



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2323</b>		DATE: <b>1/24/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 8:27 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DON BICKHAUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>doniibecky@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/20/2024 8:54 PM</b>
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I agree six years of age is good starting age for mandated school attendance.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL HARRIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>615-202-3579</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 485, 407 S. SIXTH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65205</b>
EMAIL: <b>mharris@msta.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 4:56 PM</b>	
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**MSTA adopted resolutions supports mandating the kindergarten attendance and the lowering of the minimum age for mandatory school attendance from age 7 to age 6.**



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

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARYTI JACKSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ecjackson622@yahoo.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 11:02 PM</b>

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

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 or two 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 of a child with special needs, the extra time of waiting to start formal education until the child was seven years old made a huge difference. Yet if this bill passed, we would not have had the option to wait until he was seven to start formal education. Because we did wait to start formal education, he was able to focus and develop on what he needed to and we can see the amazing progress that he has made. If we would have been forced to start education earlier, the results would have been very different than what we see today. This bill before you would have trampled my parental rights to decide when my child should start formal education. Parents have the option now to decide when to formal education. Please let parents to continue when to start their children in formal education and please vote NO on HB2323.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIELLE DENT-BREEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dani.christine@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 11:14 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am opposed to opening up RsMO 167.031 in order to mandate compulsory education at the age of six. 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 six. 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](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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIN MCGHEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emjoedan@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 11:58 PM</b>
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**I oppose the lowering of the compulsory age of attendance.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>Jaurie Wells</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jauriewells@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/22/2024 7:52 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**I am completely opposed to bills HB2177, HB2323, HB2125. LET CHILDREN BE CHILDREN!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER OLSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jennylynnwarren@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 11:53 AM</b>

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

I am writing in opposition to the lowering of the enrollment age for compulsory education. Parents and families have the right and the authority to direct the education of their children, and this should remain true in early childhood as well. It is not the governments place to dictate the lives of The People. We NEVER need more government control over our children. Please do not allow this egregious overstep of government to pass into law. With all due respect, I demand a NO vote on this bill.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIE BIRO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jaam1224@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/22/2024 7:09 AM</b>

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

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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA PANNETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>ARMORVINE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>lzpannett@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/22/2024 9:53 PM</b>
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Children should not be compelled to attend school at age 6.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SETH MARBLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>seth.marble@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 1:41 PM</b>

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

Committee Members, I respectfully submit my testimony in opposition to this bill. This bill and others like it have all the trappings of a “good intentions” bill and the stories around each of these bills are designed to pull at your heart strings, and yet at the same time they expand governmental reach and oversight. Please do not let yourself be swayed by the anecdotal arguments presented to you. These are often extreme and hyper sensationalized stories about individuals that are created to produce an emotional response. That emotional response then causes people to act in extreme ways, often to the detriment of many other people. Please also consider these bills assume The State is better suited and more capable of deciding what is best for a child. Is that really what we believe? Should The State really have that level of authority over a person and their children? Putting all good intentions aside you must admit that the above thought has some terrifying ramifications. As champions for small government, we must have the courage to stand up for the principles of small government. This bill would insert the State even deeper into individual families’ lives; a please that the government has no right to be. Please Vote AGAINST this bill. With Respect, Seth Marble



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHERYL SCHMIDT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>877-696-6343</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION, INC.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 261</b>			
CITY: <b>MARYVILLE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64468</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE LODEWEGEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3550 AMAZONAS</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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