



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 607</b>		DATE: <b>2/3/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs</b>		
<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>2/3/2025 11:43 PM</b>

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

I am Opposed to this Legislation and changing the rules after Legislation was Passed in 2024. Because of inflation, should not push back the Salary increase. Because of increasting costs of good and services, this increase is NEEDED now! I believe that a Teacher's Master's Degree shall and must be related to academics and education. Do NOT Delay these much NEEDED Minuim Teacher Salaries, especially in Rural and Small Town Missouri. Defeat this Bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 607</b>		DATE: <b>2/3/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs</b>		
<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>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>2/3/2025 6:24 PM</b>

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

HB 607 is a misguided proposal that fails to address the critical needs of Missouri’s educators and students. One of the most troubling aspects of this bill is its removal of the requirement that a teacher’s master’s degree must be directly tied to their teaching assignment. This change diminishes the importance of specialized knowledge and expertise in the classroom. Studies, such as those from the National Center for Education Statistics, have shown that teachers with advanced degrees in their subject areas significantly improve student outcomes. By weakening this standard, HB 607 risks lowering the quality of education and depriving students of the high-caliber instruction they deserve. Equally concerning is the bill’s decision to delay inflation-adjusted salary increases for teachers until 2030. Over the past decade, teacher salaries have already fallen behind due to inflation, with data from the Economic Policy Institute showing a nearly 10% decline in real wages. By freezing adjustments for another five years, this bill will only deepen Missouri’s teacher shortage crisis. With the state’s average teacher salary already ranking among the lowest in the nation at \$51,557—far below the national average of \$66,397—this legislation sends a damaging message to educators: their contributions are not valued, and their financial security is not a priority. This approach will drive more teachers out of the profession, leaving students and schools to suffer the consequences. Additionally, the bill’s restriction on the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Program," limiting grants to just 50% of the funding needed to meet minimum salary thresholds, places an unreasonable burden on school districts. Requiring districts to cover the remaining 50% from Classroom Trust Fund moneys will force them to divert resources from other essential areas, such as classroom supplies, technology upgrades, and facility maintenance. This will disproportionately harm underfunded districts, exacerbating existing inequities in our education system. HB 607 is not a solution; it is a step in the wrong direction for Missouri’s teachers, students, and communities. I strongly urge lawmakers to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that genuinely support and invest in our educators.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 607</b>		DATE: <b>2/3/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs</b>			
<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>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>2/3/2025 6:23 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**HB 607 is a deeply flawed bill that undermines the value of Missouri’s educators and jeopardizes the quality of education for our students. By removing the requirement that a teacher’s master’s degree must be directly related to their teaching assignment, this bill devalues the expertise and specialization that advanced degrees bring to the classroom. Research consistently shows that teachers with advanced degrees in their subject areas are more effective educators, leading to higher student achievement. For example, a study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that students taught by teachers with subject-specific advanced degrees perform significantly better on standardized tests. By diluting this requirement, HB 607 risks lowering the quality of instruction and shortchanging our students’ futures. Furthermore, the bill’s decision to delay inflation-adjusted salary increases until 2030 is a direct attack on the financial stability of Missouri’s teachers. Inflation has already eroded teacher salaries by nearly 10% over the past decade, according to the Economic Policy Institute. By freezing adjustments for another five years, this bill will exacerbate the teacher shortage crisis, as educators continue to leave the profession for better-paying opportunities. Missouri already ranks among the lowest in the nation for teacher pay, with an average salary of \$51,557, well below the national average of \$66,397. This bill sends a clear message to educators: their dedication and hard work are not valued, and their financial well-being is not a priority. Finally, the provision limiting grants under the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Program" to 50% of the necessary funding places an unfair burden on school districts already struggling to meet budgetary demands. Forcing districts to rely on Classroom Trust Fund moneys for the remaining 50% will divert resources away from other critical needs, such as classroom supplies, technology, and infrastructure improvements. This short-sighted approach will only widen the gap between well-funded and underfunded districts, further inequities in our education system. HB 607 is not a solution; it is a step backward for Missouri’s teachers, students, and communities. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and instead invest in policies that truly support and uplift our educators.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 607</b>		DATE: <b>2/3/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs</b>		
<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>SCOTT MCMASTERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>scotty.mcm93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2025 9:35 AM</b>

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

The bill should not change the limit for the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant" from 70% to 50% minimum teacher pay needs to be increased not limited more.