



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 798		DATE: 1/22/2025	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform			
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 11:50 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill on its face. There needs to be major and intense discussions and debate about State Needs, State Income and State Fiscal Year Budgets.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRAD JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-3077	
REPRESENTING: NFIB MISSOURI		TITLE: STATE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 308 E. CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: Brad.Jones@nfib.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:18 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RAY MCCARTY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT/CEO
ADDRESS: 3234 W. TRUMAN BLVD		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: rmccarty@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:47 AM

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Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill that establishes a flat tax rate instead of today's graduated rate, allows reduction of 0.15% in the income tax rate if GR for the current year exceeds the highest of the previous three fiscal years by more than \$175m, and increases the standard deduction by \$4,000.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 10:55 AM

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Flat tax rate is unfair.I'd highly recommend if this body wants to adjust taxes to do so in a responsible manner that is fair and regressive, leaving those who can least afford it to pay less as a percentage of their income in taxes. Those of us who can afford to pay more should do so.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY LAFAVER		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katiea@planetkc.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:52 AM
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This bill represents a huge burden for lower income tax payers. The wealthy in our state have the ability to use multiple tax breaks - Lower income tax payers do not and will be negatively affected



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:14 AM

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Asking the poor to pay more tax is an inefficient use of revenue. They go to other resources to obtain help for shelter and food which cost money to initiate. People should control the funds without the state's bureaucracy.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 9:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in strong opposition to HB 798, a bill that proposes a flat income tax rate of 4.7% for all Missouri residents, eliminates tax brackets, and repeals the Missouri Working Family Tax Credit Act. While the bill claims to simplify the tax system, it does so at the expense of fairness, equity, and the financial well-being of working families across our state. Here are the key reasons why this bill should be rejected:

- 1. **Regressive Impact on Low- and Middle-Income Families**:** A flat tax system disproportionately burdens low- and middle-income families. Under the current progressive tax system, those who earn more pay a higher rate, ensuring that everyone contributes according to their ability. A flat tax eliminates this fairness, forcing working families to shoulder a heavier relative burden while providing a windfall to the wealthiest Missourians. This is not just bad policy—it is fundamentally unjust.
- 2. **Elimination of the Working Family Tax Credit**:** The repeal of the Missouri Working Family Tax Credit Act is a direct attack on working families. This credit provides critical financial relief to those who need it most, helping them afford basic necessities like housing, food, and childcare. Eliminating this credit will push more families into financial hardship and exacerbate income inequality in our state.
- 3. **Loss of Revenue for Essential Services**:** By lowering the top tax rate and implementing a flat tax, HB 798 will significantly reduce state revenue. This will inevitably lead to cuts in essential services such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and public safety. Missouri cannot afford to undermine the programs that support our communities and drive economic growth.
- 4. **Removal of Tax Deduction Triggers**:** The bill eliminates triggers that ensure responsible fiscal management. These triggers were put in place to protect the state’s budget and ensure that tax cuts are only implemented when the state can afford them. Removing these safeguards is fiscally irresponsible and risks creating long-term budget shortfalls.
- 5. **Lack of Public Benefit**:** Proponents of this bill argue that a flat tax will simplify the tax system and attract businesses to Missouri. However, there is no evidence that a flat tax leads to economic growth or job creation. In fact, states with flat taxes often struggle with underfunded public services and stagnant wages. Missourians deserve a tax system that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.
- 6. **Impact on Married Couples**:** The bill’s changes to the calculation of combined taxable income for married couples could create unintended complications and inequities. The current system ensures that both spouses are treated fairly, but the proposed changes could lead to higher tax burdens for some families, particularly those with disparate incomes.

In conclusion, HB 798 is a misguided proposal that prioritizes the interests of the wealthy over the needs of working families. It undermines the principles of fairness and equity that should guide our tax system and risks harming the very people who keep our state running. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that support all Missourians, not just the privileged few.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RIVA E CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 8:35 AM
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This is a regressive tax, placing a bigger financial burden on those you can least afford it. Those who earn more should be paying more in taxes. It will also reduce revenue for the state, putting a strain on the budget where again, services for those most in need of them, will be cut.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCMASTERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: scotty.mcm93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2025 12:28 PM
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Getting rid of income taxes will be extremely detrimental to the state government. Without the funding needed to run our state government and organizations will not be able to effectively run and govern to help Missourians thrive.