



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2750		DATE: 4/29/2024	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy			
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@mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 11:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in full Support of this Legislation and making sure that Prescription Labels are made available to all Missourians, regardless of their status and to ensure Drug Safety and that Patients are full aware and educated in taking the Medications as Prescribed. This is a wonderful Bill that I Fully Support.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARL TIEMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tiemann3@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/27/2024 6:39 AM
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The blind or visually impaired should have the same right to be able to prepare their medicine unassisted and using these labels will help us in doing so



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHIP HAILEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: chiphaley52@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/26/2024 6:48 PM

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Support HB 2750 Establishes the Accessible Prescription Labels Act
 Committee: Health and Mental Health Policy
 The Missouri Council of the Blind strongly believes that blind and visually impaired people should be able to independently access their prescription labels without any sighted assistance. With today's modern technology this makes it very possible for those in the blind community to be able to distinguish their medications as well as obtain other pertinent information regarding their prescriptions such as dosage and how often they are to take each prescription. HB 2750 means to empower blind individuals to achieve independence, purpose, dignity, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment and pride. It further affirms access to personal prescriptions as a fundamental necessity in overcoming one's disability. The Missouri Council of the Blind respectfully asks that you please become a supporter of this concept. MCB would also like to thank Representative Yolonda Young for her sponsorship of this bill. Chip Hailey
 Missouri Council of the Blind president



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHANNA JEREMIAH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: johannajeremiah70@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/26/2024 5:26 PM

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As a single visually impaired individual I would like to state the importance of HB 2750. Imagine being a single visually impaired person living alone but you are unable to read the labels on your perscriptions so must bother a family member or neighbor to help sort and dispense your personal medications. Personally it is very difficult for me to read the standard labels on my medications, with the use of accessible labeling it would make my life and the lives of many visually impaired and blind individual Missourians much more conveyent, safe and independent. Additionally it is a health and safety issue if a label is not able to be read the name of the drug, dosage and other info is necessary to ensure safe dispensing. I believe that medicinal labeling should be made accessible to all Missourians equally.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIM REESE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kreese7034@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/27/2024 10:38 AM
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I am with Missouri Council of the Blind. We endorse HB 2750. Having HB 2750 accessible prescription labels is a significant step towards maintaining independence and managing health effectively within the blind community. These labels not only aid in refilling prescriptions but also provide crucial information about medication. Ensuring safety and informed decision making. It is crucial to have these resources available to empower individuals to take control of their health care journey. I also would like to thank Representative Young for her dedication to champion the blind community. And advocating for initiative like HB 2750. Her support and efforts are instrumental in advancing accessibility and improving the quality of life in the blind community.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WAYNE HOPPER JR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: polycoat212@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/27/2024 7:37 AM
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I believe that all prescription medications should be accessible to everyone including the blind community. Correct labeling and accessibility with today's technology is only a click away. The main goal should always be accessibility and safety for everyone as well as a cost-effective and sustainable process for all parties involved.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARLA GLASS		PHONE NUMBER: 941-702-6602	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EN-VISION AMERICA		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH LIAISON	
ADDRESS: 211 FELMLEY DR			
CITY: NORMAL		STATE: IL	ZIP: 61761
EMAIL: sglass@envisionamerica.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/25/2024 3:34 PM	

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

Dear Chair Stephens and Members of the Committee, I have worked with En-Vision America for 19 years and heard countless stories of patients who have made medication errors due to their vision impairment and spoken to case managers and pharmacists relieved to find a solution to help their patients safely manage their medications. Our ScriptAbility software and labeling solutions, which include audible, large print Braille, translation and safety labels, are used throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. En-Vision America received a Missouri RxCares grant to assist independent pharmacies in providing ScripTalk to their blind and visually impaired patients. We were given enough money to set up 30 pharmacies and do education and outreach. After reaching out via mail, email and phone to every independent pharmacy in Missouri. 21 pharmacies have taken advantage of the grant, 5 are considering it, 70 patients have been assisted, and 63 pharmacies declined. The majority of declining pharmacies said they would not invest any time or resources into providing accessibility measures for just a few patients, even if the grant covered the set up and first year of expenses. The ADA and federal labeling laws are fairly ambiguous when it comes to accessibility in the pharmacy as well as using modern technologies. What they are clear about is that providing accessibility is a cost of doing business like overhead lighting, drive thru windows, automatic doors, handicap parking, bathroom grab bars, none of which a pharmacy ever considers the cost of on a per-patient-usage basis like they are want to do with accessible prescription labels. Most of us will also agree that the billion dollar pharma industry needs a more equitable distribution of profits, but we are not going to solve the problem by ignoring the basic rights of our most vulnerable populations. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there are no federal laws mandating how to provide consumer prescription labels (only on the manufacturer wholesale labels); state statutes and rules need to give concrete guidance on what Missouri patients have a right to ask for and what pharmacists can be expected to provide when it comes to accessible prescription labels. I am happy to answer any questions the committee has regarding accessible prescription labeling in general or our solutions in particular. Regards, Sharla Glass
 Public Policy & Community Outreach Liaison
 En-Vision America



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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: 4/27/2024 8:35 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MARGIE BARILLA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CORNERSTONE TREATMENT CENTER		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: info@barillaconsulting.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/26/2024 2:33 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER: 202-744-5190	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ANIMAL POLICY GROUP		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 5608			
CITY: PAGOSA SPRINGS		STATE: CO	ZIP: 81147
EMAIL: scott@animalpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/28/2024 10:11 PM	

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

April 28, 2024 Missouri General Assembly House Health and Mental Health Policy Dear Chair Stephens and Members of the Committee, Animal Policy Group (APG) represents over 85,000 veterinary professionals across the country, as well as leaders in animal health and pet care services, including veterinary pharmacies. We would like to offer two amendments to HB2750 – remove the requirement to notify each person and provide a board-approved waiver process. The requirement to notify each person that labeling for the visually impaired would be a burden on pharmacies, especially considering the small number of visually impaired customers. States have been removing this requirement from similar bills, for example, Virginia HB516, which passed in late March. Colorado is also close to passing HB1115, which was introduced without that requirement. We encourage the committee to remove this language, as reflected below. [remove][3. A pharmacy shall notify each person to whom a prescription drug is dispensed that an accessible prescription label is available to the person upon request at no additional cost.] 4. If a person informs a pharmacy that the person identifies as a person who is blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print-disabled, the pharmacy shall provide to the person an accessible prescription label affixed to the bottle that: Secondly, we encourage the committee to include language authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to approve waivers from this requirement, when appropriate. The Colorado bill includes a waiver process for small pharmacies that we would like to expand to include any pharmacy, and we encourage a similar process in Missouri. There are a variety of situations where a waiver may be warranted, especially if the prescription can easily be transferred to another pharmacy without any inconvenience to the person. This may not be possible for traditional pharmacies, but it would be for online specialty pharmacies. Veterinary pharmacies will have to be able to accommodate this request for a wide variety of species, which could make compliance difficult. We are not asking for an exemption, only for the board to be given the authority to provide a waiver, if warranted. We appreciate the committee’s time and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance. Sincerely, Scott Young Vice President, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs scott@animalpolicygroup.com