



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 269</b>		DATE: <b>1/28/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Economic Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMANDA GOOD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-778-2587</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MO ALLIANCE OF BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUBS</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>10025 THOMAS BRIDGE LOOP</b>		
CITY: <b>PILOT GROVE</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65276</b>
EMAIL: <b>agood@bgcmo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 4:35 PM</b>

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

Chair Gallick, Vice Chair Thompson, and Members of the Committee: The Missouri Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs supports HB 269. Of our 72 sites in Missouri, 25 are licensed childcare facilities that will benefit from this legislation. We also respectfully urge the committee to include all Boys & Girls Clubs as eligible exempt entities under the tax credit framework outlined in this bill by adding Neighborhood Youth Development Programs as outlined in RSMO 210.278. The Boys & Girls Clubs in Missouri serve more than 44,000 children and teens each year, providing safe, enriching environments during out-of-school hours. Our programs focus on education, workforce readiness, character development, and healthy lifestyles, equipping young people to become productive, responsible citizens. Unfortunately, the demand for these life-changing services continues to outpace our capacity, with waitlists growing across the state. HB 269 represents a significant opportunity to address these challenges. Including Boys & Girls Clubs in the tax credit framework would provide a vital funding source to expand services and reach more families in need, particularly in child care deserts. This would ensure more youth can benefit from educational and developmental opportunities that support their growth and success. HB 269 helps parents return to the workforce with the confidence that their children are in a safe, supportive environment. By supporting child care and youth development organizations, Missouri would ease many families' financial and logistical challenges in balancing work and family responsibilities. The tax credits proposed in HB 269 incentivize private contributions, allowing businesses and individuals to invest directly in community-based solutions. For Boys & Girls Clubs, these contributions would enable us to expand facilities, improve programs, and serve more children—making Missouri a stronger, more competitive state. Boys & Girls Clubs play a critical double role in workforce development. Not only do our Clubs provide a safe place for youth while their parents are working, our programs teach essential skills, offer job training, and inspire career exploration for youth. By expanding our reach, Missouri can ensure more young people are prepared to contribute to the state's economy in the years to come. The inclusion of Boys & Girls Clubs as eligible entities under the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act (Section 135.1310) and related provisions of HB 269 would not only support our mission but also multiply the benefits to families, communities, and businesses statewide. This legislation is a win-win: it provides immediate relief to working families, strengthens youth development programs, and ensures long-term economic and social growth for Missouri.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-3077</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NFIB</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>Brad.Jones@nfib.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 6:37 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN GRACE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-9549</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>117 MADISON ST</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CARA ALEXANDER STARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-645-9481</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>J E DUNN CONSTRUCTION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>630 BOLIVAR STREET, SUITE 201</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAROLYN CHRISMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHANCE HEPOLA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COXHEALTH</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65802</b>
EMAIL: <b>chance.hepola@coxhealth.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 7:17 AM</b>
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As the largest employer in Southwest Missouri, CoxHealth understands the significant need for accessible and affordable childcare in our region. Like many other organizations and industries, we have felt the negative effects of unaffordable and inaccessible childcare on our workforce. Like other hospital systems throughout the state, CoxHealth is experiencing workforce shortages in a variety of positions and occupations. As a result of the limited workforce pool, our patients can suffer. While HB 269 won't solve all the issues surrounding the childcare crisis, we understand it is a significant step toward making childcare more affordable and accessible, ultimately allowing parents to return to the workforce. Even amid the child care crisis, CoxHealth has invested significant capital and resources into childcare, ensuring that our employees and community members not only have access to childcare providers but are also able to return to the workforce. Our organization currently operates three learning centers – two in Springfield and one in Branson – all providing a safe, fun, educational and caring environment for children in the region. Despite our investments and best efforts, there are still long waitlists and a limited number of providers in Southwest Missouri. CoxHealth supports HB 269 as a pragmatic and hopeful step toward eliminating the child care crisis in our state. We believe these tax credits will have a positive impact on our employees, their children, and the surrounding businesses in the region. CoxHealth is committed to supporting workforce development initiatives for the benefit of our community and their families. We ask the committee, and the Missouri General Assembly, to support HB 269.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRIS ROEPE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-294-0497</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>CITY OF INDEPENDENCE; UNIVERSITY HEALTH KANSAS CITY</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>205 E. CAPITOL, SUITE 100</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>roepe@bardgett.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 8:32 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-600-6018</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP</b>		TITLE: <b>PAL TEAM LEADER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1352</b>			
CITY: <b>ARNOLD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63010</b>
EMAIL: <b>dlb@missouriequity.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 9:14 PM</b>	
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**The Missouri Equity Education Partnership supports this bill because it expands childcare opportunity Missouri youth.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GARRETT WEBB</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>219-229-1104</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS</b>		TITLE: <b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>710 SOULARD STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63104</b>
EMAIL: <b>webb@coestrategies.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 7:04 AM</b>	
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**The Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 1,100 physicians, trainees, and pediatric-provider members throughout Missouri strongly supports access to high quality childcare options for Missouri's children and families.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEATH CLARKSTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-690-3369</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CHILD CARE AWARE OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>235 E. HIGH STREET, SUITE 301</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>heath@cnmissouri.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 6:11 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMEY MURPHY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>
ADDRESS: <b>4712 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMIE MORRIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-7239</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>600 CLARK AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>morrisj@mocatholic.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 11:00 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JIM MALLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-258-1366</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ALIGNED</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6208 LORAN</b>			
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOHN GAMBLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-821-5225</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>27 N GRACE LN</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>jack@molobby.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 8:01 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORDAN LEA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jlea@raymore.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 4:29 PM</b>	

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I am Jordan Lea, the Economic Development Director for the City of Raymore. I am a member of MEDC and here on behalf of Workforce YOU. I am testifying on behalf of the employers, parents and stakeholders in Raymore and Cass County. As an Economic Development professional, it is my responsibility to understand and address issues that our key business partners are facing. Childcare is consistently a high priority issue. Parents want to work, but without adequate childcare, that is not an option. To address the childcare shortage and other workforce issues, Workforce YOU was created. Workforce YOU is a collaboration between government entities, school systems, employers, service providers and key stakeholders in Cass County. In July 2024, Workforce YOU hosted a childcare summit to begin the conversation with existing providers and the community. From the summit, a group of over 60 individuals committed to help find a solution. We have collaborated with Wonderschool and are planning an asset mapping workshop in March. In conclusion, local communities are striving to find creative solutions to encourage additional childcare providers. However, the passage of house bill 269 would dramatically increase our odds of fostering a childcare friendly environment. Your consideration of movement towards solutions is very much appreciated. Thank you!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KARA CORCHES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3511</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>428 EAST CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT MCCORMICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-874-1132</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3005 PROVIDENCE ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT MORROW</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-343-2025</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/CEO</b>
ADDRESS: <b>202 SOUTH JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY</b>		
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65806</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW JAMES SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-988-2257</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>msmith@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 10:09 AM</b>	
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**Associated Industries of Missouri is happy to support HB 269 which will provide tax credits for childcare in Missouri. Thousands of Missouri families depend on childcare, which has become a costly expense. This results in many parents choosing to stay at home and care for their children, even when they want to work to provide for their families. This tax credit will provide relief for Missouri families and allow many parents to rejoin the workforce and provide for their families. We support HB 269 and thank Representative Shields for leading this important initiative.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW THOMPSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-537-5234</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>WINTON POLICY GROUP, BJC HEALTH, JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. LOUIS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>124 E HIGH ST</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 269</b>		DATE: <b>1/28/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Economic Development</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL GROTE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-424-5120</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>BOONE COUNTY MISSOURI.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 638</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65205</b>
EMAIL: <b>mike@ga2.us</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 11:36 PM</b>	
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<b>Boone County Missouri Support this legislation</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY GIDDENS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-6203</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>UNITED WE, CITY OF KANSAS CITY, GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER, CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KC</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBYN T SCHELP</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-441-3260</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>KIDS WIN MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3909 SHERMAN CT</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 7:59 AM</b>	

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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 the child care tax credits in HB 269 and we appreciate Rep. Shield's leadership on this legislation. Child care is currently in crisis, significantly affecting the well-being of children, families, and our communities. The lack of quality, affordable childcare is a major contributor to the ongoing workforce crisis. State funding alone cannot resolve the child care crisis. These tax credits are designed to foster partnerships among communities, businesses, providers, and families. The child care tax credits encourage businesses, philanthropies, and individuals to donate to child care facilities and receive a 75% tax credit on that donation. This legislation would allow employers to pay for an employee's child care costs and receive the same tax credit. Child care providers could receive a tax credit for capitol expenditures as well as a credit equal to their employee withholding tax. This legislation not only promotes direct partnerships between businesses and child care providers, but it also allows for intermediaries to facilitate partnerships between employers and a wide range of providers, from small family home setups to large child care facilities. Child care providers will notify intermediaries about the number of available slots they have. In turn, employers seeking child care options for their employees' children will reach out to these intermediaries. The intermediaries will share the available openings, giving parents a variety of child care programs to choose from. Employers will receive a tax credit for their donations made to the intermediaries, who will then direct the funds to the child care providers. This arrangement simplifies the process for small, rural providers to benefit from tax credits while still offering parents a choice in their children's care. We appreciate the commitment that this legislature has made to improving access to affordable, quality child care, which in turn supports Missouri's current and future workforce. These tax credits encourage collaboration among the state, businesses, providers, and families, ensuring that all families have access to quality child care, regardless of their location within the state. Please support Missouri's families and workforce by passing HB 269.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM PANETTIERE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-883-8222</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>NORTHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>
ADDRESS: <b>4131 NORTH MULBERRY DRIVE, SUITE 250</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64116</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL H. LEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-368-4242</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>9511 EVERMAN AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63114</b>
EMAIL: <b>samuelhlee@mindspring.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 3:02 PM</b>	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH SCHLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-4876</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>GREATER ST. LOUIS INC; NEXT MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>213 W CAPITOL AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>sgh@molobby.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 8:08 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WILLIAM MARRS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-848-8561</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>BRANSON LAKES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>CONSULTANT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>211 E CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>govservicesjcmo@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 9:17 AM</b>	
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGHAN SENNE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-404-5160</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH</b>		TITLE: <b>HEALTH POLICY COORDINATOR</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>LEE'S SUMMIT</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64064</b>
EMAIL: <b>meghan.senne@uhkc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2025 4:38 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

According to a 2023 investigation, nearly half of all children aged five and under live in a childcare desert in the state of Missouri (Bates & Bergin, 2023). A childcare desert refers to an area where the demand for childcare exceeds availability and is defined as a jurisdiction where there are more than three children ages five and under for every licensed childcare slot or there are no licensed slots at all. According to Census data compiled by Jackson County Public Health, half of the population in eastern Jackson County lives in a childcare desert (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022a). The city with the highest ratio of children ages five and under to childcare slots was Grandview, with a ratio of nine children to available slots. The cities of Blue Springs, Buckner, and Greenwood were also identified as childcare deserts. Meanwhile, Lone Jack, Sibley, Sugar Creek, and Lake Lotawana were identified as cities with no licensed slots at all. Finally, when looking at race and ethnicity data it is clear that childcare access disparities exist. Hispanic and Latino children had the highest probability of living in a childcare desert, with 81% of children under five living in childcare desert zip codes. Additionally, 80% of Black children reside in childcare desert zip codes compared to 62% of White children under the age of five. Importantly, childcare challenges disproportionately affect the financial well-being of women, single parents, parents in poverty, and families of color more (Novoa, 2020). A 2021 report from the Missouri Chamber revealed that 61% of surveyed parents reported missing work due to childcare issues. Furthermore, 28% of respondents noted that someone in their household had either left a job or opted not to take one due to childcare-related challenges (U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2021). One national analysis estimated that in 2022, women were five to eight times more likely to experience negative employment consequences related to childcare compared to men (Almeida & Salas-Betsch, 2023). In Eastern Jackson County specifically, there is a 7% decrease in maternal workforce participation in zip codes that are considered a childcare deserts compared to zip codes with sufficient childcare access. There is almost no difference in men's workforce participation across zip codes with regard to childcare desert scores (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022b). In addition to workforce issues, women who cannot access childcare also report forgoing or missing important healthcare appointments and cancer screenings. A national survey of women found that 24% could not find time to go to the doctor, and 14% of women missed or delayed their own healthcare appointments because of lack of childcare. While women of all income levels were impacted, low-income women were more likely to experience both childcare problems and delayed healthcare (Alvarez et al., 2022). Access to quality childcare benefits the health of the entire family, providing children with access to social and emotional development opportunities and early education, while providing parents the opportunity to enter the workforce and improve the financial health of their family. Addressing this complex issue requires a commitment to public investment in childcare infrastructure. By doing so, Missouri can help

families secure access to high-quality childcare for their children, empowering parents to confidently participate in the workforce knowing that their child's health and well-being is a priority.

Sources: Almeida, B., & Salas-Betsch, B. (2023). Fact sheet: The state of women in the labor market in 2023. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fact-sheet-the-state-of-women-in-the-labor-market-in-2023/>

Alvarez, K.S., Bhavan, K., Mathew, S., Johnson, C., McCarthy, A., Garcia, B., Callies, M., Stovall, K., Harms, M., & Kho, K.A. (2022). Addressing childcare as a barrier to healthcare access through community partnerships in a large public health system. *BMJ Open Quality*, 11(4). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-001964>

Bates, C., & Bergin, D. (2023, April 26). Missouri child care deserts include nearly half of kids 5 and under, new data shows. *The Missouri Independent*. <https://missouriindependent.com/2023/04/26/missouri-child-care-deserts-now-include-nearly-half-of-kids-5-and-under/>

Childcare Aware of America. (2021). Catalyzing Growth: Using data to change child care. <https://www.childcareaware.org/catalyzing-growth-using-data-to-change-child-care/#ChildCareAffordability>

Novoa, C. (2020). How child care disruptions hurt parents of color most. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-disruptions-hurt-parents-color/>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. (2021). Untapped potential in MO: How childcare impacts Missouri's workforce productivity and the state economy. [https://chamber-foundation.files.svdcdn.com/production/documents/EarlyEd\\_MISSOURI\\_2021\\_DIGITAL.pdf?dm=1694110497](https://chamber-foundation.files.svdcdn.com/production/documents/EarlyEd_MISSOURI_2021_DIGITAL.pdf?dm=1694110497)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022a). Total population under five census tract estimates, compared to total childcare slots. [Unpublished raw data]

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022b). Total maternal workforce participation by zip code. [Unpublished raw data]