



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: CAMELLIA PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-726-9475	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 94			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEAN EVANS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-229-0827	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1641 AWARD DR			
CITY: MANCHESTER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63021
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA UCCELLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 12:00 AM
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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: 3/24/2025 12:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill.



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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: 3/24/2025 11:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am highly Opposed to this Bill. Educational Expenses are the responsibility of parents who are bringing Children into our State. This Tax-Credit will cost our State \$1.2-Billion in income. Defeat this reckless Financial Disaster of a Bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEVIN EARLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bfearly@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 1:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We need to be sending more funding to our public schools, not defunding them with harmful vouchers and perks for wealthy parents who can afford to pay for education out of pocket. Everyone deserves the right to an education. Hands off our public schools!



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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: 3/23/2025 11:42 AM

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

Public schools are vital parts of our community. I oppose this bill and the taking of taxpayer funds that go to public schools.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDT SHIELDS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-208-7879	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION		TITLE: CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 2100 I-70 DR SW			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: shields@mosba.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 7:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

MSBA opposes legislation that removes public funds from public schools without adequate accountability under the control of a locally-elected school board.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE LEMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: danielleperie@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2025 8:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 77 is vouchers in disguise. This bill gives families significant incentives to send their children to private schools thereby leaving our public schools with less funding, less resources and ultimately makes them less desirable. In my opinion, as a parent, and a tax payer, passage of HB77 would be a major step towards dismantling public education in Missouri and would be yet another factor towards the brain drained that Missouri faces.



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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: 3/22/2025 10:45 AM

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

Please stop subsidizing non public education until public education is fully and robustly funded. Let 727 play out before expanding vouchers further.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEADER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 8:04 PM

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

The Missouri Equity Education Partnership is opposed to bills that would serve to dismantle public education by siphoning money from public schools to non-public schools. Families have choice currently but should not receive public money to do so until/unless public schools are fully and robustly funded. Competition is not an appropriate model for public schools; they are services. We are opposed to universal school choice.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID KLARICH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-560-1616	
REPRESENTING: FAMILY COVENANT MINISTRIES		TITLE: ATTORNEY	
ADDRESS: 438 GATEFORD DRIVE			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63021
EMAIL: dklarich@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2025 8:17 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENA AARON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dnaaron2@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 9:07 PM

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I feel that that tax credits for educational expenses will in the long run hurt our public schools. They are already underfunded.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN ROBBINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: erob1212@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 6:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a concerned citizen of Missouri, I strongly oppose House Bill 77, sponsored by Representative Loy. This bill poses a serious threat to the integrity of our public education system, undermines the professionalism of educators, and politicizes what should be fact-based, student-centered instruction. HB 77 seeks to impose unnecessary restrictions and bureaucratic oversight on teachers and school districts, potentially limiting students' access to a well-rounded and honest education. Legislation like this promotes fear and censorship in classrooms, discouraging educators from teaching accurate history, engaging students in critical thinking, and addressing the diverse needs and lived experiences of all students. This bill not only disrespects the expertise of our teachers but also distracts from the real issues facing our education system—such as underfunding, teacher shortages, and the need for improved academic support. Missouri students deserve better. They deserve classrooms where they are empowered to ask questions, understand complex issues, and develop the skills they need to thrive in a diverse world. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 77 and instead focus on policies that support teachers, promote academic excellence, and prepare students for the challenges of the future. Our children's education should be guided by truth, integrity, and the best interests of students—not political agendas.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 2:02 PM

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

The state should not be taking money away from public education to fund private, and sometimes religious, schools. We need to be putting more money into our underfunded public schools, not taking money away, which will only make them worse.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mattnjamie martin@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2025 12:30 AM

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Vouchers syphon public dollars to private interests while requiring no accountability for education outcomes.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jhstlny@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 8:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

NO! Public funds / taxpayers' dollars should not be allocated or diverted in any way to NON-PUBLIC entities. This is not about school choice or providing for children in under-resourced school districts; this is about tax dollars paying for private school tuition, technology, tutoring and more. In no version or revision can this be allowed. NO!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA BURGETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessicaborrini@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 1:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Oppose



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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: 3/21/2025 6:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I care about children in Missouri. Public education is the best way that we can support every child. I do not want public money going to private schools. I want public money spent to improve the public schools in our state, especially rural schools and schools in urban and suburban areas that can't draw as much property tax and the schools where I live.



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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: 3/21/2025 2:21 PM

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Public funds belong in public schools. If a school takes our tax dollars, they should be required to accept all students, especially those with learning and developmental disabilities.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA FINLINSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: finnyla@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 11:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is total nonsense - essentially another tax break for the wealthy. I am a stay at home mom who could theoretically homeschool my children, we are fortunate to afford a lifestyle that would allow that option but I recognize that as a privilege. No poorer mother working one or two jobs could homeschool even with the tax credit, nor could they afford private school. This isn't helping Missouri it's just handing money to people who don't need it and I'll be extremely disappointed if it passes. If you have the money spend it on roads or healthcare or something that actually helps and isn't just a bribe to your wealthy constituents. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA HORWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: laura.horwitz@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 8:09 PM

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this will take public monies away from public schools and is unfair and antidemocratic.



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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: 3/21/2025 4:05 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 222A MADISON ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 1:25 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

MSTA Member Adopted Resolutions oppose legislation that would give tax credits for scholarships, tuition, or vouchers to private schools or voucher plans. that would divert public funds to pay for private school tuition.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY BATEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: batemykee52@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 5:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill takes away funding from public schools and is basically a throwback to segregation. Wealthy and Christian Nationalists will use taxpayer dollars to promote their propaganda. There is supposed to be a separation of church and state (remember that?). This bill helps destroy that separation. If you want to send your children to private sectarian schools, you pay for it!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE ARB WIETHOP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arb.nicole@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 2:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

You could not make it more obvious that you do not care about the education of all children in Missouri. Public education is a right, and by further squandering the money needed and allotted for public education, you are making your true intentions further known. It's not just about cities and counties in this state. The rural Missourian families who vote you in will not be able to afford to educate their children in private schools with a voucher or a tax credit; especially not their children with special education needs. You are continuing to spit in the face of families who for some reason, have put their trust in you. They think that because you believe like them in religion and on social issues, that you care about their economic, educational, social, and emotional well-being and have their best interests at heart. And you continue to cruelly stomp their children into the dust. This can not pass. I oppose this with every fiber of my being. You continue in MO to keep families without the quality public education in this state that is their right, that they need to be able to grow into educated and informed citizens; to succeed in life. The Republican supermajority in this state has ruined us for 20+ years. This is just the latest immoral and heartless step. You should be ashamed of what you have done to MO simply to line your own pockets and force citizens to believe as you do.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE NICKENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nickens.nicolemarie@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 2:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please consider the damage that tax credits and other forms of vouchers to be used for private education has caused to the public school system in other states. Rural districts are disproportionately impacted because (1) there are no other options for school within a practical distance and (2) any loss of funding in rural areas has a heavier impact on the functioning of those schools that depend more on state and federal versus local funding. Vouchers have been shown to lead to discriminatory practices that disadvantage those of minority races or ethnicities, non native English speakers, and children with exceptional/special education needs. Vouchers do not cover the cost of private education and therefore vouchers do not make private education accessible to those who do not have higher socio-economic status. Additionally, private schools will be receiving public funds from taxpayer money without being accountable in any of the ways that public schools are held accountable for performance, hiring qualified teachers, meeting state standards, and serving all students. Please consider the negative ramifications of vouchers in Arizona, Texas and Florida where vouchers have gutted state budgets and public school funding; Iowa where private schools have raised tuition in response to their already-attending families getting vouchers (basically coupons) to attend; and the fact that when voters get to decide when vouchers are on the ballot, **VOUCHERS GET DEFEATED** as in Colorado, Kentucky, and Nebraska. A vote in support of HB 77 is a vote to kill public schools. Please do not support it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 12:34 PM

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The bill would create an individual tax credit voucher for non-public school expenses. The Association opposes the bill. HB 77 is expected to reduce state general revenues by \$1 billion within the first full year of operation. The Association believes that state mandated parental option plans compromise free, equitable, universal, and quality public education for every student. The fiscal effect of this bill would significantly affect the legislature's capacity to invest in public education and other essential constitutional obligations to provide essential services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: ROSALIE METRO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rose.metro@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2025 6:27 PM
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Please stop trying to take money away from public education and divert it to private schools. Public schools must admit every kid, private schools don't have to. Let's support the system that accepts all. If people want to pay for private school, that's their right. I don't think I should have to subsidize that. Everyone benefits from the public school system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: SHERYL ROSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sherylrosetl@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2025 3:39 PM

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I oppose any legislation that diverts my hard earned tax dollars from public education. I urge you to vote NO on HB 77.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: SHERYL SCHMIDT		PHONE NUMBER: 417-616-1605	
REPRESENTING: FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION, INC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 239 ROCK COURT DRIVE			
CITY: MARSHFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65706
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 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 77		DATE: 3/24/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
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: DANIELLE DENT-BREEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-914-8373	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI HOMESCHOOL ALLIANCE		TITLE: TREASURER	
ADDRESS: 17613 E 36TH STREET CT S			
CITY: INDEPENDENCE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64055
EMAIL: missourihomeschool@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 4:50 PM

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

I am submitting testimony today on behalf of Missouri Homeschool Alliance. We administer a facebook group with 4,121 member homeschool families throughout the state of Missouri, as well as a growing network of paid members in our organization. We are a registered non-profit organization that seeks to keep homeschooling parent-directed and parent-funded. We are testifying for information only re: HB77. As the bill was originally written, it included on line 32 a definition of "Qualified school" to include a home school as defined in section 167.012, as well as an FPE school as defined in section 167.013. As a homeschool organization, we are opposed to the idea of a tax credit for homeschool. In Missouri, homeschoolers do not register with the state, and by creating a tax credit, we would be in effect, creating a means of backdoor registration. Those who support this bill would say that the tax credit would be optional, and those who do not wish to participate would be free not to do so; however, through our membership in the National Alliance of Homeschool Leaders, the Home School Legal Defense Association, and our relationships with homeschool leaders in other states, we understand that in other states where voluntary tax credits have been implemented, calls for stricter regulation of ALL homeschool families have quickly followed. We are opposed to tax credits for homeschooling. Further, we would assume there will be additional requirements for participation in the program that would be outside of our statutory requirements for homeschooling, once the Department of Revenue promulgates the rules. We would anticipate that it would be likely that only non-religious, "approved" curriculum and expenses would be eligible for the tax credit, allowing the State to dictate the course of study for homeschoolers, as well as allowing the State to pick winners and losers in the world of curriculum publishing. We are opposed to any increased regulation for homeschool families in Missouri. In 2024, the passage of SB727 created the new category of school called FPE. This new category was created for just such a situation--to allow people who choose to educate their children in the home to receive funding from the state. Finally, we are opposed in general to any refundable tax credit system that creates a new educational welfare program, but if it is the intent of the committee to pass a tax credit, it is our desire to see any references to homeschool removed from the legislation, and to replace it with FPE school 167.013. After conversation with the bill sponsor, it is my understanding that she intends to submit an amendment to remove homeschool and instead reference FPE school alone. We would appreciate this specific language, which we feel is vital for protection of traditional homeschool freedoms. While we don't support the bill in its entirety due to the nature of the refundable tax credit, we are quite appreciative of Representative Loy's willingness to hear our concerns about the inclusion of home school in the tax credit program. We have the FPE school designation in our law, RSMo 167.013, and we would encourage this committee to take up the bill with Representative Loy's amendment that utilizes that designation as intended, and excludes homeschool under RSMo 167.012. Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and I would welcome any

discussion via email or phone/text if I can be of any assistance.