



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 326		DATE: 2/10/2025	
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means			
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: CHRISTINE WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-503-7277	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: FOOD POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: christine@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 3:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Re: House Bill 326My name is Christine Woody and I am the Food Security Policy manager for Empower Missouri. We are a statewide non-profit organization that leads a statewide coalition on food security and food access. Many of our coalition members work for or volunteer for food pantries in Missouri. These charities are one of the first lines of help for those struggling with food insecurity in our state. Each of these pantries rely on donations of food and money to be able to provide for the thousands of individuals that come through their doors every month. For many years the Missouri Donated Food Tax Credit has allowed food pantries a way to incentive donors to give. Currently there is \$1.75 million dollars available in this fund. For the past few years that cap has been reached and that is when the problem has begun. Once the fund is depleted, everyone who applied for the fund will only get an apportioned credit (less than what they applied for or were expecting). This difference in expectation and reality ends up being taxes still owed to the state, and rightly so. Those taxes should be paid, but the problem lies in what happens next. Instead of letting the taxpayer know they still owe some taxes and providing them some time to make that payment, they are automatically hit with late charges and interest. This is penalizing people whose goal was to help alleviate hunger. These late charges and interest charges discourage donors from donating again and in the end hurt the very nonprofits and the very people this tax credit was created to help in the first place. House Bill 326 would not relieve the taxpayer from paying taxes they owe but gives them time to pay it without imposing additional fees or interest. It really is the only fair and just thing to do for taxpayers and food pantries. On behalf of all of the members of our coalition, I am urging you to pass this bill through the committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHUCK PIERCE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-3307	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SOCIETY OF CPA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1073			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-212-1468	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CIRCLE OF CONCERN		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 927 WINDGATE COURT			
CITY: FENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63026
EMAIL: cyndi@circleofconcern.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2025 4:32 PM

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

Greetings, Members of the Missouri House Ways and Means Committee, I lead a food pantry and social services nonprofit in west St. Louis County, helping low-income families in the Rockwood, Parkway, Kirkwood, and Valley Park School Districts; as well as the Fenton and High Ridge communities. We serve about 700 households monthly. The food pantry tax credit is a wonderful tool to encourage community members to support area food pantries like ours. Unfortunately, in recent years, some of our donors have received apportioned (reduced) credits resulting in taxes owed, interest and penalties! This has soured the giving experience for many donors. We've had some difficult conversations trying to explain to donors how this happened to them. We ask that you pass HB 326, which would allow donors the opportunity to pay any taxes owed within 60 days, thereby avoiding penalties and fees. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER: 219-229-1104	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1219			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 4:47 PM
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The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly supports Incentivizing contributions for to child serving organizations and extending the sunset on both credits.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GINA CLEMENT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-2272	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CAPITAL CITY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 600 MONROE STREET, SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SEITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-415-6228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI NETWORK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 520 DIX ROAD, SUITE C			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN KRALEMANN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-710-5540	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FOOD OUTREACH		TITLE: SR. DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVE	
ADDRESS: 3117 OLIVE STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL: justin@foodoutreach.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2025 9:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express Food Outreach's support for the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit and to urge you to consider reforms to address critical issues that could enhance its impact on addressing food insecurity in our state. This program has proven to be a valuable tool for Food Outreach to incentivize charitable giving from donors, but several challenges limit its full potential to support vulnerable Missourians. One of the primary concerns is the imposition of late fees and interest on donors when the tax credit cap is reached. This creates an unnecessary burden on individuals and organizations whose sole intent is to help alleviate hunger in our communities. Penalizing donors for their generosity not only discourages future giving but also undermines the spirit of the program. I urge you to implement reforms that eliminate these punitive measures on donors when the fund's cap has been hit. Food insecurity remains a pressing issue in Missouri, with thousands of families, particularly children and seniors, relying on food pantries for basic sustenance. Enhancing the tax credit program by addressing these concerns will strengthen our state's commitment to combating hunger and creating a more equitable future for all Missourians across our proud state.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM BUCKMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 660-833-8939	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FEEDING MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTY CARTER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-724-2500	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAST OF THESE, INC.		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1720 JAMES RIVER RD			
CITY: OZARK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65721
EMAIL: kristy.carter@leastofthesefoodpantry.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2025 1:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

February 6, 2025
To: Chairman McGirl and The House Ways and Means Committee
From: Kristy Carter
Executive Director
Least Of These, Inc. Christian County Food Pantry
1720 James River Rd.,
Ozark, MO 65721
417-724-2500
leastofthesefoodpantry.org
Re: House Bill 326
My name is Kristy Carter, and I am the Executive Director of Least Of These Christian County Food Pantry. Least Of These is the only full-service food pantry in Christian County and the largest food pantry in Southwest Missouri. In 2024, Least Of These served 42,903 individuals including over 16,000 children under 18 and 8,648 seniors over 60 years old. We distributed nearly 2.2 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need during the past year. Least Of These relies on donations of food and money to provide for those faced with food insecurity in our community. Our donors consist of businesses, churches and individuals. Many of them over the past 10 years that I have been at Least Of These have been incentivized to increase their giving knowing that they would be eligible for the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits. However, during the past few years, that has changed. Imagine relying solely on donations to provide food to families who have hungry children and grandparents living together. Because of a gracious donor, Least Of These is able to purchase food to ensure those children and senior adults go to bed with food in their bellies. Then imagine receiving a phone call from that gracious donor who is now livid because they have incurred penalties and fees from the State of Missouri due to their donation to Least Of These. The donor initially doesn't understand and ultimately is discouraged to learn these penalties are imposed by the State of Missouri and not Least Of These. Unfortunately, the food pantry is the one who suffers. Donors who are charged fees and penalties by the State of Missouri after the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit has reached its cap are frustrated, angry even. The penalties and fees imposed upon them discourage any increase in their giving levels and they often refuse to give again. In my experience, the fees and penalties cause irreparable harm to food pantry funding by damaging donor relationships which is the opposite of the purpose of the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits. House Bill 326 would not relieve the taxpayer from paying taxes they owe but allows them time to pay without imposing additional fees or interest. It really is the only fair and just thing to do for taxpayers and food pantries. I am urging you to pass this bill through the committee. Blessings,
/s/ Kristy Carter
Executive Director



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LEANNE REESE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-256-1445	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1000 WEST NIFONG BOULEVARD, BUILDING 4, SUITE 201D			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA MITELL		PHONE NUMBER: 816-778-8002	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHILD PROTECTION CENTER		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS: 2940 MAIN STREET			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-5234	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI (HB 326); LIBERTY UTILITIES (HB 531)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 124 E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: matt@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 4:24 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEREDITH JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-776-1410	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ISAIAH 58 MINISTRIES		TITLE: REVEREND	
ADDRESS: 2149 S GRAND BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL: meredith@i58ministries.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2025 1:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

February 10, 2025To: Chairman McGirl and The House Ways and Means CommitteeFrom: Rev Meredith Jackson Program Director Isaiah 58 MinistriesRe: House Bill 326My name is Meredith Jackson and I am the Program Director for Isaiah 58 Ministries. We are a St Louis-based social service agency serving those living in hunger and poverty in near-South City St Louis. We serve food 5 days a week, through our food pantry and fresh food distributions, as well as free clothing, educational events, and special events throughout the year.Our food pantry relies on donations from individuals and organizations. For individuals, the Missouri Donated Food Pantry Tax Credit is a fabulous incentive for giving to our work. Unfortunately, when the annual fund cap (\$1.75 million dollars) is reached, taxpayers are unexpectedly penalized with late charges and interest when they aren't able to receive the full credit they applied for.When the fund is depleted, House Bill 326 would not relieve the taxpayer from paying taxes they owe but gives them time to pay it without imposing additional fees or interest. This revision to the process is fair and just for for taxpayers and food pantries.On behalf of our ministry, I am urging you to pass this bill through the committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: KANBE's MARKETS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: tyler.vertexgov@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2025 4:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

On behalf of Kanbe's Markets in Kansas City we want to thank Rep. Shields for filing HB 326 and thank the committee for hearing this legislation. The donated food tax credit has been crucially helpful for organizations throughout the state who help Missourians struggling with food insecurity. This legislation extends this vital program and cleans up bureaucratic red tape. Thank you for your consideration and we strongly support HB 326.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM
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