



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2125		DATE: 1/24/2024	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: 1/24/2024 8:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill and getting children into Public School as soon as possible when appropriately mature to start education.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN RANDAZZO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cmrandazzo@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 8:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB2125 will help our students be successful. Kindergarten is so important for our students to learn how to "do school". They need that kindergarten year to learn how to work and cooperate with other children and adults. They also need the pre-reading skills they will learn that year, before they reach first grade. HB2125 should be passed, and enacted. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 9:32 AM

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Lowering the mandatory age to 5 makes sense. I know that we all want to believe all parents are kind, loving and knowldgable as well as dedicated to helping foster their children’s education. As a 25+ year veteran teacher, I know this isn’t always true. Children starting school earlier means safer children. Pre -K and kindergarten teaches social skills and learning through play. If children start school earlier, there will be more time for this. I find it interesting that some folks who are pushing against this are the same ones decrying the learning gap caused by the pandemic. My son was a 1st grade teacher and his first year was the 21-22 school year. He has remarked that his struggles that year were exacerbated because the kiddos had not had a full year of kindergarten or pre–K. He said he was basically teaching kindergarten. The children starting school at 7 are not getting the fulsome homeschool experience and putting them into 1st grade does them a disservice. We need to rethink how we do PreK-3 education overall, and this is a start.



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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: 1/21/2024 4:07 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-608-0168	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LIBERTY LINK MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 19335 PRIMROSE RIDGE			
CITY: WARRENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63383
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHY JO LOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cathyjoloy@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 8:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

There is no solid research that shows an earlier start to school will give children a solid advantage. All children are different, have vast variety in maturity, social skills and academic ability. This is one more area where a government encroaches on the rights of parents. The idea that poor families keep their child home is ridiculous. Many of them will be relieved that they finally have free daycare. Rather than deciding it's an age discrepancy, let's look at the states reading curriculum.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHARYTI JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ecjackson622@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:00 PM

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House Education Committee, Parents know their children best and are the best judge of when a child should be starting kindergarten. For those children who have late birthdays especially June and July, many times parents opt to wait a year to send the child to kindergarten so that the child can mature emotionally, physically and mentally. The difference between being forced to go could be as simple as a two-day difference. A child who is born in July 31 would be forced to go to school yet a child born on August 2nd would get a whole extra year. This can make a big difference not only in elementary years but especially for boys in the high school years. As a parent who had a child with a July birthday, he was clearly not ready to go to kindergarten when he turned five years old. Yet if this bill passed, we would not have had the option to wait another year for him to have started kindergarten. I know waiting a year to start kindergarten was huge for his success when he started formal education later. This bill before you would have trampled my parental rights to decide when my child should have been going to kindergarten. People wonder why children struggle with school so badly, is it no wonder when instead of playing and moving, the children are stuck behind a desk. Kindergarten teachers and studies can tell you that it is much more beneficial for a child to delay going to kindergarten especially when they are not emotionally, physically and mentally ready. Parents have the option now to decide when to send their children to kindergarten whether that be at five years old or wait for the child to mature. Please vote NO on HB2125.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE DENT-BREEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dani.christine@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:14 PM

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

I am opposed to opening up RsMO 167.031 in order to mandate compulsory education at the age of five. I am especially opposed to any alteration of the definition of a homeschool in our statute, and mandating that a child begin homeschooling at age five. We recognize that it is developmentally inappropriate for some children to begin formal education at such an early age, and studies indicate that there is no detectable advantage in learning for those who begin formal education at an earlier age. According to a study published in Early Childhood Research Quarterly, children who did not begin formal reading instruction until age seven caught up with their peers who began reading instruction at age five by the time the children reached 10 years of age.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0885200612000397?fbclid=IwAR16tu7tuFaGIgxc-R9HNC8dSVncRFidcylMkUIJ-ITdMLylw_R9nzwxtY On the other hand, beginning formal education before a child is developmentally ready can have devastating effects on their academic career, future outcomes, and self esteem. An energetic child who is not developmentally ready to sit quietly for long periods of time, follow directions in a classroom setting, and walk in a line may be labeled as a "problem" in the classroom, leading to a cascade of interventions that may follow him for his entire academic career. Perhaps all that child needs is another year or two to gain maturity, and a year or two to learn through play, free exploration, and spontaneous learning experiences, rather than mandated classroom time. Most families who choose the public school option for their children, voluntarily enroll them in kindergarten at age five. Those families who need the assistance provided to them through the school lunch program are already free to take advantage of these programs at their public schools beginning at age five. So why the need for a mandate? What is to be gained? This removes parental rights and freedom to choose what is best for the education of their children. In the homeschool community, on the other hand, most parents are very excited to start schooling their children, however they just continue the parent involved process of learning and growing naturally. While some parents may feel that it is appropriate to begin a form of informal home education of a child at an age prior to age seven, we oppose any compulsion from the government to do so, which infringes upon the liberties and freedoms of a parent to direct the education of their child.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DON BICKHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: doniibecky@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2024 8:54 PM
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No, five years old is too young to mandate the school attendance age.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN MCGHEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: emjoedan@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:58 PM
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I oppose the lowering of the compulsory age of attendance.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: Jaurie Wells		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jauriewells@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 7:52 AM
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I am completely opposed to bills HB2177, HB2323, HB2125. LET CHILDREN BE CHILDREN!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER OLSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jennylynnwarren@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:35 AM

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

I am writing to urge the legislature to end the government overreach that infringes on parent's rights to direct the education of their children. As of now, we as parents are not compelled by law to enroll our children in state recognized schools until the age of 7. The proposed changes in this law, lowering that age to 5 years old, will strip parents of their right and authority to decide what is best for their children. The People are sick and tired of having their rights trampled on by those is a far-off place who think they know best. With all due respect, I demand a NO vote on this egregious abuse of power over The People.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE BIRO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jaam1224@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 7:14 AM
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Every young child develops at different rates... some quickly and some much slower. Most children need those extra years to expend their wild energy before they have developed their abilities to sit still for hours on end and focus. Putting the 1000 hours of learning requirements on young children set those children and their educators up for an education career of trauma because children so young are just not developmentally ready.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-221-4792
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: lzpannett@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 9:49 PM
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Children should not be compelled to be in a school environment by age 5.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SETH MARBLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: seth.marble@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 1:41 PM
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Please refer to my statement under HB2323