



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2696		DATE: 3/13/2024
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: 3/13/2024 11:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill and its intension. But aren't there State Services and Programs in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education already tackling these Needs and Services to children who Test and are evaluated for NEED? We NEED to get children help and assistance as soon as possible when identified, so they get a head-start!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE KENT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: chtrixie@me.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 7:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Christine Kent, I am an Early Childhood Special Educator in the Pattonville School district. I have taught children ages 3-5 for over 20 years. During this time, I have transitioned many children from ECSE (early childhood special education) to kindergarten over the years, so my experience with the YCDD diagnosis and its age limits is extensive. Studies have shown that many students who test out of the YCDD diagnosis in kindergarten need IEP services later. When a student leaves early childhood they are entering a new environment with less support, a faster pace, and a larger number of students. These changes cause students to begin to regress on the skills previously gained in ECSE and limit their ability to gain the new skills needed to succeed in elementary school. These delays and lack of new skills lead the student back into receiving even more IEP services than they need in the past. However, if the YCDD age limit was increase those same students could continue getting the services they need to maintain their current goals and get additional help with learning to master the new skills. The extended services would provide students with early intervention needed to learn foundation skills that will allow many of them to continue their education without needing services in the future.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CRYSTAL LAY		PHONE NUMBER: 214-585-2474	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREDDIE FORD FAMILY FOUNDATION		TITLE: BOARD MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 9621 OLIVE BOULEVARD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DELORA SCAGGS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELYN M. SAMPLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-8494	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 5000 MAPLE LEAF DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-289-4303	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PARAQUAD		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: joxford@paraquad.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 3:33 PM	

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Paraquad would like to go on record in support of this legislation, and we thank Rep. Steinhoff for sponsoring it. HB 2696 could strengthen the safety net for kids with developmental disabilities to receive needed services as they try to narrow down a specific disability category. Presently there are capacity issues related to obtaining a medical diagnosis. Many wait for more than a year, and children's early brain development is so important to what their lifetime possibilities will be. Early intervention is crucial. Paraquad is one of Missouri's 22 centers for independent living, advocating for equity and independence for people with disabilities through services, partnerships, education, and advocacy. We provide five core services: peer counseling, advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, and transitions (from nursing home to community, from youth to post-secondary life, etc.).



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Jhstlny@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 9:28 AM

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Common sense. It's a diagnosis. Insure there are qualifications and certification of those diagnosing WITH check and balance / accountability.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE CHANEY FAUGHN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAMI PARIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kparis@cpsk12.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 10:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a school psychologist working in the public schools for 21 years, I stand in strong support of extending continuing eligibility for students eligible for special education services under the YCDD category through the federally allowable age of 9 years. Currently, students cannot continue to receive support under this category after their Kindergarten year; students must either qualify for another disability category or be dismissed from services. I can attest that the developmental window of the Kindergarten year is often insufficient for either 1) for developmental delays to have been remediated or 2) for the student to have had sufficient exposure to educational opportunities (both social and academic) to adequately consider other disability categories such as learning disability or emotional disturbance, among others. Many times, we find that students who, despite still having educational need, have to be dismissed from services by the end of their Kindergarten year due to not meeting eligibility criteria for another category. This can be incredibly frustrating for families. Extending eligibility for YCDD to be consistent with federal allowances allows the student 1) more time to continue with services if needed to remediate developmental delays and 2) more time/exposure to school curriculum/interventions to adequately ascertain if the student meets the criteria for another disability category.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LARA WAKEFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wakefieldconsultationservices@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 7:40 AM

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

My name is Dr. Lara Wakefield and I'm advocate in private practice who assists families in Missouri navigate the confusing process of special education. I have around 400 clients across 112 school districts. Over the past 15 years, I've seen about 50% of the children who were initially eligible for services in the YCDD category, be dismissed from services altogether during their kindergarten year. Within about 2-3 years later, the majority of those children end up back on an IEP in another eligibility category after years of failure, frustration, trauma, suspensions, and multiple restraints. If they could have continued to be served with appropriate interventions and accommodations, many of these issues could have been prevented. Other states who have YCDD going to age 9, have higher graduation rates for students with IEPs than Missouri and this may be one of the protective factors that allows for that to occur. Please support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY KELLY HARRIGAN, ED.S., NCSP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kharrigan@cpsk12.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 1:51 PM
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As a Nationally Certified School Psychologist with more than 15 years experience working in Missouri, this change is long overdue. We are one of the few states that requires YCDD to end at Kindergarten eligibility. Many students miss out on critical early intervention because our State does not allow YCDD services into early elementary. Changing this age criteria would allow more children to receive the supports in the earliest years of elementary education and support a decrease in special education needs in later elementary years. Please consider the good this change could make for children across the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELINDA FELTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 8:51 AM	
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The Association believes the bill will help provide early intervention services that students need. The Association supports the bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 4:42 PM	

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

My name is Robyn Schelp and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Kids Win Missouri. We advocate on issues of child well-being including child care and early education, child welfare, and healthcare. Kids Win Missouri supports HB 2696 and appreciates the work Rep. Steinhoff has done to help children get the educational services they need. Currently in Missouri, a child between the ages of 3-6 may qualify for special education services under the category of Young Child with a Developmental Delay (YCDD). The category of YCDD allows children with developmental delays to receive services without their delayed development being associated with a specific disability diagnosis. During their kindergarten year, students receiving services under YCDD must be identified with a disability to continue receiving services. The federal government gives states the autonomy to determine how old a child may be to qualify under YCDD, capping it at the age of 9. Many states allow students up to the age of 8- or 9-years of age to qualify under the category of YCDD. By extending the YCDD category from age 6 to age 7, students will have one additional year to receive services due to a developmental delay while giving the school more time to determine if the delay is a result of disability. Some disabilities are hard to diagnose in a young child. Allowing a 6-yr-old student who does not qualify under a disability category to continue services under YCDD would prevent a gap in services while giving time to determine if an official diagnosis is appropriate. It also prevents the risk of misdiagnosing a student so that he or she may continue needed services. It is important that all children have the support they need to access an appropriate education. This bill protects young children from losing services before they have either caught up to their peers or have qualified with a disability diagnosis under the IDEA. Please support HB 2696 and the many children in Missouri who need additional help due to developmental delays.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARI LAWSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE OPPERMAN, PMHNP TRAUMA & ADDICTION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: SuzannesMentalHealthWellness@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 10:13 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACEY BLOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 865-230-0177	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1205 ELLA COURT			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER J SCARFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jeniscarff@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 5:41 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BILL GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1865			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 12:00 AM	
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