



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 291		DATE: 2/26/2025
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development		
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: ALISA CASADY		PHONE NUMBER: 816-986-4000
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ADDRESS: 1117 WILTSHIRE BLVD		
CITY: RAYMORE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64083
EMAIL: alisa.casady@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 8:43 AM
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I am in support of this bill to give IB students credit for scoring a 4 or above on exams.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALIYA RECTOR		PHONE NUMBER: 816-944-9333
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2433, SW HICKORY LN		
CITY: LEES SUMMIT		STATE: MO
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EMAIL: arector583@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:27 PM
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I support having student's test scores of 4 or above to get IB credit



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 11:46 PM	
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I am in Support of this Bill on its face. It seems to me that there will be additional Costs to Community Colleges, four (4) Colleges and Universities.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AVA BURNETT		PHONE NUMBER: 816-605-9633
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO
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EMAIL: avaburnett@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:31 PM
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This program has and will continue to allow me to complete collage credit in high school. This program has given me room to have higher level conversations and stretch my thinking to new levels. This bill will open up more college options to me as currently there is a struggle to find schools that will give me credit for a reasonable score.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY DABALOS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-820-8410
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1131 SW SANTA FE DR		
CITY: LEES SUMMIT		STATE: MO
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Christy Dabalos, and I am the President of the Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, representing IB programs across Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Our mission is to uphold the standards of the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization, ensuring that participating schools have access to the information and resources they need while also promoting the value of IB programs. Additionally, I am the IB Coordinator at Lee's Summit West High School. The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and alignment with freshman-level college coursework. Each IB course requires students to complete an in-depth research assignment, fostering critical thinking, analytical reasoning, inquiry-based learning, and meaningful discussion. Through this process, students learn not just to absorb information but to evaluate and generate their own well-supported ideas and perspectives. IB is widely recognized by universities across the United States and around the world, with many institutions granting credit or advanced standing for IB coursework. A similar legislative measure has been enacted for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and IB programs offer an equally rigorous, if not more comprehensive, academic experience. Ensuring that IB students receive the same recognition and benefits will support Missouri students, strengthen our state's education system, and encourage these highly prepared students to pursue their higher education at Missouri institutions. I strongly encourage your support of this bill. It is a step toward educational equity for our students, a benefit for Missouri families, and a strategic move to attract top-performing students to our state's colleges and universities. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY DABALOS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-820-8410	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MIDWEST IB WORLD SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: MIBS PRESIDENT AND LEE'S SUMMIT WEST IB COORDINATO	
ADDRESS: 1131 SW SANTA FE DR			
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64081
EMAIL: christy.dabalos@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 9:13 AM	

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

Testimony to the Higher Education Committee Chairperson Brown, Members of the Committee, My name is Christy Dabalos, and I am the President of the Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, representing IB programs across Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Our mission is to uphold the standards of the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization, ensuring that participating schools have access to the information and resources they need while also promoting the value of IB programs. The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and alignment with freshman-level college coursework. Each IB course requires students to complete an in-depth research assignment, fostering critical thinking, analytical reasoning, inquiry-based learning, and meaningful discussion. Through this process, students learn not just to absorb information but to evaluate and generate their own well-supported ideas and perspectives. IB is widely recognized by universities across the United States and around the world, with many institutions granting credit or advanced standing for IB coursework. A similar legislative measure has been enacted for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and IB programs offer an equally rigorous, if not more comprehensive, academic experience. Ensuring that IB students receive the same recognition and benefits will support Missouri students, strengthen our state's education system, and encourage these highly prepared students to pursue their higher education at Missouri institutions. I strongly encourage your support of this bill. It is a step toward educational equity for our students, a benefit for Missouri families, and a strategic move to attract top-performing students to our state's colleges and universities. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Christy Dabalos, President, Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, IB Coordinator Lee's Summit West High School



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SCHAEFER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-877-1649
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN HUNTER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-414-3561	
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CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL: ellenhunter9973@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:46 AM	
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I am a teacher of IB mathematics in Missouri and a former IB student. As someone with quite a few years of experience with these programs, I can confirm that the level of rigor and depth of study that students engage in is worthy of credit at the university level. For students who score at least a 4 on these examinations at least entry level course credit should be offered in recognition of their demonstrated skills in that subject area. In my personal university experience, many of my first year college courses were easier than the IB courses that I had just completed. I believe the bill will support Missouri universities by attracting IB graduates to enroll here rather than seeking higher education elsewhere. There were several Missouri schools that I personally did not consider when selecting a college because they did not offer any or significant credit for IB courses. I ultimately chose to attend an undergraduate program out of state largely due to how well that school gave recognition and credit for my IB coursework. Creating a standard where success on IB examinations is rewarded by Missouri universities would provide a positive incentive that many students (both Missouri residents and from out of state) will respond to. Specifically in regards to mathematics, a 4 or higher in any IB mathematics course should indicate sufficient knowledge to earn credit for an entry level college mathematics course (College Algebra, Algebraic Reasoning and Modeling, or equivalent). A 4 in a Higher Level IB mathematics course or a 6-7 in Standard Level IB mathematics course could easily justify credit for additional math courses. (Statistics, Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus, or Calculus I, could all be appropriate depending on the specific course and the score)



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMMY HARMON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-739-3631
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eharmon646@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:53 PM
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As an IBCP student, years of accelerated classes and hard work led me to be a stronger, well rounded student. I am in full support of college credit for IB classes, and this would encourage more students to get a college education for those who make not have the funds. For the sake of all Missourians, I urge you to support this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GLORIA YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER: 913-717-7135
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64155
EMAIL: anthronerdy@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 7:33 PM
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This is an excellent plan to expand opportunities for high school students to prepare for community college and to encourage participation in expanded curricula.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HAILEY BARNETT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-943-6314
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1520 SW SUGAR TREE DR.		
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64082
EMAIL: hbarnett655@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Being an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate has profoundly transformed my life. It has pushed me beyond my limits, challenging me in ways that no other program has. This rigorous journey has molded me into a critical thinker and has tested the very depths of my knowledge. I am incredibly passionate about being a part of this program, and passing this bill would significantly benefit my college career. Every day, I dedicate countless hours to preparing for these demanding examinations. As IB students, our course load is equivalent to, if not more challenging than, that of many college students. These examinations are exceptionally rigorous and truly reflect our comprehensive curriculum and our grasp of it. The International Baccalaureate program offers students an unparalleled level of education, and passing this bill would elevate Missouri's standing in the realm of education. We, the students, are closely observing and earnestly hope that you will support our educational pursuits. By doing so, you will help us gain the college credit we rightfully deserve for our relentless hours of hard work and unwavering dedication.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY PITTS-ZEVIN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-547-8802	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 6206 NW 68TH TER			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64151
EMAIL: jay.zevin@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 5:52 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 291, which would expand college credit recognition for International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) courses, granting credit for scores of 4 or higher at public colleges and universities in Missouri. As a high school educator and IB teacher, I see firsthand the rigor and dedication required of students pursuing the IB Diploma, and I urge you to support this critical legislation. Currently, students who complete IB courses and earn a score of 4 or above demonstrate college-level mastery, yet many institutions in Missouri do not consistently award credit for these achievements. The University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska have already taken steps to recognize IB coursework more equitably, setting a precedent for Missouri to follow. By aligning with these neighboring states, Missouri can remain competitive in attracting and retaining top students who seek rigorous academic preparation before entering college. The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging, internationally respected curriculum that fosters critical thinking and global engagement. By recognizing IB scores of 4 or higher for college credit, Missouri can support its students in their transition to higher education while reinforcing the state's commitment to academic excellence. I urge you to support HB 291 and help ensure that Missouri's IB students receive the credit they have earned. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 816-718-2783
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY: BLUE SPRINGS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64015
EMAIL: jmjones0322@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 10:33 AM
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As an International Baccalaureate English literature teacher and Missouri 2025 teacher of the year, I can attest that students who complete IB coursework have engaged in the academic rigor and personal development worthy of college credit. I support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY VANPELT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-277-8471
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 233 FOREST RIDGE CT		
CITY: GLEN CARBON		STATE: IL
		ZIP: 62034
EMAIL: jeremy.vanpelt@slps.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 1:48 PM
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I am the International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Metro Academic and Classical High School, part of the Saint Louis Public School system. Metro stands as one of the top schools, if not the top public school in Missouri. Much of the reason for this is that we are the only school in SLPS to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. This program offers students of Saint Louis access to the most rigorous curriculum available to students in the region. While Advanced Placement courses are more ubiquitous in the United States and known for their challenging content, IB courses provide curricula even more rigorous than AP courses. Many of the top colleges and universities seek out students who have completed the IB Diploma Programme or individual IB courses. For these reasons, International Baccalaureate course should receive equal college credit consideration as Advanced Placement courses.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JODI PITTS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-425-9808	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1689 N PHILLIPS RD			
CITY: NIXA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65714
EMAIL: jdpitts@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 3:13 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-986-4000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 937 SW RAINTREE DR			
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64082
EMAIL: katherine.thompson@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:52 PM	
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I am in support of both HB 291. I am an IB Math teacher in Missouri and this would be great for our IB program at my school and other schools.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KATY WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-805-2815	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACADEMIE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: IB COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 201 E. ARMOUR BLVD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL: kwilson@academielafayette.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 2:51 PM	

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 291, which seek to grant college credit to students who earn a score of 4 or higher on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. My name is Katy Wilson, and I am here as a concerned educator and parent to emphasize the importance of recognizing the achievements of Missouri’s students who have undertaken the rigorous IB program. I have worked in International Baccalaureate World Schools in Missouri public schools for more than twenty years. I currently manage IB programs at Académie Lafayette, which has a new high school that focuses on supporting all of its students to be IB students. Most of our high school graduates last year, and many of our soon-to-be graduates this year, are choosing to attend universities outside of Missouri because the University of Missouri is not competitive when it comes to rewarding students for their hard work and success in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The IB program is one of the most challenging high school curricula available. It is designed to prepare students for success in higher education and beyond. IB courses require students to develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a global perspective—all qualities that colleges and universities highly value. Currently, Missouri’s public colleges and universities have inconsistent policies regarding credit for IB exam scores, creating unnecessary obstacles for students who have demonstrated their college readiness. Granting college credit for a score of 4 or above on IB exams will have several key benefits: **Increases College Accessibility and Affordability:** Many Missouri students work hard to complete IB courses in the hope of reducing their future college costs. Recognizing IB scores for credit will help students and families save thousands of dollars in tuition and fees, making higher education more accessible, especially for students from low-income backgrounds. **Aligns Missouri with National Best Practices:** Many states, including Texas, Florida, and California, already grant college credit for IB scores of 4 or higher. Missouri risks falling behind in attracting and retaining talented students if we do not align our policies with national standards. **Encourages Academic Excellence and Equity:** By ensuring that students receive credit for their hard work, Missouri will incentivize more high school students to enroll in IB programs, fostering a culture of academic excellence. Additionally, this policy promotes fairness, as students who complete similarly rigorous programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP), already receive college credit for comparable scores. **Supports Workforce Development:** IB courses emphasize skills such as analytical thinking, research, and communication—key competencies needed in today’s workforce. Encouraging students to pursue IB and rewarding them for their achievements will help develop a stronger, more prepared workforce for Missouri’s economy. Passing HB 291 and HB 1017 is a necessary step to support Missouri’s students, promote equitable access to higher education, and enhance our state’s competitiveness. I urge you to support this legislation and ensure that Missouri students receive the credit they deserve for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions

you may have.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAYLA MAID		PHONE NUMBER: 816-352-7314
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2600 SW WARD		
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64082
EMAIL: kayla.maid@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 1:55 PM
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I support Missouri House Bill 291, which ensures that students receive college credit for their International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, similar to how Advanced Placement (AP) exams are recognized. This bill provides students with greater opportunities to earn college credit while in high school, making higher education more accessible and affordable. At Lee's Summit West High School, we strive to prepare students for postsecondary success, and HB 291 reinforces the value of rigorous academic programs like IB by recognizing students' hard work and achievement.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLI MORIONDO		PHONE NUMBER: 816-986-4000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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I support students who score a 4 or higher on an IB exam receiving college credit for their efforts. These students take the most rigorous coursework a high school can offer. The curriculum has been designed and vetted based on the International Baccalaureate standards.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA SCHULENBERG		PHONE NUMBER: 913-220-6369	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY: PLEASANT HILL		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64080
EMAIL: lara.schulenberg.cole@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 8:23 PM	
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The work that International Baccalaureate students do is steeped in critical thinking and advanced expression. Students should be recognized for taking on this challenge and maneuvering successfully through exams. To achieve a 4 or above on IB exams means that the student is capable of advanced thinking in a subject, but also has the ability to write or speak about the content. The state of Missouri needs to recognize this achievement with college credit.



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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: LARRY SHAEFER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-343-9559
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CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MADISON COCHRAN		PHONE NUMBER: 660-815-3182
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I have been an IB Biology teacher for 6 years and have seen first hand the value that this program has given my students in terms of the scientific knowledge and skill they develop and how they have both set them up for success in a collegiate science program. Having taken many college level biology courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, I can confidently say that what my students learn as part of my high school IB course far exceeds anything I experienced at the 100 or 200 level. Because of that, I am fully in support of offering college credit for anyone earning a 4 or above on the IB exam. In doing so, students have shown that they are more than capable of performing at a collegiate level and should be able to move ahead in their program instead of having to repeat content they have already shown they have mastered.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE EDWARDS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO
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I am the IB Coordinator at Lee's Summit High School. We have been an IB World School since 1987 and have had thousands of students take IB exams. IB college credit is accepted in over 159 countries around the world and is one of the premier ways to earn college credit. Passing the bills associated with students in Missouri receiving college credit for earning a 4 or higher on IB HL and SL exams would substantially benefit our students. More importantly, it would help keep our brightest students in Missouri instead of losing them to colleges in other states that already have a bill that awards automatic IB credit for scores of 4 or higher.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MITSI NESSA		PHONE NUMBER: 816-673-4530	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4500 NE 105TH ST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64156
EMAIL: mitsi.nessa@nkcschools.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 8:02 PM	
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As the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at North Kansas City High School, I can personally attest to the exceptional quality of instruction and learning across the 25 IB courses offered at our school. Our students who have taken courses in subjects such as English, French, Spanish, History, Psychology, Social & Cultural Anthropology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Biology, Chemistry, Sports Exercise & Health Science, Mathematics, Theater, Music, and Visual Arts consistently report feeling "more than qualified" for their first two years of college. In fact, just two weeks ago, I received an email from an IB graduate now attending the University of Missouri-Columbia (my alma mater and a school I deeply respect). In her email, she shared, "Everything is going great here at MIZ! I do miss the level of critical thinking I was engaging in around this time last year, though. Some of my classes are too easy! "Students enrolled in Higher Level (HL) IB courses receive 240 hours of instruction, typically spanning their junior and senior years of high school. Students in Standard Level (SL) IB courses receive 150 hours of instruction. While some of these courses are one year long, many span the full two years of high school. This instructional commitment exceeds that of AP courses, yet we are currently awarding credit for AP courses in our state. The IB curriculum is renowned for its depth and breadth. Unlike AP exams, IB assessments come in various forms, including written exams (short answer, essays, and multiple choice questions), independent investigations and experiments, analytical essays, and oral exams in both English and foreign languages. This multi-faceted approach ensures that students fully master the skills required. While AP exams are scored on a scale of 1-5, IB exams are graded on a scale of 1-7, with a score of 4 being considered "passing." Students who accumulate at least 24 points across their six exams earn the prestigious IB Diploma. Lastly, I must highlight the issue of inconsistent college credit recognition across Missouri. Many of our highly capable and very promising students are being drawn to universities in other states, where IB credit is more consistently recognized. States like Texas, Colorado, and Kansas offer clearer and generous credit policies for IB graduates; and, Nebraska, despite not having a state law mandating it, provides substantial credit and scholarships at their flagship university. As an IB Coordinator, it is increasingly difficult to encourage students to stay in Missouri when institutions outside the state offer more rewarding opportunities.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MOLLY GRAY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-523-9605
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I strongly support the proposed HB291 ensures students who score a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam receive college credit at state institutions. Recognizing the rigor and academic excellence of the IB program, this policy will reward students for their hard work, make higher education more accessible, and incentivize academic achievement. By granting credit for IB exam performance, Missouri can reduce financial burdens on families, promote college readiness, and attract high-achieving students to its universities. This initiative aligns with the state's commitment to academic excellence and workforce development, ensuring that Missouri remains competitive in higher education and beyond. As the IB Diploma Program Coordinator at Central High School, and as long time IB Diploma course teacher, I can speak first hand to the rigor and the advantages that IB courses and programs provide to students. My own son completed the Diploma Program last year, and my youngest son is about to start it next year. It is one of the very best college (and life) preparatory programs that students have access to, and it has opened countless doors for our students over the 27 years it has been at Central.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MORGAN RIGNELL		PHONE NUMBER: 816-207-8186
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		ZIP: 64034
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This would likely increase the amount of kids who go through an IB class, or multiple IB classes. IB offers an amazing opportunity with nearly (or exactly) college level courses. More kids would join the program if they knew they had the possibility of college credit!



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAUL EPPS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-576-7428
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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I have taught the IB class, Environmental Systems and Societies, for twelve years. I have also taught honors science classes and general science classes. There is no comparison between these classes. IB classes demand much more from a student. The level of academic work expected from them is in line with what a college class expects than a high school class. I have many students who struggle initially with the workload and the quality required in writing, statistics, reading level, and ability to discuss concepts with their peers. Most reach this level and thrive; this is evidenced by a score of four or better on the IB exams and Internal Assessment (an individual research project which allows them to demonstrate their mastery of practical applications in each area). Those who are unable to reach this level score 2-3 in the class demonstrating their need for additional academic growth. The students I have had who score a four or better come back and tell me their first year of college was easy, that the IB curriculum and criteria prepared them for success. I also think the benefit to getting college credit for a four or better in an IB class goes far beyond just saving money (although that is certainly valuable). Students that I have had who have earned college credit for good scores have gotten the freedom to pursue a second degree or take an internship, sometimes travelling abroad for a year to gain global experience in their field. Those students bring that experience back to Missouri and apply those lessons to their career, which benefits all of us.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: PAUL WAGNER		PHONE NUMBER: 529-7195
REPRESENTING: COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION		TITLE:
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CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SOFIA SHELTON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-726-8572	
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EMAIL: sshelton224@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 9:10 AM	
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International Baccalaureate (IB) exams are gaining momentum across the United States, and it's time for colleges and universities to recognize the value of these rigorous programs. If my school exclusively teaches IB classes, classes that dive into complex material, often exceeding that of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, then it is only fair that students receive the same college credit opportunities afforded to AP students. The IB curriculum encourages critical thinking, multicultural understanding, and a global perspective, all of which are priceless in today's world. It is designed to challenge students academically while preparing them for the demands of higher education. By not granting college credit for IB exams, institutions essentially overlook the hard work and dedication of IB students. Furthermore, the assessment process of IB, which includes written exams, internal assessments, and a focus on holistic education, demonstrates a deep understanding of subjects that would benefit students in their college journeys. Therefore, by acknowledging IB courses with college credit not only rewards student effort but also encourages more schools to adopt these challenging programs, ultimately raising the academic standards across the board. It's time for colleges to apply consistent standards to the recognition of deserving academic programs. Please help ensure that IB students receive the acknowledgment and credit they rightfully deserve, paving the way for a more equitable education.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STACEY ONEAL		PHONE NUMBER: 417-849-4732
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This would be great for our students!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TODD OBERLIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-263-5046
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY: ST CHARLES		STATE: MO
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I write this statement in support of HB 291 and HB 1017, requiring public higher education institutions to grant undergraduate credit for students who score a four or higher on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams. The strenuousness of the IB coursework is on par with any entry-level core class that freshmen would encounter in their first year. Each IB Class is a two-year commitment to the topic (ie Math Analysis, World History, Environmental Science, Art, or Music) culminating in an hours-long exam, extended portfolio, or other performance assessment graded by an international governing body. It stands to reason that institutions of higher learning would not only encourage these advanced-course classes to be taken but also reward those students who earn an above-average score (which is on a scale of seven) with college credit - in the same manner many accept AP Exam Scores. As a further incentive, these students should receive these credits cost-free, as many IB schools are publicly funded entities. In summation, colleges and universities receiving public funds should correlate current subject-specific, entry-level college courses with IB equivalents and confer upon advanced students course credit when an above-average score is earned.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
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I OPPOSE HB 291 as originally filed.