



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2142		DATE: 1/30/2024	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform			
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: BENJAMIN J. TRAVLOS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1400	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: ben.travlos@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 6:31 AM	
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Missouri Farm Bureau has multiple member-adopted policies that support the expansion of rural broadband to rural Missouri. One such policy reads;"We believe that broadband is infrastructure. We support the state and federal government enhancing broadband deployment across the state. We believe that priority should be given as follows: 1. Access;2. Affordability;3. Reliability; and4. Speed."



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CLAUDIA SANDS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-647-1026	
REPRESENTING: BRIGHTSPEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 319 MADISON ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH WIERSMA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: deborahjudge44@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 8:05 AM
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I am in support of NY bill to reduce taxes.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: DEREK LEFFERT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-8500
REPRESENTING: GATEWAY FIBER		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WRIGHT CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63390
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANK GILLHAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: frankbgillham@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2024 10:28 AM

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

I am in favor of getting rid of all property taxes in the state of Missouri with HB1906. I have worked all my life to pay for my home and vehicles to then be taxed for continuing to own them. The ultimate effect is I really don't own my stuff, I rent it from the government. This is the hallmark of a communist state. For me to have my mortgage replaced by taxes makes me never out of debt. Now that I'm a senior, use less government resources makes it even more unfair. Then to pay 75% of my property taxes to the lavish wasteful spending of schools is more an insult. The local schools are taxing us out of our homes by spending 15.3 million on a high school theater, thousands for lap tops and 8 million for astro-turf. What is more outrageous is they use accounting tricks to circumvent the Hancock Amendment and then vote in their deception on the least attended election dates. To top that all off we have students not educated enough to obtain a decent paying job when they finish high school, can't look you in the eye, make change or show what 3 sixteenths is on a ruler. Many schools don't even teach cursive writing. All of this is unacceptable, senior citizens and veterans are paying the ultimate price when they have no income sources, sky rocketing inflation and medical bills. The solution as I see it is taxes are only due when you sell your property, all tax issues can only be placed on the most attended election date, the loop holes schools use to circumvent the Hancock Amendment must be plugged. As it stands now, I pay taxes when I earn money, when I buy something, when I use something, when I improve something, when I eat something. To have government to lavishly and wastefully spend money all the time is participation in the destruction of our country.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY KETTERER		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: AT&T		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1010 PINE STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PHILLIP ARNZEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 428 E. CAPITOL AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA EICHELBERGER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-1458
REPRESENTING: ASSOC. OF MO ELECTRIC CO-OPS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2722 EAST MCCARTY STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rgibson@healthforward.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 12:00 PM

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January 30th, 2024 Special Committee on Tax Reform Chair Rep. Ben Baker 201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 403-A Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Re: Support for House Bill 2142 — Income Tax deduction for Broadband Internet Expansion Grants Representative Baker and Members of the Committee: On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in support of House Bill 2142. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems. We support this legislation because it increases access to broadband for Missourians, both in rural and urban communities. Healthy, powerful, and inclusive communities require that all people have the access and knowledge required to use digital tools to participate and thrive in the modern digital economy. The ability and skills needed to use technology opens doors to telehealth, affordable housing and job opportunities. Ensuring equitable access to digital tools is a strategic priority for Health Forward's grantmaking and advocacy work. Access to our economy and to health now requires access to affordable digital tools and the skills to maximize them. In many ZIP codes, including our rural and urban areas, this access is limited by income and infrastructure. This year alone, we awarded 11 nonprofit organizations a total of \$275,300 in support of their work to advance digital inclusion (<https://healthforward.org/news/summer-2023-digital-access-grants/>). There is a significant need for increased access to high-speed internet and broadband services in the State of Missouri. According to information from the U.S. Census Bureau-National Telecommunications and Information Administration (2022), nearly 80% of Missourians fall into one of the populations (i.e: urban or rural regions) most acutely impacted by the digital divide; over 33% of Missourians lack a computer or tablet; and 18% of Missourians are completely disconnected from the internet (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates/partnerships/ntia.html>). Consequently, while programs such as the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) already exist to help residents gain access to broadband services through independent service providers, the cost associated with these programs still excludes many families. Even with the ACP's discounts, 1 Gbps/1Gbps monthly package plans generally range from \$90 to \$120. Additionally, monthly service costs for 100mbps/200mbps starts at \$60 dollars and can cost up to \$90 in some areas. Even the \$60 plan is not affordable for many older adults and families that live in rural areas. Any considerations that can make these programs more affordable by decreasing costs below \$90 and \$60, respectively, would increase that likelihood that more families can utilize these services. With funding for the ACP program set to expire in April 2024, there is a need for the Missouri legislature to explore long-term, sustainable cost reduction and affordability measures for broadband services; legislation such as this clearly supports these efforts. Consequently, Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote YES on HB 2142. Please feel free to reach out to me at rgibson@healthforward.org if you have any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully, Robert Gibson, M.S, M.P.H Impact Strategist - PolicyHealth Forward Foundation



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER: 267-259-7270	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION		TITLE: IMPACT STRATEGIST- POLICY	
ADDRESS: 2300 MAIN ST, SUITE 304			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL: rgibson@healthforward.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 8:35 PM	
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Special Committee on Tax Reform Chair Rep. Ben Baker 201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 403-A Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 Re: Support for House Bill 2142 — Income Tax deduction for Broadband Internet Expansion Grants
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Respectfully, Robert Gibson, M.S, M.P.H Impact Strategist - PolicyHealth Forward Foundation



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BROADBAND PROVIDERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1865			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2024 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: 1/30/2024 11:42 PM

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I am very opposed to this Bill and the use of Bad Tax-Credits that are misused and abused, sold for more than their value as they are a high commodity. This is wrong and a Bad Public Policy!