



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 248		DATE: 3/12/2025	
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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLYN WORKMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-302-4542	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DRIVER SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MODSEA)		TITLE: EXECUTIVE BOARD	
ADDRESS: 16 FALLING LEAF DR.			
CITY: LAKE ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63367
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	
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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: 3/12/2025 11:55 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON KOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 220 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL E HOORMANN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-496-0110	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MODSEA		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 6911 EVERGREEN LOOP			
CITY: LESLIE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63056
EMAIL: carolhoormann60@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 10:14 AM

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Driver Education for our teens in Missouri is necessary! As a retired driver education teacher and driving instructor I am constantly being asked why Driver Education isn't mandatory in Missouri. Teens do not have the opportunity to learn about driving in many of our rural counties and urban areas many cannot afford to pay for the opportunity. We need to provide these teens with an opportunity to learn a life long skill that will provided them with the ability to achieve a skill that will lead to independence and obtain meaningful employment by learning to drive - they will be able to gain employment. There are many jobs and careers that involve driving and without a license they are limited to getting to a job, driving for a company, transportation, etc. Furthermore - we need to teach these teens the rules of the road, defensive driving, and safety for all roadway users and passengers. Car Crashes for teens aged 15-19 are the number 1 killer of teens-that doesn't account for the injuries incurred-we need to get driver education back into the curriculum for the safety and health of all roadway users.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE KENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: christinekentpta@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 4:22 PM
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As a parent of a teen who did not receive drivers education in High School, I can testify to the anxieties not only endured by his parents but also of our son. Despite our many efforts to ease him into the on hand practice of driving since he was 16 years of age, he still did not feel comfortable operating such a huge piece of machinery until he was 20 years of age when he was forced into finding another mode of transportation other than the public bus and the taxi services of his parents and companies like Uber to get to work. Since the bus routes were being cut and services like Uber took too much from his paycheck and his hours didn't quite match his parents. Being around his peers in school experiencing the same education on road safety may have expedited his skills and confidence of operating a vehicle. But most of all he would have accumulated more hours with an instructor on the rules of the road and why we do certain safety checks while on the road. Even with being licensed to drive for over a year now, he sticks to back roads and avoids highways due to all of the other drivers that may not have been offered driver's education or caregiver instruction but simply needed to drive out of necessity over safety. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, who are overrepresented in fatal crashes. Sadly, Missouri teens are not immune from this peril. Young drivers ages 16 to 20 across the state account for just 6 percent of licensed drivers, yet in 2023, they accounted for 15 percent of the fatal crashes. What's more, Missouri's young driver crash involvement rate has been climbing steadily over the last five years, and it now far exceeds the rate of most neighboring states. One of the ways that teens can gain the valuable knowledge they need to be safer drivers, however, is sorely lacking in Missouri. Only 7 percent of the state's public high schools offer driver education during the school year. Once a mainstay of high school, driver education has been eliminated from the vast majority of school curriculums. It's not an exaggeration to say that lives are at stake. I'm writing to urge you to allow this legislation, it's clear that driver education has real benefits for students. HB248 would be a step in the right direction to making our streets safer not only for teen drivers but for all road users. I hope you'll join me in supporting this important measure. This bill has the potential to save countless lives today and into the future. Our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID KUNCE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-517-6427	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AUTO CLUB ENTERPRISES (AAA - AUTO CLUB OF MISSOURI)		TITLE: PUBLIC AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 12901 N 40 D			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DEAN TRACHSEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-960-0362	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AUTO CLUB OF MISSOURI		TITLE: REGULATORY AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 12911 N. FORTY DR.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEANNA RHODES-WIDMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENNIS HEINZE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-397-2058	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DRIVER EDUCATION COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 12901 N. FORTY DRIVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: heinze.dennis@ace.aaa.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 8:16 AM	
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Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, who are overrepresented in fatal crashes. Sadly, Missouri teens are not immune from this peril. Young drivers ages 16 to 20 across the state account for just 6 percent of licensed drivers, yet in 2023, they accounted for 15 percent of the fatal crashes. What's more, Missouri's young driver crash involvement rate has been climbing steadily over the last five years, and it now far exceeds the rate of most neighboring states. One of the ways that teens can gain the valuable knowledge they need to be safer drivers, however, is sorely lacking in Missouri. Only 7 percent of the state's public high schools offer driver education during the school year. Once a mainstay of high school, driver education has been eliminated from the vast majority of school curriculums. Reading, writing and arithmetic are important subjects for students, but so too is driver education. It's not an exaggeration to say that lives are at stake. Fortunately, there is a solution. HB248, sponsored by Rep. Rodger Reedy, would reintroduce driver education topics to health classes in Missouri's high schools. At minimal cost, the measure would require the state Board of Education to implement curriculum that would educate teens about safe driving practices. I urge you to allow this legislation to have a vote on the House Floor this session. States that have evaluated their driver education programs have identified their effectiveness at helping keep students safe. For instance, a comparison of the driving records of nearly 95,000 teens in Oregon found a 4.3 percent lower incidence of collisions for teens who took driver education compared to those who had not. And a study that followed more than 150,000 teen drivers over eight years in Nebraska found that young drivers who had not completed driver education were 75 percent more likely to get a traffic ticket, and more importantly, 24 percent more likely to be involved in a fatal or injury crash. It's unquestionably clear that driver education has real benefits for students. HB248 would be a step in the right direction to making our streets safer not only for teen drivers but for all road users. I hope you'll join me in supporting this important measure. This bill has the potential to save countless lives in Missouri today and into the future. Our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HUGH SHARE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sharecycle08@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 12:04 PM
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Dear Rep. Lewis, Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, who are overrepresented in fatal crashes. Sadly, Missouri teens are not immune from this peril. Young drivers ages 16 to 20 across the state account for just 6 percent of licensed drivers, yet in 2023, they accounted for 15 percent of the fatal crashes. What's more, Missouri's young driver crash involvement rate has been climbing steadily over the last five years, and it now far exceeds the rate of most neighboring states. One of the ways that teens can gain the valuable knowledge they need to be safer drivers, however, is sorely lacking in Missouri. Only 7 percent of the state's public high schools offer driver education during the school year. Once a mainstay of high school, driver education has been eliminated from the vast majority of school curriculums. It's not an exaggeration to say that lives are at stake. Fortunately, there is a solution. HB248, sponsored by Rep. Rodger Reedy, would reintroduce driver education topics to health classes in Missouri's high schools. At minimal cost, the measure would require the state Board of Education to implement curriculum that would educate teens about the rules of the road and safe driving practices. I'm writing to urge you to allow this legislation, which was referred to the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, to have a vote on the House Floor this session. States that have evaluated their driver education programs have identified their effectiveness at helping keep students safe. For instance, a comparison of the driving records of nearly 95,000 teens in Oregon found a 4.3 percent lower incidence of collisions for teens who took driver education compared to those who had not. And a study that followed more than 150,000 teen drivers over eight years in Nebraska found that young drivers who had not completed driver education were 75 percent more likely to get a traffic ticket, and more importantly, 24 percent more likely to be involved in a fatal or injury crash. It's clear that driver education has real benefits for students. HB248 would be a step in the right direction to making our streets safer not only for teen drivers but for all road users. I hope you'll join me in supporting this important measure. This bill has the potential to save countless lives today and into the future. Our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOE WIDER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-536-7512	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM OF ROADRIDERS, INC.		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 2319 HEIDE LANE			
CITY: NAPOLEON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64074
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 222A MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 11:48 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NICHOLAS CHABARRIA		PHONE NUMBER: 708-269-1667	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF MISSOURI (AAA)		TITLE: PUBLIC AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 12901 N. FORTY DR.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH MORAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: moran43022@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 8:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a public school teacher and mother of a new driver, I am strongly in favor of schools offering a drivers education course that will result in student drivers who are aware, confident, and informed about the rules of the road.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE BLAKLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-202-9745	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MSTA & ROLLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS		TITLE: VICE-PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 1360 SOEST ROAD			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY SHEPHERD		PHONE NUMBER: 636-240-5009	
REPRESENTING: ABATE FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 500 HWY P			
CITY: O FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: abatemo@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2025 2:20 PM

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With fatal accidents on the rise it's time to get drivers better educated. Young and first time drivers have a higher rate of accidents and fatal than surrounding States. It's beyond time for us to get more safety measures going.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW BENNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bennenattor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2025 10:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Driver education in Missouri Schools sounds like a great idea. Students should have access to high-quality instruction from high-quality educators to help keep people and roads safe across our state. The issue with this legislation is that it has not been thought through and doesn't seem to understand how schools or curricula work. Health courses in high school are one of the most important classes our students will take. It helps them understand their bodies, thoughts, emotions, and how to keep themselves happy, healthy, and under self-control. An attempt to force a whole new curriculum into something that already has substantial criteria and goals is a misguided effort. I believe the better alternative would be to require this as a separate course altogether or require health to be a years-long course. Doubling the requirements for a health course without increasing the amount of time required will only put more people at risk as I believe many of the topics will be brushed over instead of thoughtfully introduced and practiced.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY SCARLETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ashley.desandre@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2025 11:45 AM
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As a Health and Physical Education teacher in the State of Missouri, I know how hard our teachers work to engage students in their learning by creating exciting lesson plans. We are proud of the work that we do, especially to show that our class is relevant and important to our scholar's lives. We are not glorified recess. We are not just playing games. We are not old school driver's ed teachers. We need to get away from this type of education that is no longer appropriate for school. Driver Education standards are no longer seen in Missouri educational standards. They have not been updated since the late 90s / early 2000s. It was only offered as an additional credit(s), such as an elective. A student typically took it to qualify for the insurance discount if you successfully completed a course. From the DESE website: <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/drivers-education> "Driver Education - Driver Education is not a course required by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Many schools and districts offer it, however, as a special service to their students and community." In addition, the amount of money this would require would be a burden on the districts as it relates to specific cars, training and coursework for teachers to be certified and a curriculum. We are health and physical educators who follow national and state standards. Missouri DESE states: a "comprehensive school health education should address the National Health Education Standards and include curricula for students that incorporate a variety of topics such as the ones listed below": (<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/health-physical-education>)• Alcohol, tobacco, vaping, opioids and other drug awareness• Healthy eating and nutrition• Social, emotional, and mental health• Personal health and wellness• Physical activity• Safety and injury prevention• Sexual health• Violence prevention These health topics need to be covered and are assessed, so it is imperative that they take priority. In addition, Missouri legislative mandates that teachers must cover and assess other topics including: House Bill 501, Revised Statute 170.048, Senate Bill 711, House Bill 739 and Senate Bill 681 (170.307). With over 30 pages of health education standards to teach, there simply is not enough room or time to teach all that we need to. I know from experience and what is best for my students that driver's education does NOT belong in the health curriculum. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL COX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: carolyn.ccox2933@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2025 3:41 PM
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We already have Health and Family Education Academic Performance Standards for Grades 9-12: The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), pursuant to Section 160.527, RSMo, developed grades 9-12 academic performance standards and written curriculum frameworks relating to the one-half unit of credit of Health and Family Education to be implemented for the 2024-25 school year and all subsequent school years. Emphasis of the new frameworks was placed on behavioral health relating to the causes of morbidity and mortality of youth, chronic disease management, and parenting skills associated with optimal family health. The workgroup comprised representatives from DESE, educators in Health Education and Family and Consumer Sciences in grades 9-12, and organizations with relevant expertise in public health, parenting and social services that convened to develop materials. <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/health-and-family-education-academic-performance-standards-2> There are 30 pages of standards to teach/assess – in .5 credit course!!!!!!

Although I would like to see Driver's Education as a stand-alone course in MO High Schools, as I've taught the course [Range, Road, Classroom in the state of PA]... There is NO ROOM IN THE INN in Health Education Class!!!!!! In addition - THERE ARE ALSO THESE MANDATES YOU ALL VOTED FOR THAT HEALTH TEACHERS MUST COVER/ASSESS:

- 2018- House Bill 501 - Sex education mandates
- The bill outlines what can be taught in sex ed and requires that we develop a system to allow students to opt out of any/all sex ed instruction.
- 2018- Revised Statute 170.048 - Youth Suicide Awareness
- We currently utilize the CHADs program and share this with counseling
- 2018- Senate Bill 711 - Students will receive hands-only CPR training while in high school.
- This bill also requires choking training (Heimlich)
- The bill only requires a 30 min video training but we require students to show skills
- 2019 - House Bill 739 - Instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to recognize and report sexual abuse (starting on page 6)
- The bill does not state explicitly that this content must be taught in health, but we could not identify another avenue to teach the required mandates to all students.
- Guidance and Training Materials - Recognize, Report, Action, Resources
- Combined with sex ed normally due to content and process to opt-out
- 2022 - Senate Bill 681 (170.307)- Mental Health Awareness Training
- This bill requires that mental health awareness training shall be given during a pupil's four years of high school.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER CRAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: crain.heather@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 7:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Heather Crain and I am a 20 year veteran health and physical educator in the state of Missouri. I would encourage legislators to oppose this bill for many reasons. I believe if you look at the quality health curriculums across the state, you will find the subject matter of these curriculums has invaluable benefits to students readying themselves to graduate and navigating their way into adulthood. Examples of this in curriculum include disease awareness and prevention, the importance of self - exams to prevent reproductive cancers, nutrition and nutritional deficiencies and the effects they have on the human body, mental health and wellness, stress management, organizational strategies to alleviate stress in higher education and careers, family well-being, sexual health and healthy relationships, communication strategies as well as individual and personal safety. With all of these beneficial topics that have lifelong relevancy to our students, it would be detrimental to send them out into the world without this foundational knowledge that many of us learned in the educational setting. Please vote no to allow drivers education to replace health education credit in our schools. This would be detrimental to the future health, well-being and safety of our children. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 248		DATE: 3/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JORDAN ADALENE BUFKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jordanlewis0623@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2025 3:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in opposition to the bill because this may require schools, who do not have an already standing Drivers Ed course, to add one into health if they cannot make a stand alone course. I agree that Drivers Ed is important and I do believe it should be a course in high school just not with the potential for it to go into a .5 high school health class. As a current Health teacher, we have so many performance standards and legislative mandates per DESE and the state of Missouri that we have to get through. There would be no room to add in Drivers Ed. We barely have enough time as it is. This also places pressures on smaller school districts who would likely be forced into placing it in their health curriculum due to staffing, budgets, etc. Plus, Drivers Ed is not taught as a part of HPE education programs- it would be an add on that pre-service teachers would have to do and that current teachers would have to go back and take.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLY BRUNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kkwalsh15@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2025 10:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We already have Health and Family Education Academic Performance Standards for Grades 9-12: The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), pursuant to Section 160.527, RSMo, developed grades 9-12 academic performance standards and written curriculum frameworks relating to the one-half unit of credit of Health and Family Education to be implemented for the 2024-25 school year and all subsequent school years. Emphasis of the new frameworks was placed on behavioral health relating to the causes of morbidity and mortality of youth, chronic disease management, and parenting skills associated with optimal family health. The workgroup comprised representatives from DESE, educators in Health Education and Family and Consumer Sciences in grades 9-12, and organizations with relevant expertise in public health, parenting and social services that convened to develop materials. (<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/health-and-family-education-academic-performance-standards-2>) There are 30 pages of Health Education standards to teach and assess Grades 9-12 – in a .5 credit course! There is NO ROOM in Health Education Class! There is no time in the curriculum – unless Health Education becomes a 1 credit course! Driver Education Certification requires 12 additional credit hours of coursework. Few individuals teaching health education will meet these requirements. This would add to an already heavy course workload for students pursuing a degree to teach health education and/or physical education. FROM MO DESE: Comprehensive school health education should address the National Health Education Standards and include curricula for students that incorporate a variety of topics such as the ones listed below: (<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/health-physical-education>) • Alcohol, tobacco, vaping, opioids and other drug awareness • Healthy eating and nutrition • Social, emotional, and mental health • Personal health and wellness • Physical activity • Safety and injury prevention • Sexual health • Violence prevention THOSE HEALTH TOPICS NEED TO BE COVERED and ASSESSED AND THERE ARE ALSO THESE ADDITIONAL MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE MANDATES TEACHERS MUST COVER/ASSESS: 2018- House Bill 501 - Sex education mandates. The bill outlines what can be taught in sex ed and requires that we develop a system to allow students to opt out of any/all sex ed instruction. 2018- Revised Statute 170.048 - Youth Suicide Awareness. We currently utilize the CHADs program and share this with counseling. 2018- Senate Bill 711 - Students will receive hands-only CPR training while in high school. This bill also requires choking training (Heimlich). The bill only requires a 30 min video training but we require students to show skills. 2019 - House Bill 739 - Instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to recognize and report sexual abuse (starting on page 6). The bill does not state explicitly that this content must be taught in health, but we could not identify another avenue to teach the required mandates to all students. Guidance and Training Materials - Recognize, Report, Action, Resources. Combined with sex ed normally due to content and process to opt-out. 2022 - Senate Bill 681 (170.307)- Mental Health Awareness Training. This bill requires that mental health awareness training shall be given during a pupil's four years of high

school. Driver Education standards are no longer seen in Missouri educational standards. They were never updated since late 90s or early 2000s. It was only offered as an additional credit(s), such as an elective. A student typically took it to qualify for the insurance discount if you successfully completed a course. Driver Education is not a course required by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 248		DATE: 3/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW SYMONDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: symonds.matthew.l@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2025 6:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I ask that you vote NO on HB 248. As a retired university professor preparing future health teachers for Missouri schools, there is an abundance of critical health topics that should be covered in health education class, but there is not enough time in a .5 credit requirement. If we really want to improve the health and well-being of Missourians we need to devote more time to health education and NOT continue to add requirements to be packed into a .5 credit requirement. Instead, make Health Education 1 credit. Please vote NO on HB 248. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 248		DATE: 3/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN BUFKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nathan.bufka@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2025 8:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a high school health teacher, I am in opposition to this bill because it could potentially require drivers ed to be taught within my health classes. I do not have enough time as it is to teach all of the state mandated requirements and to teach everything in the standards. I get it done, but adding another piece into the Health curriculum would be overwhelming for teachers and students. This would be best as a stand alone class.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH GIETSCHIER-HARTMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sarahgietschier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 7:54 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a national award-winning health and physical education teacher, I strongly oppose HB 248. There are 30 pages of mandated standards to teach and assess in a Grades 9-12, half-credit health education course. These standards address vital topics such as social, emotional, and mental health, drug and alcohol prevention, and legally required instruction on suicide awareness and sexual abuse prevention. Integrating driver education into this curriculum is impractical without expanding it to a full -credit course, a measure not included in the bill. Furthermore, the mandatory additional certification for driver education instructors poses a significant challenge. Historically, driver education has been offered as a supplementary elective, not a core component of health education, and it should remain as such.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON HIGGINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: shiggins80@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2025 11:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am here to express my opposition to the proposed integration of Driver Education into Health Education courses. This proposal is unrealistic and impractical, as Missouri schools already have a comprehensive and rigorous Health Education curriculum mandated by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Missouri's Health and Family Education Standards Are Already Extensive. Pursuant to Section 160.527, RSMo, DESE developed grades 9-12 academic performance standards for the one-half unit of credit in Health and Family Education. These new standards, implemented for the 2024-25 school year and beyond, emphasize: Behavioral health related to youth mortality and morbidity Chronic disease management Parenting skills associated with optimal family health. A 30-page document outlines the Health Education standards, covering critical topics such as: Substance use prevention (alcohol, tobacco, vaping, opioids, other drugs) Healthy eating and nutrition Social, emotional, and mental health Personal health and wellness Physical activity Safety and injury prevention Sexual health Violence prevention These standards, along with multiple state-mandated legislative requirements, already overwhelm the existing curriculum in a 0.5 credit course. There is no room in Health Education for additional content unless it becomes a full 1-credit course—which is not currently required. Missouri Legislative Mandates Already Required in Health Education Health educators are also responsible for delivering several Missouri legislative mandates, including: Sex Education (House Bill 501, 2018) – Includes an opt-out system for students. Youth Suicide Awareness (RSMo 170.048, 2018) – Requires the CHADS program. Hands-Only CPR & Choking Training (Senate Bill 711, 2018) – Requires skill demonstrations. Sexual Abuse Awareness (House Bill 739, 2019) – Requires students be educated on recognizing and reporting abuse. Mental Health Awareness Training (Senate Bill 681, 2022) – Mandates training for all high school students. With all these requirements, Health Education teachers are already stretched thin. There is simply no time to add Driver Education without compromising the quality of existing, critical health topics. Driver Education Has Never Been Part of Health or Physical Education Historically, Driver Education was never included in Health or Physical Education courses. Instead, it was: An elective or standalone course, often offered in summer or intersession. A course with both classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training. An optional class for students seeking an insurance discount upon completion. Driver Education was not part of Missouri's Health Education Standards, and its content was never updated after the late 1990s or early 2000s. Furthermore, there is no clear avenue for teacher certification or training to meet this proposed requirement. Additional Certification Requirements Would Be a Barrier Driver Education certification requires 12 additional credit hours of coursework. Most Health and Physical Education teachers do not meet these requirements. This would: Place an undue burden on educators who are already expected to cover extensive Health Education standards. Reduce the number of qualified instructors, as few teacher preparation programs offer Driver Education certification. DESE Does Not

Require Driver Education as a Course According to the Missouri DESE website: "Driver Education is not a course required by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Many schools and districts offer it, however, as a special service to their students and community." This confirms that Driver Education is an optional service—not a state-mandated curriculum requirement. If schools choose to offer it, it should remain a separate elective course rather than being forced into an already overburdened Health Education class.

Conclusion Missouri Health Education already has a full, mandated curriculum. There is no room in a 0.5 credit course to add Driver Education. Driver Education has never been part of Health or PE and requires separate certification. DESE does not require Driver Education—schools should retain the choice to offer it separately. For these reasons, I strongly urge opposition to this proposal. Missouri students deserve a high-quality Health Education that prioritizes their well-being without unnecessary curriculum overload.