts to produce better outcomes for families that need assistance from SNAP, TANF, and subsidized childcare. It also requires a simplified application process, a change that is long overdue. We appreciate Sen. Coleman's bill, and we also appreciate Rep. Melanie Stinnett's bill to end a different benefits cliff issue - income and asset limits for people with disabilities that currently punish work and marriage. We thank all members of this committee for voting yes on that Stinnett bill, HCS HBs 971 & 970, on March 28, and we ask that you all vote DO PASS on SB 82 as well. About Paraguad: 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		
REGISTERED LO	DBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY LAFAVER	₹		PHONE NUME	BER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BUDGE	T PROJECT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 612 W 69TH				
CITY: KC			STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/4/202	OATE: 03 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE GAMBLE			PHONE NUME 573-634-4	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CENTE FORWARD FOUND		H EXCELLENCE, HEALTI	H TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL A	VE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/4/202	DATE: 13 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH			PHONE NUME 314-306-8	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO EMPOWER MISSO			TITLE: EXECUTIV	/E DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/4/202	DATE: 23 12:00 AM
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		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: 573-303-6765				
REPRESENTING: MISSURI COALITION	ON FOR CHILDREN		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E CAPITOL AVE				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2023 12:00 AM	
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		WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:					
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP			PHONE NUMB 660-441-32		
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOU	IRI		TITLE:		
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT.					
CITY: COLUMBIA			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203	
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2023 12:00 AM		
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REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS			PHONE NUME 573-761-7	
REPRESENTING: OPPORTUNITY SO	DLUTIONS PROJECT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 EAST HIGH ST	TREET, SUITE 200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2023 12:00 AM	
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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CARTE	R DOCHLER		PHONE NUME 573-356-4	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH		DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS		
ADDRESS: 4254 VISTA AVEN	UE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: jdochler@mffh.org	g	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/3/2023 10:19 AM	
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