



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 268</b>		DATE: <b>2/19/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>			
TESTIFYING: <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>ASHLEY EVANS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ashley_kalamon@yahoo.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/16/2025 8:45 AM</b>

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

It is uncommon for an unaccredited MSW program that is in pre-candidacy or candidacy to not reach full accreditation. Furthermore, students enrolled in an MSW program that has pre-candidacy or candidacy status can or will be retroactively recognized as having received their MSW from a CSWE accredited program. It is best practice for MSW students to have the ability to sit for the LMSW exam and engage in clinical supervision to ensure flawless transition into their LCSW licensure. Failure to pass this bill means failure to remove a significant barrier for MSW students, and will stall their progress for months or years in obtaining proper licensure. I am an MSW student preparing to graduate from a program in pre-candidacy/candidacy. If I am unable to sit for my LMSW exam prior to graduation and accreditation, my career plans will be put on hold. I am in support of this bill as it will not only benefit myself, but benefit many other current and prospective MSW students seeking licensure.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMMY HARMON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>eharmon646@lsr7.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2025 7:53 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGAN PHILLIPS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>merecr@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2025 4:47 PM</b>	
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Hello, my name is Megan Phillips and I am writing to support HB268. I have worked in the social services industry since 1995 and am proud to share that all but one year of my career was as a state employee. I Recently retired from state government and the position I retired from was that of a Regional Manager for the Adult Protective Services program with the Department of Health and Senior Services. As a Regional Manager, I was responsible for all hiring in my region, and receiving applications from individuals with a background in the social services industry was infrequent. We need more people with a passion for social work , especially as our population ages and becomes more vulnerable. I will be graduating from Missouri Western State University (MWSU) this May with my Master's of Social Work which is in pre-candidacy standing with the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE). Unfortunately, in Missouri, we can only sit for the Social Work licensing exam once our school Masters program is accredited by CWSE. MWSU has a successful Bachelor of Social Work program and there is no doubt in my mind or any of my fellow MSW candidates' minds that accreditation from the CSWE will happen next year when they become eligible. The passing of this bill will allow students, like me, to sit for the exam and continue to serve the vulnerable residents of Missouri. I live in the Kansas City area and am close to the Kansas state line. In May when I graduate, I will be able to go to Kansas and sit for the licensing exam as they allow this for programs in pre-candidacy. However, I would rather sit for the exam here, in Missouri, where I live and where I have always worked serving Missourians. I am a recipient of the Grow Your Own grant that Missouri has awarded to MWSU to grow their own social workers. This grant has provided me and many others with the wonderful gift of helping with the cost of our tuition. By passing this bill and ensuring it makes it out of committee you will continue that commitment to us and, in turn, we can take care of the people we should be taking care of-vulnerable Missourians.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NIKKI PAULS DESIMONE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nikki.desimone@park.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2025 11:13 PM</b>
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Our communities need more social workers than we have. And with the closure of two Missouri schools MSW programs this past year, we are running even more of a deficit than usual. Allowing recent graduates of these programs in pre-candidacy and candidacy to become licensed and start working more quickly only can benefit our communities and ultimately our state. They have received the same education as fully accredited programs, delivered by excellent faculty. Additionally, allowing these graduates to enter the field to work more quickly will allow them to become clinically licensed more quickly, which again, only has positive health outcomes for our communities. Thank you!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEFANIE NOLD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>stef67.sw@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/19/2025 11:09 PM</b>
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I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 268, which would allow Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates to begin accruing supervised hours toward licensure while their university is in candidacy for accreditation. As a current MSW student and soon-to-be graduate, I firmly believe this legislation is crucial for strengthening Missouri's social work workforce and ensuring that students from programs like Missouri Western State University can continue to progress in their careers. Missouri Western's MSW program is currently in candidacy for accreditation, a rigorous process that ensures high educational standards. However, without HB 268, students graduating during this period face unnecessary barriers to licensure, limiting their ability to serve in critical roles that address our state's growing mental health, healthcare, and social service needs. Many states already recognize hours accrued during candidacy, and Missouri should do the same to retain and support highly trained social workers. By passing HB 268, Missouri can prevent workforce shortages, expand access to mental health services, and ensure that qualified professionals can begin providing care without delay. I respectfully ask for your support in advancing this important bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to strengthening Missouri's social work profession