



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2165		DATE: 2/13/2024
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: CAROLINE GRACE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: carolinegrace@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 10:45 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HAKIMA PAYNE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: hakima@uzazivillage.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 9:19 PM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Missouri needs consumer friendly birth center regulations**



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HAKIMA PAYNE		PHONE NUMBER: 913-638-0716	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UZAZI VILLAGE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4232 TROOST AVE			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64110
EMAIL: hakima@uzazivillage.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 10:31 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Uzazi Village stands in support of updating Missouri Birth Center regulations.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE KELLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmkeller99@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 11:35 AM

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Given the closure of so many rural hospitals I think birthing centers provide needed support to families who chose to have children



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JUSTICE GATSON	PHONE NUMBER: 816-945-0841	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REALE JUSTICE NETWORK; MO-KAN BIPOC REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COALITION	TITLE: SOCIAL JUSTICE DOULA/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3940 VINEYARD RD		
CITY: KANSAS CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64130
EMAIL: realejustice17@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 3:01 PM

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Good afternoon. My name is Justice Gatson. I'm representing reproductive justice organizers in our state. As birthworkers, we are uniquely aware of the current perinatal and infant health crisis that we are in. Missouri is doing poorly in this area and ranks an embarrassing and deadly 43rd place nationally. One way to drive this number down is to allow birth centers to operate in the state of Missouri. We believe that families need every option available to have healthy and happy birth experiences. Please lend your support to open up new pathways for birthing families. Thanks for your time and attention. Best regards, Justice Gatson Social Justice Doula Executive Director



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KENDRA WYATT		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-8964	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NEW BIRTH COMPANY		TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 8509 NE 99TH ST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64157
EMAIL: kendra@newbirthcompany.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 7:30 AM	

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Dear Chairman Haden, I am submitting written testimony. I ask that Sarah Moe have the option to speak to my comments. Thank you.



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ADDRESS: 8509 NE 99TH ST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64157
EMAIL: kendra@newbirthcompany.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 7:33 AM	
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Tuesday February 13, 2024 To: Missouri Health Reform Committee Hearing Room 1 Dear Chairman Hayden & Committee Members, I am providing written testimony in support of HB 2165, a technical fix that enables DHS to modernize Missouri Birth Center regulations. Individual operators have valiantly attempted to operate under expensive and inaccurate surgical center building requirements. The result is Missouri has zero licensed Birth Centers serving zero MoHealthNet pregnant Members in the state of Missouri. Next door, Kansas has four licensed birth centers, including our licensed and accredited center in Overland Park, Kansas. We have been in-network with Mo HealthNet managed care for 14 years, serving families from 22 Missouri counties traveling hours to our center to access a natural childbirth facility. Certified Nurse Midwives risk assess patients throughout their pregnancies, successfully delivering over 3000 babies. Missouri's health ecosystem includes rural, peri-urban and large metropolitan communities. The Midwife Led Birth Center Model of Care adapts to varied locations and business models. Examples are a sole proprietor midwife in a rural religious community, a licensed birth center within an existing critical access hospital, to an FQHC sponsored or free-standing birth center with 350 deliveries a year. My apologies for not providing this testimony in person. Today, I am in Washington DC, providing testimony to the Defense Health Agency and CMS/ONC, reflecting the federal funding to increase utilization of American birth centers by Medicaid agencies. Please pass HB2165, a critical technical and pro-life fix, and enable DHS to update regulations such that Missouri birth centers can flourish and Missouri families can give birth in Missouri. I invite members of the legislature and administration to visit our birth center at your convenience. Sincerely, Kendra Wyatt, Missouri Citizen CEO, New Birth Company KDHE Licensed, CABC Accredited (m) 816-210-8964 kendra@newbirthcompany.com



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDSEY WILSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: OKUNSOLA M. AMADOU		PHONE NUMBER: 314-365-2695	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JAMAA BIRTH VILLAGE		TITLE: FOUNDER & CEO (MIDWIFE & DOULA)	
ADDRESS: 40 N FLORISSANT RD.			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63135
EMAIL: okunsola@jamaabirthvillage.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2024 11:31 PM	
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Jamaa Birth Village supports HB 2165. Birthing parents deserve access to freestanding birth centers for low-risk healthy births. Birth centers are not surgical or ambulatory centers and should not be categorized or treated as such.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAI GOMEZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gomezs@chsstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 10:01 AM
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I am writing today to ask you to support HB1918/HB2626. I am an employee at the Center for Hearing & Speech and I have seen first hand how access to communication is vital for the overall health of individuals. I have witnessed patients being isolated, depressed and suicidal because they cannot afford proper amplification. By supporting HB1918/HB2626 not only will you change peoples lives, but it will also help our economy in the long run.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAFEEQA SMALL		PHONE NUMBER: 214-209-9745	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UZAZI VILLAGE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 6700 RICKEY RD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64133
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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