



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 315</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Government Efficiency</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>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>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 11:56 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I am in Support of this Bill, its intension and Penalties from the Program. I have Supported this Bill in the past Legislation Session.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TIMOTHY FABER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tfaber@mobaptist.org</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2025 3:43 PM</b>
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This is a bill that should receive bi-partisan support. We all want to help our neighbors who are in need. But if we are honest, nobody “needs” any of the items covered in the definition of a “prohibited purchase. And nobody “needs” to do their shopping at a prohibited establishment. I understand there are many folks who “want” such things, but wants are different than needs, and we are talking about Temporary Assistance for NEEDY Families. If families are ever going to break the cycle of poverty and be free from the government dole – which is the objective, right? – then making sure they have what they need is legitimate, but providing for their wants does not further that objective. In fact, leaving folks short of their wants is more likely to stir ambition and motivation for them to go out and procure the means of providing those wants. The prohibition on using an ATM to access cash is also valid because that cash could then be used to obtain prohibited items.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINE WOODY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-503-7277</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>FOOD POLICY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAN SHAUL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-378-4363</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1539 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS WAY</b>			
CITY: <b>IMPERIAL</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63052</b>
EMAIL: <b>dshaul@missourigrocers.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 12:05 PM</b>	
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**Both of these issue if done on the state level will have a negative effect on the grocery industry.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMIE SKINNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ryanandjamieskinner@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 12:32 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Chairperson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jamie Skinner and I am from Columbia. I am here to testify in opposition to House Bill 315. HB 315 proposes restrictions on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, including prohibiting cash withdrawals and limiting the types of purchases recipients can make. While I understand the intent behind this bill, I urge the committee to consider its unintended consequences. Many TANF recipients rely on cash withdrawals to cover essential expenses such as rent, transportation, and childcare—costs that cannot always be paid with an EBT card. By restricting access to cash, this bill could push struggling families further into financial insecurity, forcing them to seek high-interest payday loans or rely on other costly alternatives. Additionally, this legislation reinforces the harmful and false stereotype that low-income families misuse public benefits. The vast majority of TANF recipients use their assistance responsibly to meet their basic needs. Studies from other states have shown that similar restrictions do not significantly reduce fraud or improve financial outcomes—instead, they create additional barriers for families who are already struggling. Rather than imposing punitive restrictions, we should focus on policies that empower low-income families, such as job training programs and expanded childcare support, which have been shown to help families achieve long-term financial stability. For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose HB 315 and instead pursue solutions that uplift Missouri’s most vulnerable residents. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kortniehuddleston@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 11:03 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I strongly urge you to oppose HB315 (Cook), which imposes harsh restrictions on public assistance programs. Food is a basic human right, and threatening people with starvation if they fail to meet arbitrary work requirements is both cruel and counterproductive. Missouri's unemployment rate is currently just 3.7%, meaning the vast majority of people who can work are already working. For those living in poverty, cash assistance is often a critical resource that provides flexibility and dignity. For instance, a TANF card might cover groceries, but cash can help pay for a bus pass to get to work, school supplies for children, coins for the laundromat, or emergency car repairs. By limiting access to cash assistance, this bill would trap families in cycles of poverty rather than helping them achieve self-sufficiency. Public assistance programs exist to provide a hand up, not to punish people for being poor. Let's not reduce Missourians to mere statistics or, worse, treat them as expendable. These bills are not solutions—they are attacks on the most vulnerable among us, and they must be stopped.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2025 11:03 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RON LEONE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-864-5189</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MPCA - MO PETROLEUM &amp; CONVENIENCE ASSN.</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>205 E. CAPITOL AVE. SUITE 200</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
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