



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 720		DATE: 2/11/2025	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
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: AMY R. BECK, PHD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: drbeckadvocates@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Thank you for considering the permanent inclusion of psychologists in this loan repayment program. Many counties in Missouri do not have a psychologist. As the need for mental health services continues to grow, a way to increase access is to support psychologists choosing to work in Missouri. A significant draw is loan repayment. It is not uncommon for a doctoral degree to cost upwards of \$100,000, which can be quite challenging to pay back with the average salary afforded a psychologist for providing services. A loan repayment program can close that gap and make living, working, and becoming part of the community in any area of the state an attractive and affordable option. Please vote **DO PASS** on HB 720.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BEN TERRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BENJAMIN JOHN PILLSBURY		PHONE NUMBER: 636-274-5246	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3 FRATERNITY DRIVE			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CALEB S REESE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: caleb@pathlessjourney.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 6:04 PM

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I have been impacted by student loans to the point I will forever be in debt until there is some type of loan forgiveness or I engage in work that does not follow my values.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHANCE HEPOLA		PHONE NUMBER: 580-235-6751	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COX HEALTH		TITLE: GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 1423 N. JEFFERSON AVENUE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65802
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY KLEINSORGE, PHD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ckleinsorge@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 10:47 AM

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

I urge lawmakers to include psychologists in loan repayment programs in perpetuity. As higher education becomes more expensive, advanced degrees needed to become licensed psychologists also become more expensive. Loan repayment programs are essential for continuing to increase the availability of mental health services to Missouri citizens.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHUCK HOLLISTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: chuckatmopa@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 10:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Thank you for including psychologists in your student loan repayment bills. Psychologists incur anywhere from \$50,000 to \$120,000 in school debt. I have personally known psychologists who have had debt as high as \$300,000. Access to mental health services is crucial in our state. We need to make sure that psychology remains a viable career path.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DEREK LEFFERT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-8500	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI NURSE PRACTITIONERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104853			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER: 219-229-1104	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 4083			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65808
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:13 PM

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The Missouri Psychological Association strongly supports this legislation to increase the number of psychologists studying in the state and treating Missouri residents.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092	
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS MO CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1805			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 1:51 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH E JACOBSON JR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: joejacobson214@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:08 PM

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I have been paying my student loan since 2004 and owe about the same amount as I borrowed. My father in law paid off his student loan at age 84. I don't want to be him



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NURSES ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1483			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN CRUMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: laurenrcrump@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 9:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am an employee of a Missouri Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC). The work we do as clinical social workers is imperative to the health of our community and state. I write in support of HB 720 - Diehl - MISSOURI STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. Having support from the state in the form of loan repayment would help to make the work we do easier and attract more to the field, of which there is a nationwide shortage of social workers. Please make it the priority of the Missouri Congress to support this bill so that we can in turn support the thousands that receive mental and behavioral health care. Thank you for time and consideration in this matter.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY GAIL OLSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mary.olson@stlcch.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To whom it may concern,As a neuropsychologist, my training and career have been shaped by the intricate nature of the brain and the need to provide specialized care to individuals with cognitive and neurological disorders. However, the journey to becoming a neuropsychologist involves years of rigorous academic training, which often results in significant student loan debt. This financial burden can pose challenges not only in terms of personal finances but also in terms of career choices. That's why I firmly believe that Missouri's State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) could be instrumental in advancing my career and allowing me to serve underserved populations across the state.Participating in this program would provide substantial financial relief by helping to pay off a portion of my student loans. This assistance would allow me to focus more on my patients and professional development, rather than worrying about financial constraints. As a neuropsychologist, being part of the program would also open the door to working in high-need areas of Missouri, where there is an increasing demand for specialists like myself. Through this program, I could contribute to expanding access to neuropsychological services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, neurodegenerative diseases, and other cognitive disorders—conditions that significantly impact quality of life.Moreover, the SLRP plays a crucial role in addressing the nationwide disparities in the training and reimbursement of psychologists. According to a 2021 report from the American Psychological Association, over 60% of psychology doctoral graduates report student debt exceeding \$100,000. While the financial return for many psychologists is not commensurate with the debt accumulated during training, those in specialized fields, such as neuropsychology, face particularly disproportionate financial challenges. On average, psychologists in neuropsychology can expect to face an average student loan debt of \$200,000 or more, with many programs taking 7-10 years to complete. The income potential for neuropsychologists, while higher than general psychologists, still does not match the debt burden that many graduates face.Missouri's SLRP could alleviate these disparities by helping neuropsychologists like myself remain in practice, contribute to the mental health and cognitive care landscape, and ensure that underserved populations receive the specialized care they need. The state's investment in psychologists also addresses a shortage of mental health professionals, as evidenced by the fact that Missouri ranks among the states with the greatest need for psychologists and other mental health professionals. By supporting neuropsychologists with loan repayment assistance, Missouri not only ensures a sustainable mental health workforce but also fosters a diverse and highly skilled pool of professionals ready to serve communities in need.In conclusion, participating in Missouri's State Loan Repayment Program would greatly benefit my career as a neuropsychologist by reducing the financial pressures associated with student debt, expanding my opportunities for professional development, and enabling me to serve underserved communities. With the growing need for neuropsychologists and the disproportionate challenges faced by those entering the field, this program is an invaluable resource that allows me to focus on what truly matters: providing exceptional care and improving the

lives of individuals with cognitive and neurological conditions. Thank you for considering the importance of this program in fostering the growth of skilled neuropsychologists in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROB MONSEES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-9652	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 60			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER LANE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: summerlane76@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a pediatric neuropsychologist in St. Louis. Between graduate school and the additional internship and fellowship necessary to obtain the required training for my career (8 years of time), I accumulated approximately \$150,000 in student loans. This is obviously an ongoing financial burden for me and my family. I sought out this career in order to help children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, acquired brain injuries, and other complex needs to ensure they get appropriate treatment and educational support. However, a psychologist's salary is consistently well below what would be expected for his/her level of education. The juxtaposition between my income and ongoing debt is a source of continual stress. I know that there are many other psychologists in a similar position. Therefore, including us in the MO State Loan Repayment Program is extremely important.



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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: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:40 PM

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I am Opposed to this Bill as currently drafted and written.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACOB SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 113 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jscott@msma.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
For informational purposes			