



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2654		DATE: 2/20/2024	
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 11:58 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AVER YAKUBU		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: avyakubu@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 1:07 PM
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I am a maternal health expert and academic scholar. Research shows that support services in between doctor visits improves health outcomes. One of those ways is through doula support. To sustain this work sector requires equitable compensation. Here is a recent article I collaborated on discussing these details: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40501-023-00306-5>



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: BILL ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-3700
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 4712 COUNTRY CLUB DR.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2024 7:35 PM

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Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women and pregnant and postpartum people deserve access to full spectrum doula care.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ewardhome@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 10:04 AM
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Doula support during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period has been shown to be an effective best practice that can enhance the birthing experience, reduce complications, and improve outcomes for women and infants. Increasing access to doulas, particularly for Black families, is an essential component of addressing the high rates of maternal mortality in our state. I ask you to support this critical legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HAKIMA PAYNE		PHONE NUMBER: 913-638-0716	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UZAZI VILLAGE		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 4232 TROOST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64132
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JASMINE WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-441-6608	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI		TITLE: BLACK ORGANIZING PROGRAM LEAD	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: jasmine.williams@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 11:11 AM	

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

Doulas provide continuous emotional, physical, and informational support and guidance in different aspects of reproductive health, including support for pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people. Doulas serve as patient advocates, filling a critical gap in the health care system. Missouri’s maternal mortality rate is substantially worse than the national average, and it is especially dire for Black women, who are three to four times more likely than white women to die within a year of pregnancy. Increasing access to doulas is one intervention to address these stark disparities. The data supporting doula and pregnancy support care is substantial, and growing. Continuous presence of a doula or support personnel is one of the most effective tools to improve labor and delivery outcomes—a Cochrane meta-analysis of 12 trials and more than 15,000 women demonstrated that the presence of continuous one-on-one support during labor and delivery was associated with improved patient satisfaction and a statistically significant reduction in the rate of cesarean delivery. Further, Doula assistance reduces the likelihood of low birth weights and maternal and infant complications and increases the likelihood of initiating breastfeeding significantly. In addition to firsthand accounts from Black maternal health advocates and storytellers, including members and leaders of the Missouri Momnibus collective, studies have documented differential mistreatment of Black women during childbirth. The National Health Law Project highlights several of these studies, and again, findings underscore that access to full spectrum doula care is one way to address and mitigate these harmful experiences. Planned Parenthood Advocates supports policies that expand accessibility, availability, and affordability of doula care and pregnancy support personnel. We underscore to this committee that the work ahead should continue to ensure doulas have robust input on policy development and implementation, and come from a broad variety of training backgrounds and care models. It is also critical that policies guarantee reimbursement that amounts to a sustainable living wage. We are grateful to Rep. Bosley for seeking the input and feedback from communities most impacted by Maternal Mortality, and organizations and coalitions representing and led by these communities, including the Missouri Black Maternal Health Momnibus Collective. We look forward to ongoing work to expand meaningful access to doula care and pregnancy support for all people in Missouri and the consistent and meaningful input of doula and pregnancy support experts, as well as their patients, as these policies are shaped. Thank you Jasmine Williams



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN ALFERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-667-1093	
REPRESENTING: SSM HEALTH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 10101 WOODFIELD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 9:13 AM
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Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health Doula care can improve health outcomes and lead to more satisfying birthing experiences



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAKISHA REDDITT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lakisha@virtuouslybearthed.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 5:06 PM
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I am in support of HB2654. I am a doula and look forward to being able to service individuals who are receiving Medicaid. Doulas are an integral part of the healthcare team, ensuring their clients are educated, supported, advocated for, and in tune with themselves and their providers.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LORA GULLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-565-2757	
REPRESENTING: GENERATE HEALTH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5501 DELMAR BLVD, STE 240			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63033
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: skalamahree@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 3:36 PM
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Doula care is a proven, cost-effective way to improve pregnancy outcomes. By providing emotional and physical support to pregnant mothers they help bring healthy babies into this world, and lessen the risks of pregnancy.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE BUSSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melbusse7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 6:20 PM
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I am writing in support of house bills 2654. Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women; can improve health outcomes and lead to better birthing experiences. It is also a cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MURIEL SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-624-0888
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 6141 ETZEL AVENUE		
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63133
EMAIL: msmith@stldiaperbank.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 4:08 PM

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Doulas are trained professionals who offer emotional, physical, and educational support to pregnant women, those experiencing labor, and those who have recently given birth. It is a profession that has become increasingly valuable to pregnant women. A study found that maternal and infant health mortality rates are high, even among wealthy Black families. A study also found that doula care can improve maternal health outcomes and birth experiences. However, most insurance companies do not include doulas in their coverage because they are not medical professionals and are not considered "essential care". But for many women, Doula's are essential to them have a better birth and health outcome for them and their child. I support this bill to reimburse doula's for their very important work, just like doctors and nurses provide to pregnant women.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RI'ENNA BOYD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rienna.boyd@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The Maternal Health Crisis is a crucial issue in the state of Missouri and across the United States. In the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis, expanding and diversifying the maternal health workforce and increasing social and economic support for birthing people are cited as two goals to contribute to addressing the disparities present in the U.S. One way to address these goals is through increasing accessibility of doulas for birthing individuals. Doulas are workers who can assist birthing individuals before, during, and after pregnancy. Perinatal doulas have been associated with a range of positive health outcomes for both mothers and infants. Studies have shown that doula support can lead to reduced rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, and cesarean sections, as well as increased rates of breastfeeding initiation and emotional well-being. This support has been particularly effective for Black patients and offers a strategy for addressing maternal racial disparities. In 2021, across the US, 64% of births born to Black birthing individuals were paid by Medicaid, compared to 28.1% of White birthing individuals. In 2022, in the state of Missouri, about 39% of births were funded by Medicaid. Given the large number of Black births paid by Medicaid, the extreme maternal health disparities in the United States, and the possibility of doulas to address these disparities in health outcomes, doula reimbursement must be active in the state of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 4:52 PM
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All pregnant women should have options for their medical care. Doula care can improve health outcomes, is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health. And may also be an alternative to those whose religious beliefs prevent them from using a medical facility.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RONDA SMITH BRANCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-3230403	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO MOMNIBUS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5501 DELMAR			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RYANA PARKS-SHAW		PHONE NUMBER: 816-513-6521	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY COUNCIL KC MO		TITLE: MAYOR PRO TEM	
ADDRESS: 414 E 12TH ST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64106
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RYANA PARKS-SHAW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Ryanaparksshaw@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 7:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please support this bill as Missouri should reimburse for doula services as they offer invaluable support to expectant mothers, leading to improved birth outcomes, reduced rates of interventions, increased breastfeeding success, and enhanced emotional well-being during the childbirth experience.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 142585			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 2:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-826-1274
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS		TITLE: LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: sgh@molobby.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 2:31 PM
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Support



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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: 2/16/2024 7:42 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEN HOUCEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HENDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE: GENERAL COUNSEL AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 220 E HIGH ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mike@moinsurancecoalition.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 11:49 AM	
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The Missouri Insurance Coalition opposes HB 2654 to the extent it imposes obligations on commercial insurance (see, e.g., sections 376.1213 and 376.1760).



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA K. GROW, M.D.		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: growmd@fidmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 8:58 AM
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Dear Chairman Haden and Members of the Committee: HB 2654 contains the "Missouri Doula Reimbursement Act" starting on page 13. Within this act are at least 10 references to either "pregnant individual", "laboring individual", or "childbearing individual." Why are these terms being used?
Respectfully, Pamela K. Grow, M.D.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA RHODES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: i_am_a_composer@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 7:12 AM

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I have concerns over the current language in the bill, and have shared my concerns with the committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTIAN KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
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COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANICE BATES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmbwmb11@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 8:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have concerns over the language in this bill. I will send my concerns via email.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2654		DATE: 2/20/2024	
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY COSTELLO		PHONE NUMBER: 417-832-9222	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE DOULA FOUNDATION		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 1901 E MEADOWMERE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2654		DATE: 2/20/2024
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2654		DATE: 2/20/2024
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROKETIA SANDERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: roketiasanders@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 4:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have concerns over the language in the bill and have emailed my concerns to the committee.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2654		DATE: 2/20/2024
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432
REPRESENTING: AMERICA's HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		