



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 482</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Professional Registration and Licensing</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>CHRISTY JENNINGS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-718-1783</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>BUILDING BLOCKS LEARNING CENTER</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>22951 PROFESSIONAL</b>			
CITY: <b>LEBANON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65536</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID JACKSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-406-2933</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>WONDERSCHOOL</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1865</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEN HUSSEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-645-2504</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 104176</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65110</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAUREN SHANTZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-645-4915</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65806</b>
EMAIL: <b>lshantz@springfieldchamber.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 8:47 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK HULET</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>markhulet@kansascityymca.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 2:09 PM</b>
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The YMCA of Greater Kansas City supports allowing child care programs in good standing to be granted temporary licensure upon receipt of a completed application. Often, the calendar moves faster than the process, and we have been up against the first day of school scheduling initial visits for new programs. Allowing temporary permits for child care licensing ensures that families in need of child care have what they need to remain active in the workforce.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGAN MCCORMICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-862-8962</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>OZARKS REGIONAL YMCA</b>		TITLE: <b>SENIOR VP OF OPERATIONS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>323 N PATTON AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65806</b>
EMAIL: <b>mmccormick@orymca.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 7:17 AM</b>	

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Ozarks Regional YMCA is the 3rd largest childcare provider in the state. We have been in the childcare business for 40 years. We have opened 4 new centers in the past 2 years, but our community still has a need for more. The majority of our sites are school age, before & after school care. In July 2023, we submitted license revisions to increase the capacity at 6 of our 29 locations, allowing us to serve a total of 150 more children. To this day, we have not had those approved. DESE is under staffed to meet our demands in a timely manner. When our revisions are addressed, there is constant red tape that prohibits us from moving forward, when none of it effects the quality of our care or safety of children, nor would it change any part of our operation. In March of 2024 we created a partnership with Branson School District to open an early childhood center. We had an existing license for after school care at this site. We opened this center in November of 2024, but could've opened in August, had we been granted a temporary license from the beginning. I had to go two levels above the licensing specialist to get any movement. Not only were parents waiting in limbo or forced to find care elsewhere (or not at all), but we had staff also waiting in limbo, needing to work. In November of 2024, we began the process of taking over the pre-K after school program, that Branson School District has been operating. This was just another expansion of the current license. Our goal was to be operational when school resumed in January. An 8" hole in a fence prohibited us from doing so. This hole had never been addressed before when the program was inspected. When that was repaired, a variance was required for the director approval. We are still waiting on that variance approval. We are constantly thinking outside the box, trying to do our part in this childcare crisis, only to be met with delays and obstacles that impact our community. The parents who are trying to work and provide for their families are the ones suffering. Temporary licenses would have allowed us to provide care in a more timely manner and fix the inconsequential issues on the back end.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA WEHNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-831-0150</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>JORDAN VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH</b>		TITLE: <b>VP OPERATIONS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>440 E TAMPA</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65806</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 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:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2025 9:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Robyn Schelp, and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Kids Win Missouri. We advocate for issues of child well-being, including child care and early education, child welfare, and healthcare. Kids Win Missouri supports a temporary child care license, as created by HB 50, HB 482, and HB 850, and we appreciate Rep. Haley, Rep. Hausman, and Rep. Schmidt for sponsoring these bills. Child care is in crisis and it is impacting the well-being of children, families, and our communities. Seventy-eight counties in the state are considered child-care deserts, where there are more than 3 times as many children as there are licensed child care slots. Kids Win Missouri wants to ensure that existing child care programs that wish to expand can do so without barriers. These bills allow programs that are in good standing with their licensing and have approved fire-safety and sanitation inspections to begin enrolling and serving children while waiting for the final state inspection. We appreciate this legislature's commitment to improving access to affordable, quality child care and we ask for your support of HB 50, HB 482, and HB 850.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TAMMY KILLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-572-8786</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>THE YOUNG MEN's CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF ST. JOSEPH (DBA YMCA OF ST. JOSEPH)</b>		TITLE: <b>CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3601 N. VILLAGE DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. JOSEPH</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64506</b>
EMAIL: <b>tkillin@stjoymca.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 3:04 PM</b>	

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At the request of our school district for additional childcare services, the YMCA of St. Joseph submitted a licensing application in June 2024 for an additional School Age Childcare Site. We were notified that a variance request was needed due to this site being located at an early learning center within the school district, thus serving students 3 to 5 years of age. The variance request was completed stating that the Y would provide before and after school care for the preschool students, just as we provide at our seven other sites within the school district. We were then contacted by our Missouri state licensing representative stating we would need to complete an application for an early childcare license due to the age of the population we intended to serve. We were also told we would need to complete variance requests to operate as a before and after school site. We were able to get the safety and sanitation inspection completed in a sufficient timeframe, as well as the fire inspection; both were approved. Our licensing representative completed a site visit, and we complied with all requests regarding safety, which consisted of more variance requests for safe sleep, diapering, hours of operations, etc. (we don't provide nap time or diapering and would only have hours of operation before and after school). Again, all of this was addressed prior to school starting. The main concern lies in our site director request and qualifications. This has been an issue for several of our school age childcare sites as well. Due to our limited resources, several of our childcare hires are individuals who don't have the educational background required, even if they have the experience. We have been submitting variance requests for these individuals, but they have not been approved each time, thus we are not licensed for this new site. We were under the impression in August that our license would be granted any day, therefore we decided to open our doors. This was a conversation we also had with our licensing representative and the Office of Childhood to ensure we could get reimbursed for those students who receive state subsidy, as well as be reimbursed for CACFP, as we were not able to complete the subsidy application or CACFP application until a license was secured. Fortunately, we only have 2 families with state subsidy that we are not able to be reimbursed for. Also, we have not been able to submit reimbursement for CACFP funds for the food program. Under this program, we provide warm meals for the students, which is approximately 15 meals per school day for the entire 2024 Fall semester. DESE and our state licensing rep are aware of our situation and have responded back to us each time we ask a question or submit a variance. However, we are still not licensed and have operated on the impression this will be solved any day. Due to our partnership with the school district, we have determined the need for our services outweighs the delays and loss of funds the YMCA has suffered. However, we will not be able to continue for the Fall of 2025 in this manner. We have also been requested by the school district to start an additional early learning site due to continued demands for childcare services. We will not be able to start this until the original license is

secured. This situation may be a bit rare; however, there is a need for childcare services that we should and want to provide in our community. I would advocate that due to our good standing as a childcare provider for the past 40+ years, a provisional license would be appropriate. Thank you for your time and consideration for House Bill #482.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TIM HELM</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-436-1177</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>GATEWAY REGION YMCA</b>		TITLE: <b>CEO</b>
ADDRESS: <b>2815 SCOTT AVENUE SUITE D</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63103</b>
EMAIL: <b>tim.helm@gwrymca.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/28/2025 8:45 AM</b>

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Passage of the Provisional Licensing Bill will allow our Gateway Region YMCA to be able to deliver childcare services in a more effective, efficient and consumer friendly way. For families to be able to access childcare when they need it, without barriers, is beneficial for everyone-families, employers, community, school districts and most importantly the children we serve. This would allow us to:  
\*Increase current licensed programs to accommodate additional enrollment needs without having to place families on lengthy waiting lists until the license can be amended and expanded.  
\*Begin new programs that are requested close to the start of the school year that in the past would not be able to open and accommodate family needs when school starts. This would allow decreasing delays in care while the license is being finalized-where now it can take an indefinite period of time.   
\*Allow us to be more responsive to our School District Partners who rely on our before and after school program to support their students and families with high quality care opportunities when they need it and not be on a waiting list to obtain those services.



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<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>1/29/2025 11:47 PM</b>	
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**I am very Opposed to this Bill. We are putting in jeporady the safety of our State's children by cutting corners and not doing all of the necessary backround checks and searches. This is very bad Public Policy. Defeat this Bill!**