



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKY LOHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: YES EVERY KID, MISSOURI CENTURY FOUNDATION, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TRUST		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: CHINNA NICOLE HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kidsbirds@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 6:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I believe all students should be able to attend any public school if the student doesn't reside in the area the the parent needs to provide transportation. A lot of the schools don't have good teachers some do with so little options we should be able to choose our kids school



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: JIM MALLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jim@wearealigned.org		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORDAN ZAKERY		PHONE NUMBER: 217-358-2741	
REPRESENTING: EXCEL IN ED IN ACTION		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1350 N. MERIDIAN STREET, APT. 316			
CITY: INDIANAPOLIS		STATE: IN	ZIP: 46202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
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: MELISSA DIAL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: melissarenee2127@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a mom of five children moving from a small school district, I have high hopes that this will pass due to us moving in between another small school district 12 minutes away, and a very large school district 19 minutes away. The school district border put my children in the large school and they are having the worst time adjusting. They went from 193 students in grades 7-12, to 1,491 in grades 9-12. It is so hard to watch them struggle, yet they would love being in the closer school with only double the amount of kids.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
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: TIARA JORDAN-SUTTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tiara.jordan21@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 8:20 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning, Chairperson and members of the committee, My name is Tiara Jordan-Sutton, and I am a proud parent of Missouri’s public school system (Hazelwood District). I am here today to share my story and urge you to support House Bill 711, which would allow open enrollment and help eliminate barriers to quality education for all Missouri children, regardless of zip code, race, or socioeconomic status. As a parent, my primary responsibility is to ensure that my children have every opportunity to succeed. Unfortunately, the reality for too many Missouri families, particularly Black and Brown families, is that their children are trapped in underperforming schools simply because of where they live. The data is undeniable. According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, only 25% of Black students in the state scored proficient or advanced in English Language Arts in 2023, compared to 46% of white students. This achievement gap isn’t just a statistic—it’s a glaring symptom of a system that isn’t working for everyone. Danielle, a St Louis mother of two knows this struggle personally. Her oldest child was attending a school that failed to meet their needs, and she felt powerless because she didn’t have the option to move them to a better school that was only 10 minutes away. It’s heartbreaking as a parent to know that there are better opportunities out there but to be unable to access them because of outdated policies. House Bill 711 would break down these barriers by allowing families to enroll their children in schools that best meet their needs, regardless of where they live. Open enrollment would ensure that education is based on a student’s potential—not their zip code or skin color. We also cannot ignore how this bill would impact communities of color. In too many neighborhoods, systemic inequities have concentrated poverty and limited access to quality schools. Open enrollment would provide a lifeline to families currently being left behind by the system, giving them a fair shot at achieving the American Dream. I understand there are concerns about transportation, school funding, and whether or not charter school families are included, but we can solve these challenges together. The status quo, however, is not an option. We cannot wait any longer while children fall through the cracks. This is not just about my children; it’s about every child in Missouri. I am asking you to pass House Bill 711 so that every parent, no matter their race, income, or address, has the power to make the best decisions for their children. Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 711.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA KNITTEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: aknitte1914@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I share concerns with rural districts and financially struggling districts that this will create a widening equity gap between school districts. For example, receiving districts to not have to add staff to accommodate special needs students. Additionally, I believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMBER BENGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amber.benge0605@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 5:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am concerned with rural districts and financially struggling districts that this will create a widening equity gap between school districts. For example, receiving districts to not have to add staff to accommodate special needs students. Additionally, we believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMBER BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bamber311@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:07 AM

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

Dear Members of the House Education Committee, My name is Amber Brown from Arnold, MO. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 711. As someone who values equitable access to quality education for all Missouri students, I am deeply concerned about the unintended consequences this bill will have on our public schools, particularly in rural and financially struggling districts. Allowing open enrollment without safeguards risks exacerbating existing inequities. Schools in wealthier areas will attract more students while struggling districts—already facing resource limitations—will see further declines in enrollment and funding. This will not foster competition in a way that benefits all students; rather, it will create a system of winners and losers, leaving many children behind. Additionally, HB 711 does not require receiving districts to increase staff or resources for special needs students, creating an environment where these students may face even more barriers to accessing the support they require. Every child deserves a fully funded, well-supported education in their own community. Instead of diverting resources away, Missouri should focus on strengthening local schools so that every student, regardless of zip code, has the opportunity to succeed. Public funding should be used to enhance public schools, not to circumvent the foundation formula in ways that destabilize communities. Many small and rural schools serve as vital hubs for their communities, and policies like HB 711 could ultimately force closures, weakening the fabric of these towns. I urge you to oppose HB 711 and instead invest in policies that uplift all of Missouri's public schools, ensuring that every student receives the quality education they deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY VENTURELLA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amyventurella@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Instead of allowing students in one area select a public school in another area, why isn't Missouri better funding all public education everywhere across the state? So that no matter where you live you're able to get a good education. That's what should happen - the state should be supporting all public schools across Missouri, for all students. This bill has the potential to close schools in rural areas, and pull funding from schools statewide (many in areas where they're needed most). Public schools are a huge part of that school's community as well, and sometimes the only way some children get consistent meals and support. While hearts may be in the right place, this feels like another mismanaged attempt to dismantle and defund public schools in general.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C.HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 11:51 PM	

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

I am Opposed to this Bill and its awful intension of Bankrupting and putting Public Schools Out-of-Business. This is wrong and Bad Public Policy!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKY WANTLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sanduskybecky@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is absolutely horrific for public schools- who serve everyone regardless of religion, race, and ability. Removing or displacing funding to other districts will affect everyone within the community. School choice is WRONG.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRANDI KOZIATEK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: brandi_koziatek@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 7:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB711 as it will widen the equity gap between school districts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTANY COPELAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mrstyecopeland@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This will harm rural communities like the one that I call home. Schools should be fully funded by the state, instead of nearly solely by property taxes that cause great gaps in funding and amenities between districts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BROOKE TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bythebrooke@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in opposition to this bill, although I understand that it comes from a good place and a desire to serve every student. Unfortunately, I do not think that would be the outcome and I have seen this play out in very problematic ways in states like Arizona. It creates uneven staffing situations and leaves special needs students without necessary accommodations. Rather than moving students around, I believe public funding should be used to strengthen ALL of our schools so that students aren't going to more preferable districts, but every district is serving students. It creates such a gap for those who can't afford to drive or leave where they are locally. It can rupture communities created around schools. As someone who grew up in a rural area, I worry about the closure of schools as well. Competition models do not always create desire outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROLINE J TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cjvtaylor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 6:09 PM

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

I feel this would be detrimental to schools, especially rural schools. We know the school is central to the small rural community. This could cause more financial difficulties for small school districts. It will widen the equity gap between districts. Missouri schools are already ranking poorly. Legislators need to be voting against HB 711 for the betterment of Missouri school districts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHARLENE WALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: charlenewall700@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 7:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill could possibly close smaller school districts and damage the communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-294-0497	
REPRESENTING: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE KENT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: christinek@mopta.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 1:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missouri PTAP O Box 30545 Columbia, MO 65205(573) 445-4161 Our Vision: "Every Child's Potential is a Reality" On behalf of the Missouri PTA and our 25,000 statewide members, I submit this testimony to show opposition for HB 711. As a community, Missouri PTA advocates for all children and for the improvement of public education. It believes that any changes in school structure or funding should be measured by the likely outcomes for all children in accord with the obligation to prepare all children to become effective, productive adult citizens. House Bill 711 will lead to school consolidation. School consolidation is not limited to just small, rural districts. Urban/suburban districts alike are financially fragile and will have significant difficulties with the passage of this bill and it may result in their consolidation as well. Even if a school district does not close and consolidate, the loss of students in the district will affect all remaining students as there will be less revenue to provide a more robust educational experience. School districts will compete for students and large sums of money that should be utilized for the education of children and will instead be used for marketing and other recruitment materials. Schools will also be forced to compete with one another for the best facilities and best sports programs which will further deplete money going into the classroom. This bill will create a financial planning nightmare for school districts. School districts will be forced to hold larger sums of money in reserve in case swings in student population occur. This may result in teacher salaries remaining stagnant or placed on hold valuable educational experiences/programs. HB 711 creates transportation issues as well. As stated in the bill transportation is the parents responsibility unless the student qualifies for free/reduced meals. The parents can transport the student to the school of choice or to an existing bus stop if there is capacity available on the bus. It also fails to consider the homeless student population. These students will lack the ability to participate in open enrollment further creating "haves" and "have nots." The focus should be on supporting and improving our schools and all populations rather than tearing them apart. The focus needs to turn to supporting and building stronger schools in each of our communities. Each community is unique and to say that open enrollment would benefit all students is misleading and grossly misunderstood. However, the impact will be felt by all due to the financial hardship it will cause for districts. Respectfully submitted, Christine Kent President, Missouri PTA



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CONRAD PRUGH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cprugh@gfr2.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 9:54 AM

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

HB 711 is wrong for Missouri schools and families. This bill will have devastating impacts on districts all across Missouri. I am a part of a small rural school district in Dent County. Open enrollment will wreak absolute havoc on our ability to track students progress and well being if they are allowed to transfer each year between non-resident and resident districts. We already deal with this. Parents get mad about something at school and pull their student out to homeschool them only to re-enroll weeks later. This gets repeated non-stop. The transportation requirements are unreasonable for rural Missouri districts. Districts that border us could have a student transfer in that requires transportation and still live 25-30 miles away from our district. It would take nearly an hour for one bus to pick up that one student. The impact of a resident student leaving rural districts is also much greater. We receive almost no commercial taxes as we have only 1 business in our district. There is a lot of poverty in our district so home values are low. We rely on state and federal money for about 60% of our budget. Each student that leaves our district would cost us more than a district that is locally funded. Please oppose HB 711. It is not right for rural Missouri. It will cause districts to close, jobs to be lost, and a decline in services for families in rural Missouri who need it most.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA ANN SPRAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cspray1969@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 8:22 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Our public schools need to be fully funded , my Tax dollars should fund my public school in my neighborhood. It should not be used for anything else.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cdpj58@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am deeply concerned that this bill will deepen the widening gap between school districts and their ability to provide a quality education to our children. It will especially harm the small, rural districts that have been struggling financially because of the way we fund public education. Public funds should be used to improve local schools that are under local control, not to find ways to force consolidation and closures that will irreparably harm communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:34 PM	

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

MOEEP steadfastly opposes shifting public money to any non-public school. We are not alone. Last year’s nearly identical bill barely passed the House (86-73) because rural districts voted against it knowing it would harm communities. We are also opposed to generalized moving of public funds among public schools. State allocation of money is accomplished via a complicated formula based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, local contributions and local demographics in an effort to make funding equitable. Reallocation jeopardizes this balance. While there is a per-pupil average amount per district, these funds are not traditionally tied to specific students, again, due to needs and equity. Removing funds could deplete already struggling districts jeopardizing efficiency and viability. We believe open enrollment/school choice will ultimately harm small districts and undermine equity, especially in rural areas while recognizing it can meet individual needs in limited ways. Sometimes consolidation is the most effective choice, but it is just that: a choice accomplished via an existing process. Open Enrollment will lead to involuntary consolidation diminishing local control. Schools are community anchors in smaller towns and closure therefore jeopardizes communities. We believe in equity for students, communities and districts, therefore a regionalization model is a more equitable course to take. Students wishing to move due to limited course offerings could be remedied by allowing access to virtual schools or limited transport to districts for courses. There are existing models in Missouri surrounding alternative education and vocational education that can be applied here. Working to improve local schools will keep schools local, protecting “neighborhood schools” in rural, urban, and suburban areas. MOEEP opposes HB 711 as written. We believe creating avenues expanding open enrollment/school choice jeopardizes public schools in general. Standing alone, these thoughtful, well intended bills do not appear harmful. However, when put with bills seeking to expand opportunities to move public tax money to non-public schools, and expanding charter schools to more communities, open enrollment/school choice will have far reaching consequences. We further believe that the money asked for by the Governor in the State of the State could be used in much better ways to promote public education. Again, we oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 2:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill. I'm fearful it will become mandatory, grow over the 3% and widen inequity between districts with robust funding and those without. I'm also concerned about involuntary consolidation and its impact on communities. I taught in Bismarck my first year and saw what the school meant for the community, the pride it had in it with everything from sports to plays. I returned to Bismarck last April to watch the eclipse and talked with a local business owner and asked him if Bismarck consolidated with Caledonia or West County what would happen to the town. He said it would be devastating. When people come for games, they eat at the local restaurant, hit a shop, buy gas or pick something up at the market. If the consolidated school was put among 3 communities, it would hit all three. Bismarck gets more state aid than Rockwood so if 3% of state money leaves Bismarck it hurts it a lot more than funneling it in to Rockwood who doesn't need it as much. I use those examples because many folks in Bismarck traveled to Fenton to work.727 brought choice in via vouchers and charters. Let's let that operate to see what it does. I mean, who knows? A charter or private school MIGHT open in Bismarck one day.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 8:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB711 will create a widening equity gap between school districts and will cause rural districts and financially struggling districts great harm. This could lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. KENNY SOUTHWICK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-803-4301	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GREATER KC		TITLE: EXEC. DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11325 BROME DR.			
CITY: KEARNEY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64060
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DYLAN BREWER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dylanbrewer1986@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 10:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Dylan Brewer, and I am a concerned educator in the North St. Francois County School District in Bonne Terre, Missouri. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal of HB 711 which proposes the "Public School Open Enrollment Act". While the idea of increased choice and flexibility is often framed as a solution, I believe that open enrollment can have serious unintended consequences for our children, our schools, and our community as a whole. First, open enrollment may deepen inequities in education. Public schools are already serving a diverse range of students with varying needs, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income households. Opening the door for students to transfer to schools outside their district can result in schools with higher needs being disproportionately burdened. Schools that already serve the most vulnerable populations may find their resources stretched thin as they take on students without the necessary funding or support to adequately meet those students' needs. Second, open enrollment undermines the importance of local control and community cohesion. Public schools are meant to reflect the values and priorities of the community they serve. When students are allowed to leave a district for another, it can diminish the sense of ownership and responsibility that families and residents have in their local schools. This not only weakens the connection between schools and their communities but can also lead to a lack of accountability. Schools should be a place where every child is valued and where resources are allocated to those who are part of the community, not diverted to other districts. Third, open enrollment can create significant logistical and financial challenges. Transportation becomes a major concern for families when children attend schools outside their districts. Moreover, the districts that are losing students may experience budget cuts as their funding is often tied to enrollment numbers. This means that the schools left behind may face reductions in staff, programs, and services, ultimately lowering the quality of education for the remaining students. Lastly, while proponents of open enrollment often argue that it improves educational outcomes, there is little evidence to support that it significantly benefits all students. In fact, the competition for resources and the shifting of students can lead to overcrowded classrooms, strained teacher-student ratios, and fewer opportunities for students who remain in their local schools. Public schools must be properly funded and supported, not pitted against one another in a race for students. For these reasons, I urge members of the House to reconsider the proposal for open enrollment and focus on solutions that strengthen our local public schools, ensure equitable access to education for all students, and maintain the connection between our schools and the communities they serve. Thank you for your time and consideration. Mrs. Dylan Brewer



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ERIC BRYAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: embryan03@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 7:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As I and many others understand it, school choice is nothing but an incredible scam. Allocating \$80 million toward this process is the very definition of reckless spending against the best interest of the public. Isn't that what politics is supposed to be about: serving the public and not boosting only one special interest group? Allowing school choice will do nothing but produce elitist behavior in the wealthy while students in public school lose resources and educational experiences. It is a death sentence for rural schools that want nothing but the best for their students. And while the focus here is on how this will affect students, you CANNOT forget that school choice will have negative effects on the public educators' livelihoods whose schools risk being shut down due to such selfish and careless legislation! What a slap to the face of their chosen career path on which so many have dedicated countless hours. I adamantly oppose this bill as I feel it to be a direct attack and insult to public education, a pillar on which our national democracy was built!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GABRIELLA ALMENDAREZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gabbie.almendarez@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 3:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER FLEMING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: fleminghs3@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is another attempt to push open enrollment, a policy that would remove funding from already struggling districts and negatively impact their ability to provide necessary services for students remaining within their districts who need them. This would financially cripple some districts. Please find ways to properly fund our schools and stop wasting time on bills that will harm them, not help them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER MACARTHUR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: heathermacarthur1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 5:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a parent of a student in SLPS I absolutely oppose this bill. This bill will simply make the inequities that exist between school districts across Missouri even more pronounced. Only parents with the means to transport their kids to more affluent school districts would be able to take advantage of this plan. Leaving poorer kids even further and further behind as financial support for their home district drops. This is a much a concern for for school districts in rural areas (especially those neighboring or close to affluent suburban school districts) as it is for school districts in already economically stressed urban areas of the state. Indeed for smaller rural school districts passage of such a bill may even endanger them to the point of closure.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE KELSEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jamiekelsey1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 11:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill will create a widening equity gap between school districts, especially rural and those struggling financially. This will likely lead to closures of many neighborhood and community schools which serve as anchors in these areas. Their undoing will ultimately lead to the undoing of the community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANNIE JENKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jjenkins@springbluffpirates.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 6:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good afternoon. My name is Jeannie Jenkins and I serve as a Superintendent of the Spring Bluff R-XV School District. I am here to testify in opposition to HB 711 and the direct impact it will have on my small district. The Spring Bluff R-XV School District is a rural K8 district embedded in a farming community just 60 miles southwest of St. Louis. I have 218 K-8 students and 72 high school students. We are over 54% locally funded with no industry and 40% reliant on state funding. Spring Bluff R-XV students are some of the top performing students annually in the Missouri Assessment Program across the state and the top performing district in Franklin County in EIA, Math, and science in 2024. The Spring Bluff community takes great pride in their small school traditions and high expectations for learning that was established many years ago and known today as, "The Spring Bluff way." My school community is extremely supportive by passing a 3.1m bond issue last Spring with 77.65% approval. Over 40% of our staff are Spring Bluff alumni. If 10 students leave the first year, my district will lose ~70K, 20 students in 2 years I'm looking at 140K. Those students will not all come from one class so how we will absorb the loss of revenue without impacting the remaining students will be a challenge. The only way to absorb this loss of revenue will be through reduction of certified and non certified staff. For a district already heavily reliant on our local taxpayers, this will be an even bigger burden for my district as I will have to continuously go back to voters to fill the gaps in state funding created by open enrollment. This will only worsen with each year. I have the privilege every day to collaborate with leaders across the state from districts of all sizes. Open enrollment will eliminate this. Schools will become competitive businesses and resources will be redirected to advertising and marketing districts rather than instruction. Open enrollment will weaken the sense of community within my school district. My school is seen as the community hub and holds strong ties with families from many generations. Breaking those connections will negatively impact the community as a whole and the students remaining in the district. Open enrollment will have the greatest impact on our most vulnerable students. Special needs students can be turned away if a district decides they can't meet the individual needs of these student's. Reality is, every district will turn these students away due to the cost it takes to provide services for them. We are a low poverty district and have a small special education population. Our special education students makes up only 6% of our student population but will cost my district \$435K to educate 12 students this year. Some students' needs can be met in the district and others cannot and their needs often cost much more than their typical peers. As a K8 district, we pay tuition for our 9-12 students to attend high school. Most of our high school students attend Sullivan High School where we provide transportation and 3 attend Union High School being transported by their parents. We will pay \$683K in high school tuition for 72 students. Open enrollment will not create educational opportunities for all students. Open enrollment will pull resources and opportunities away from all students in a district especially our most vulnerable. I urge you all to

oppose HB 711. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEFF WOLMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wolmanj@msdr9.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 7:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is Rep Pollitt's fifth attempt to try to enhance public education by adding in open enrollment for students to seek a better education in another, better district. From his statements in the bill hearing today, he has worked to refine the bill as it goes through each session, without it making it to the end process of being passed. His past background in public education is not in dispute, as that makes him a subject matter expert on how to craft useful legislation on a topic like this. The issues that come up from legislation like this are multi-faceted and will end up being the beginning of future changes for the worse if actually implemented. The initial statement about districts not being required to add teachers, staff or classrooms to accommodate transfer applicants only works if the receiving district has excess capacity that allows them to take in extra students without the need for the non-required increases. While the bill doesn't require districts to receive students and is opt-in for that aspect, it is likely that open enrollment, if put into place, will be "fixed" to require all districts to comply with the requirement to accept students. Which, if forced to do so, which likely start to strain district resources over time. Not all districts have the proper resources to handle SPED students, so that brings up a possibility that parents in districts unable to handle SPED needs locally will try to transfer their students to a district possibly better suited to handle those needs. A receiving district may have spare student space for non-SPED students, though if they don't have SPED student space, then it becomes a possible discrimination issue for a district unable to take a student with SPED needs that their parents want them to enroll in via open enrollment. Putting DESE as the over-arching authority on making the model open enrollment policy takes local control away from any districts involved in open enrollment, even if the districts are allowed to make changes from the base policy. It's assumed DESE would have final approval over any possible changes made by districts, which would add to the issues with trying to keep policies in-place. The restriction on sports enrollment for the first year of being in the receiving district is expected, though it could push parents to make their change of the district for their student(s) earlier than necessary, working around that one-year exclusion. This could cause issues with there being no space for earlier grade capacity for students, though space for later grades where this athletic exclusion would come into play. The 3% cap is something that on larger districts receiving students via open enrollment, though again, it's assumed that the cap will be adjusted upwards or removed on a future revision to this bill, if put into effect as-is. The notation about transportation being refundable without having dedicated funding available, since the \$80M for the "Parent Public School Choice Fund" would need go to through appropriations to allocate the money for that reimbursement, it seems unlikely in the 2026-27 school year with the current budget outlook being worked on during this session and the following year's session budget likely to be even worse for funding options. This becomes an even less likely option when the requirement of SB727 start taking effect in the 2025-26 school year, which will have funding needs of their own. And with last session's approved budget having \$275M of the \$1B vetoed out of it listed as SB727 being the reason

for it, the proves further than funding this fund will not likely happen. The provisions in the bill to deal with the lack of funding are likely to be used repeatedly due to the assumed lack of appropriated funds, though that would rely on transportation being fully funded. The application process being lottery-based will help in some ways with putting blinders on the choice of students coming into a receiving district, though again, this is something that likely will be removed in any future changes to open enrollment. There was discussion during the committee hearing that one of the changes that will be made in the committee substitute will be the allowance for resident students to transfer into charter schools. This would currently only allow such transfers to happen in the St Louis City and Kansas City areas of the state, though this would be viewed as a backdoor attempt to expand charter availability. Students that don't live in the confines of the areas served by charters could have nonresident students be able to attend without being within the charter-allowed areas. With charter schools having less oversight than public schools would have, this means taxpayer money could be moved into schools without proper oversight. Residents of a school district that make complaints about funding public schools in their area without students in the local district will be even more irritated that their tax dollars would be paying for the education of students that aren't in the same area they live in. Like the past instances of this bill, if HB711 is passed, it will likely be changed and expanded in a future legislative session without the time allowed to produce measurable results to see the benefits. Since it's promoted benefits would exist once this bill is passed, it would be a simple matter to put in a new bill or amendment to another bill that would work to decrease the limitations present. The supposed benefits that open enrollment will provide have been a mixed result in numerous states that have implemented it at this time, with some of the results being very problematic as open enrollment migrates into a new means for segregation. With the current status of the proposed budget being of a concern for public education funding and with SB727 on the horizon for its requirements taking effect in the next school year, any additional administrative or financial burdens being placed on schools is not a good step forward.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNA ROBERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jroberson1181@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER HECKTOR		PHONE NUMBER: 636-677-3473	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NORTHWEST R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4290 GRAVOIS RD.			
CITY: HOUSE SPRINGS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63051
EMAIL: jhecktor@northwestschools.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:50 AM	

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

This testimony is submitted in opposition to HB 711. Please consider the specific effect this bill would have on the Northwest R-I School District. The Northwest R-I School District is located in northwest Jefferson County bordering the St. Louis County School Districts of Rockwood, Lindbergh, and Mehlville. Our district is narrow and 27 miles long from the northernmost point of the district to the southern tip of the district. Being a Jefferson County school district that is largely funded by state and federal funds (~52% local) bordering St. Louis County districts that do not rely heavily on state funds (one example ~78% local) puts us in a unique deleterious position if open enrollment were to pass as written. We are proud of the education, services, and overall experiences that we provide for all of the students of the Northwest R-I School District, but we cannot compete with proximity and ease of location for families that this bill may provide. Rockwood Summit High School is closer for the families of three of our six elementary buildings than is our own high school that is located in the southern part of our district. Specifically, two of our elementary buildings are less than 3 miles from Rockwood Summit High School and more than 11 miles away from Northwest High School. The total number of students in these three elementary buildings is 1,297 of our total elementary cohort population of 2,580. More than 50% of our elementary students live closer to Rockwood Summit High School than to our own high school. For school districts in our position—a relatively rural, bedroom community with fewer resources bordering one of the largest districts in the state that has abundant resources—Open Enrollment, even with restrictions, could have a devastating effect on our enrollment, our staff and students, and our financial viability. We do not have the local large, corporate and business tax base to supplement a decrease in state funding. People come to Northwest, raise their children in Northwest, and they retire in Northwest. An aging-in-place population and a lower birth rate means that we have a consistent reduction in student enrollment of approximately 50-75 students a year. Because we can predict cohort size year to year and use trend data to make forward-thinking staffing decisions, we can address decreasing student enrollment through attrition, over time, and in a way that sustains the confidence and stability of our staff. In Missouri, we are all correctly focused on the important discussions surrounding teacher recruitment, retention, and teacher pay; salary matters, but so does consistency and stability of employment. The ability to accurately predict our student enrollment is a vital component of our short- and long-term financial decision-making. As you are aware, the majority of a school district’s budget is staffing and salaries—making this the largest expense in a district’s budget. The timelines for parent notification to resident districts outlined in this bill would prevent districts from accurately forecasting staffing year to year. Rather than being proactive in planning for staff, allowing for regular improvement of salaries and benefits due to careful, long-term fiscal planning, Open Enrollment as outlined would necessitate reactive measures that would disrupt the staffing of districts, cause financial inefficiencies, and ultimately result in negative outcomes for

students and staff. Our school district is the unifying force of our area of seven villages and one city that are otherwise operating independently from one another. Please keep communities intact and give all districts equitable funding and the resources they need to provide excellent educational opportunities for all children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSH FREEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: joshfreeman1@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:04 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I appreciate your service and efforts. I believe there is room for give and take on these type of education matters. I do oppose things in HB 711 as it is currently written. On page 7, line 37, it states "Sections 167.1200 to 167.1230 shall not be construed to require a school district to provide special educational services for children with disabilities who are three years of age or older and who do not reside in the school district under section 162.700 if the nonresident district determines, as provided in the nonresident district's model policy adopted under subsection 4 of this section, that the school district is unable to provide appropriate special educational services as required....."I find that upsetting to see it stated that there would be opportunities for some students, but not afforded to others. I have 3 children in public school right now. My 2 daughters are 17 and 14. They could both could apply to a private school and be accepted. My son is 14 and has special needs. He could apply to a private school and 99% of them wouldn't take him because they can't offer his services. I would understand that as those are private schools. For public schools though, I find it very concerning and frankly sad that certain students could be excluded.because of a disability. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOY WEESE MOLL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joyweesemoll@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 4:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This will harm rural school districts and financially struggling districts to benefit a few students. We need solutions that benefit students in the schools where they reside. Missouri students deserve for all public schools be good schools. This bill takes eyes off the ball.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE CHAMBERLINB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: chamberlin.kim7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 3:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I taught for 32 years in the Lees Summit public school system that was fully funded. The continued plan of cutting taxes while expanding the burden of raising teacher pay as well as the potential of students moving to other schools is irresponsible. Instead of allowing students to cross district boundaries, why don't you full fund schools so that they have the programs, resources and staff they need? This plan will not draw new businesses to Missouri as our public school system is crushed under the weight of this debt. Small rural communities have already lost their health care. Now they will lose their schools. Then their towns will die. Larger communities will bear the financial burden of educating all these students in larger buildings. We can't afford this. Put pride in Missouri schools by fulling funding last years SB 727 and stop cutting taxes. No one wants to pay taxes. I get it. But we need a strong public school system. Most families cannot afford private schools even with a \$6,000 a year voucher. St. Michaels near me is \$9,000 a year. Families can't pay the balance of \$3,000. That voucher system allows the rich to have a discount on education, but the middle class and poor cannot



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY VANDEGRIFFE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEN SUSMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ksusman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KERI BURNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kburns609@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 11:32 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This will cripple school districts in lower socioeconomic areas. Top performing students will leave their home districts and take tax dollars with them. This sounds like a plan to overturn Brown v. The Board of Education.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kcm Maxwell7@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:50 PM

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

Open enrollment is a biased, discriminatory proposition. My autistic son and other neurodivergent students would not have the same options as a neurotypical student and that violates their civil rights.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 10:25 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 711, the Public School Open Enrollment Act, threatens the stability and fairness of Missouri’s public education system. While the bill is framed as a way to increase parental choice and enhance educational opportunities, it ultimately harms public schools, especially those in underfunded and underserved areas. By permitting students to transfer to nonresident districts without requiring those districts to expand their resources, the bill worsens existing inequities and drains vital funding from schools that are already struggling. Public schools depend on per-pupil funding to operate effectively, and when students leave, they take that funding with them. This creates a harmful cycle where struggling schools lose resources, making it even more difficult for them to provide quality education to the students who remain. In essence, HB 711 defunds public schools, leaving them with fewer resources to support teachers, maintain facilities, and offer critical programs. Additionally, the bill’s establishment of an \$80 million “Parent Public School Choice Fund” represents a misallocation of taxpayer dollars. Rather than using these funds to directly improve underperforming schools, the money will be used to cover transportation and special education costs for students transferring to nonresident districts. This approach prioritizes the needs of a small group of students over the broader needs of all students. It is particularly troubling that the bill does not require nonresident districts to expand their capacity to accommodate transfer students. As a result, schools in high-demand areas may become overcrowded, while others face declining enrollment and resources. This will only widen the gap between well-resourced and struggling districts, further entrenching educational inequities across Missouri. Finally, HB 711 fails to tackle the underlying issues causing educational disparities in the state. Instead of investing in solutions that support teacher retention, reduce class sizes, and ensure equitable resources for all schools, this bill encourages families to leave struggling schools behind. This approach neglects the students who cannot or choose not to transfer, leaving them in underfunded and under-resourced environments. Public education is a fundamental pillar of our society, and every child deserves access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live. HB 711 undermines this principle by defunding public schools and creating a system that benefits a select few at the expense of the many. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this bill and urge lawmakers to focus on policies that strengthen, rather than weaken, our public education system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTA TAVES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: silverz31@yahoo.ca	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to this legislation because rural districts and financially struggling districts will face a widening equity gap between school districts. I support using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. This bill could lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can damage whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA WAKEFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: wakefieldconsultationservices@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 8:01 AM	

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

Although I support the potential of most of the language of this bill for Missouri students, I am submitting opposition due to the language on Page 7, Section 2, lines 37-50, which could lead to discrimination against students with IEPs. Specifically, requiring a receiving district to make a decision about an open enrollment transfer "before the application is accepted" because of a student's disability is problematic. My suggestion is to remove this section and rely on the existing in-state IEP transfer process to address decisions for students with disabilities. This process already ensures that students with IEPs have equal opportunities for open enrollment. This is outlined in Missouri Special Education Compliance Indicators 500.10 to 500.290. Also, MO DESE already has model forms in place and school districts already have guidance on this process. Here are the key points:

1. **FAPE Definition:** FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) is unique to each district and should be viewed as a quilt, tailored to meet the needs of the child. Different districts may offer different approaches, but as long as the educational needs are met, it's considered FAPE. A receiving district does not have to do the exact same program as the sending district. The receiving district makes their unique offer of FAPE to a parent and the parent can consent or refuse consent.
2. **Discriminatory Language:** The bill's language suggesting that a receiving district can reject a transfer based on disability is discriminatory. Parents should not have to disclose their child's IEP status when applying for open enrollment.
3. **Parent Choice:** The decision about whether a child with an IEP can be accepted should be based on the IEP transfer process, not on the receiving district's decision to accept or reject based on disability. The current in-state IEP transfer procedures ensure that parents have the right to consent to the IEP offer from the receiving district. If they parent disagrees, then they can refuse consent, and the receiving district does not have to provide services. A parent could pursue their dispute resolution as that point, but most parents in Missouri won't. They can't afford that. They will most likely either withdraw their child from the receiving district or request another IEP meeting an accept the offer of FAPE.
4. **Suggestion:** Replace the language on Page 7, Section 2, lines 37-50, with provisions that the IEP in-state transfer process will be followed. This allows the receiving district to reject or accept the sending districts' evaluation and IEP. And at the same time, because this becomes an initial IEP offer of FAPE from the receiving district, ensures parents have a choice to consent or refuse the IEP.
5. The in-state IEP transfer process already addresses the issue where districts can assess and potentially update the IEP to tailor the offer of FAPE, but parents retain control over consent. Thank you for considering this input, Lara Wakefield



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 6:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA HOECHST		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lchoechst@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 6:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 711



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lindakram@charter.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA DORNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lisamdorner@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:48 PM

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

Allowing non-resident students into other school districts will disrupt the funding for our local schools, especially in rural areas. Please vote AGAINST this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA KIENTZEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: profelisap@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 6:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

People who are not in education should not be trying to change the fundamental structure of the educational system since they can't predict the negative outcomes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: AMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY GELINA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: magelina27@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:56 PM

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

I agree with following statement. MOEEP shares concerns with rural districts and financially struggling districts that this will create a widening equity gap between school districts. For example, receiving districts to not have to add staff to accommodate special needs students. Additionally, we believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desire outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT MICHELSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-6188	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 407 S. 6TH ST.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 10:23 PM

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

HB 711, the Public School Open Enrollment Act, poses a significant threat to the stability and equity of Missouri's public education system. While the bill claims to promote parental choice and improve educational opportunities, it does so at the expense of our public schools, particularly those in underfunded and underserved communities. By allowing students to transfer to nonresident districts without requiring those districts to expand resources, this bill will exacerbate existing inequities and divert critical funding away from schools that need it most. Public schools rely on per-pupil funding to operate, and when students leave, they take that funding with them. This creates a vicious cycle where struggling schools lose resources, making it even harder for them to provide quality education to the students who remain. HB 711 effectively defunds public schools, leaving them with fewer resources to support teachers, maintain facilities, and offer essential programs. Furthermore, the bill's creation of the \$80 million "Parent Public School Choice Fund" is a misguided use of taxpayer dollars. Instead of investing this money directly into improving underperforming schools, the fund will subsidize transportation and special education costs for students transferring to nonresident districts. This approach prioritizes the needs of a select few over the collective good of all students. It is particularly concerning that the bill does not require nonresident districts to expand their capacity to accommodate transfer students, meaning that schools in high-demand areas may become overcrowded, while others are left with dwindling enrollment and resources. This will only deepen the divide between well-funded and struggling districts, further entrenching educational inequities across the state. Finally, HB 711 fails to address the root causes of educational disparities in Missouri. Rather than investing in programs that support teacher retention, reduce class sizes, and provide equitable resources to all schools, this bill incentivizes families to leave struggling schools behind. This approach abandons the students who cannot or choose not to transfer, leaving them in underfunded and under-resourced environments. Public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, and every child deserves access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code. HB 711 undermines this principle by defunding public schools and creating a system that benefits a privileged few at the expense of the many. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this bill and urge lawmakers to focus on policies that strengthen, rather than weaken, our public education system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NAMITA ATAL PARANJOTHI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nparanjothi@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 3:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill as it will weaken smaller school districts with fewer resources.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NEVA SPRUNG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sprungn@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 11:53 PM

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

This is another attempt to offer OPEN ENROLLMENT in Missouri allowing people to self-select public schools regardless of residency. MOEEP shares concerns with rural districts and financially struggling districts that this will create a widening equity gap between school districts. For example, receiving districts to not have to add staff to accommodate special needs students. Additionally, we believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: AFT - MISSOURI (AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS)		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 8:11 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Oppose



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROSE ADREANI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aradreani@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 8:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Hello everyone, I am Amanda Rose Adreani and I am a public school teacher in Missouri. I have some concerns about this bill. Public schools are such important parts of communities, especially for neighborhoods and smaller communities. If families are able to choose to send their student to public schools far away, this could lead to the local schools closing and communities losing out on this crucial foundation. As a state, we need to be investing funds in our local public schools. We need to be investing in our neighborhood schools so that they are a great place for families to send their children to--not continuing to divest from these local schools. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SAMANTHA UNDERCUFFLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: samantha.undercuffler@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 2:07 PM

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

I have concerns for rural districts and financially struggling districts that this will create a widening equity gap between school districts. I also believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to services like education. Schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SLOAN COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sloansheffield13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 6:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Another bill to defund the public education system hurting rural districts and our most vulnerable children



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STACY MOLITOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: stacy.molitor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 5:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Stacy Molitor. I am a lifelong Missourian, and I currently reside with my family in unincorporated St. Louis County, in House District 87. I am writing this testimony in opposition of HB 711, "Admission of Non-resident Pupils." I am a former elementary school classroom teacher and reading specialist. I have experience in both rural and suburban districts--for the first 4 years of my career, I taught in the Jasper R-5 School District in Jasper County (southwest MO), and for the remaining 9 years, I taught in the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis County. I am currently the parent of a child in the Parkway School District in St. Louis County. Because of my rural teaching experience in particular, I believe I am qualified to share testimony in opposition of this bill. I strongly believe that this bill will only further increase the equity gap between Missouri's school districts, which would harm both the student's school or district of residence as well as the school or district they and their family would self-select. Public schools should be publicly funded using existing or additional funding to improve local districts where students reside and attend school, rather than yet another attempt to circumvent and/or undermine the foundation formula. If families choose to move their students out of a financially struggling district, that will just be another financial blow to that district as they work to provide the best possible educational setting for students and staff. If families wish to move their students to a school or district with perhaps a stronger reputation, that can lead to overcrowding in buildings even with the bill's 3% cap, because buildings in many districts are already packed as is. Additional enrollment in a district will exacerbate already-existing staff shortages, particularly for staff members who accommodate students with special needs. Though the bill expressly states that districts do not have to provide special education services, any school district who legitimately cares about children will not ignore or deny a child's IEP, 504, or other accommodations based on individual student need. To attempt to give those districts an "out" for special needs students is unconscionable. Furthermore, this bill will have a dramatic negative impact on schools, districts, and communities in rural areas. First, in many rural districts, the next nearest district could be almost a half-hour away, making it unreasonable and illogical for students and their families to "choose" a different district to commute to and from every day. Second, many of these districts already struggle financially due to lower tax bases, making it hard to compete with perhaps a larger district in a bigger nearby town in terms of staffing, facilities, and resources (and leading to aforementioned staffing and capacity issues in those districts as well). Third, in rural towns, the school district is often one of the largest employers—a drop in enrollment would almost certainly lead to a reduction in staff, which in turn would impact the local economy. Some schools may close or some rural districts might even have to dissolve as a result of dwindling enrollment. School or district closures/dissolutions would be devastating to the communities they serve. This would be repeated in rural district after rural district, causing irreparable harm to entire communities and generations of Missourians. Lastly, in many rural areas, the local school district is the heart of the community,

bringing generations together. The years I spent teaching in the small, rural Jasper R-5 district drove that point home many times, and it's still true in Jasper today. Most of my coworkers (teachers and support staff) not only lived in town or within a 10-minute drive of the school, but they were also Jasper High graduates who came back to their alma mater to support future generations. Families spend their Friday nights at the football field or at the basketball game, even if they don't have a child at the high school—the Jasper Eagles' sports teams are like the Mizzou Tigers, Kansas City Chiefs, or St. Louis Cardinals to their local fan base. Local community events center around the schools, bringing residents to the R-5 campus for fellowship, celebration, and fundraising. Jasper High's FFA chapter alone has several large events throughout the year that bring in local residents, from the annual community breakfast prepared and served by FFA members, to the spring tractor pull, to the greenhouse plant sales. If Jasper's students and their families "chose" to go elsewhere, that would not only have a detrimental effect on the enrollment, finances, and staffing of the R-5 district, but it would be devastating to the town of Jasper and its residents. I urge the members of this committee to oppose HB 711. It is not what is best for Missouri's children, nor the public schools that serve them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 12:39 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Nope. This would be chaotic, and shouldn't under any circumstances be funded with taxpayer dollars.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SYDNEY HELD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sydneyheld@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:01 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill would widen the equity gap within our state across districts. For example I believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY HENDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-674-0113	
REPRESENTING: NKC SCHOOLS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2000 NE 46TH ST.			
CITY: KC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64116
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TERRI GREEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-803-7372	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NORTHWEST R1 SCHOOL BOARD		TITLE: NORTHWEST R1 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 8536 STATE ROAD WW			
CITY: DITTMER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63823
EMAIL: tsgreen@northwestschools.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:11 PM	

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

I am a member of the Northwest R1 School District School Board. I strongly oppose HB 711. It is my belief this bill will destroy smaller districts and financially strapped others. Districts will only accept high achieving, top athletic students with discipline. They will essentially take the cream of the crop. This will affect district test scores and every aspect of the community. Eventually resulting in school ratings and loss of property values. Not to mention furthering the gap between the haves and have nots. Youth today already have enough to contend with a lot of external forces mold their lives. School choice can and will destroy communities and forever change the lives of students. We will lose our school community cohesiveness, no longer will your best friend or neighbor be part of your school experience. As a district that is mainly rural where parents commute to the St Louis area for work and pass through other districts daily, we stand to lose a lot. Once again thus will be a huge financial problem plus the fact we are will be losing our school communities as we know them. We have so much to lose if this bill passes and so little to gain.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: THE REV. DR. TERESA DANIELEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-503-7415	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: MISSIONER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 3887 WYOMING STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: publicadvocacy@diocesemo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 6:54 PM	

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

As an Episcopal priest and the PTO President of a PTO at an Elementary School in Saint Louis Public Schools, I strongly oppose Open Enrollment, which would allow people to self-select public schools regardless of residency. HB 711 would create a widening equity gap between school districts, especially rural and financially struggling districts. For example, receiving districts do not have to add staff to accommodate special needs students. Additionally, we believe in public funding for public schools, and using existing and/or additional funding to improve local districts rather than circumventing the foundation formula. Finally, this bill could become divisive and ultimately lead to closures of smaller school districts, especially in our rural areas. Competition models do not always create desired outcomes, especially when it comes to providing public goods like public education. Publicly governed public schools are anchors in many areas and ultimately bills like this can lead to irreparable harm to whole communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACEY BLOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 865-230-0177	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1205 ELLA CT			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL: tracey@moempower.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 2:03 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

MoDE Foundation is ONLY speaking in regards to lines 37-50 and line 65 of this bill, regarding special education students. With the language as is, it opens the door to discriminatory practices and does not offer equal opportunity if students with disabilities in the way it does for non-disabled peers. We would like to see some improvements in this area.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERE	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jhstlny@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

PLEASE - RESEARCH THIS. It CAN WORK if done right. Open Enrollment as proposed will close districts, hurt revenue for all districts, create competition (for students, not improvement), teachers in flux. Consolidation is viable for SOME districts, but not popular. COLLABORATIVES - 2 or more districts retaining their identity, name, mascots with ONE CENTRAL OFFICE WORKS!!! PLEASE - Look at Massachusetts. Worked for 20+ years. Original study and recent are available. Good templates to look at for analysis. 500+ districts are too many - - but blanket open enrollment and/or forcing consolidation are not the answers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDE SCHWALBACH		PHONE NUMBER: 859-753-8705	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REASON FOUNDATION		TITLE: SENIOR POLICY ANALYST	
ADDRESS: 1630 CONNECTICUT AVE NW SUITE 600			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20009
EMAIL: jude.schwalbach@reason.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 2:01 PM	

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

To: Missouri House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education From: Jude Schwalbach, Senior Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation Date: January 27, 2025 My name is Jude Schwalbach, and I'm a senior education policy analyst with Reason Foundation, a national 501c(3) nonprofit policy research organization. I'm testifying on Missouri House Bill 711. Missouri H.B. 711 would make it easier for students to find a public school that best fits their needs. The legislation would let students attend public schools outside their district. The proposal includes an excellent district-level transparency provision, requiring districts to post their open enrollment policies and available capacity by grade level on their websites annually. It also would codify a robust appeals process for rejected applicants. Additionally, it ensures that districts cannot discriminate against transfer applicants based on their ability or disability. At the same time, the proposal holds districts accountable for their open enrollment practices. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education randomly audits 10% of participating districts annually and can withhold state funding from districts that the department identifies as improperly implementing open enrollment. However, H.B. 711 falls short of good policy in important ways. It does not require all districts to participate in open enrollment and lets them artificially cap the number of students transferring from their districts. A better policy would eliminate participation caps and require all districts to participate as long as they have open seats. This ensures students can access every available seat at schools that are a better fit. Currently, 16 states have strong cross-district open enrollment laws, including Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Iowa. H.B. 711 could be further improved by adopting transparency provisions to ensure that the open enrollment process is fair and accessible. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education should include district-level open enrollment data in an annual report, including the number of transfer students, the number of rejected transfer applicants, and why those applications were rejected in the annual report proposed in 167.1229(2). These reports should be available on the department's website. Wisconsin has used public reports like this for over two decades to refine its open enrollment process. Participation in Wisconsin's open enrollment program grew from 2,500 students in 1998 to nearly 61,000 students in 2023. Finally, H.B. 711 should clarify that districts cannot charge tuition to Missouri transfer students under any circumstances. While districts participating in open enrollment could not charge tuition per 167.151.1, school districts that opt out of open enrollment participation could charge tuition, creating a perverse incentive to sell their seats. Strong open enrollment laws ensure that students can attend schools that are the right fit. Many students use these programs to enroll in A or B-rated school districts. Others use it to escape bullying, access Advanced Placement (AP) courses, specialized learning models, smaller class sizes, or shorten their commutes. California's Legislative Analyst's Office's 2016 report and Reason Foundation's 2024 report both show that the competitive effects of open enrollment can encourage districts to improve. In a 2023 EdChoice

report, district administrators in Arizona, North Carolina, Indiana, and Florida stated that open enrollment encouraged them to innovate by creating or improving existing programs to attract and retain students. According to national polling released by EdChoice in December 2024, open enrollment is supported by 75% of school parents. It also enjoys bipartisan support: 79% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans favor allowing families to attend schools across district lines. Moreover, robust open enrollment laws signed into law in Idaho, Montana, and West Virginia during the 2023 legislative sessions enjoyed significant bipartisan support. Open enrollment can benefit rural districts, helping them boost enrollment. During the 2021-22 school year, Wisconsin districts gained nearly 2,500 students on net. In fact, districts in Wisconsin's towns and rural locales gained the lion's share of transfers at 52%. Similar data from West Virginia showed that rural districts gained nearly half of all cross-district transfers. Adopting a robust open enrollment policy in Missouri would help ensure that public schools are available to all students and empower families to find public schools that are the right fit.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGHAN HILL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-533-0975	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL		TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT	
ADDRESS: 1881 PINE ST.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NOAH DEVINE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-1689	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSOC.		TITLE: EXEC. DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2300 MAIN ST., STE. 900			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 711		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE CARROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			