



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 850		DATE: 1/29/2025	
COMMITTEE: Professional Registration and Licensing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-718-1783	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BUILDING BLOCKS LEARNING CENTER		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 22951 PROFESSIONAL			
CITY: LEBANON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65536
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 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: DAVID JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-406-2933	
REPRESENTING: WONDERSCHOOL		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1865			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KEN HUSSEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-2504
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104176		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN SHANTZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-4915	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: lshantz@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 8:47 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK HULET		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: markhulet@kansascityymca.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 2:09 PM
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The YMCA of Greater Kansas City supports allowing child care programs in good standing to be granted temporary licensure upon receipt of a completed application. Often, the calendar moves faster than the process, and we have been up against the first day of school scheduling initial visits for new programs. Allowing temporary permits for child care licensing ensures that families in need of child care have what they need to remain active in the workforce.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN MCCORMICK		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-8962	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OZARKS REGIONAL YMCA		TITLE: SENIOR VP OF OPERATIONS	
ADDRESS: 323 N PATTON AVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: mmccormick@orymca.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:17 AM	

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Ozarks Regional YMCA is the 3rd largest childcare provider in the state. We have been in the childcare business for 40 years. We have opened 4 new centers in the past 2 years, but our community still has a need for more. The majority of our sites are school age, before & after school care. In July 2023, we submitted license revisions to increase the capacity at 6 of our 29 locations, allowing us to serve a total of 150 more children. To this day, we have not had those approved. DESE is under staffed to meet our demands in a timely manner. When our revisions are addressed, there is constant red tape that prohibits us from moving forward, when none of it effects the quality of our care or safety of children, nor would it change any part of our operation. In March of 2024 we created a partnership with Branson School District to open an early childhood center. We had an existing license for after school care at this site. We opened this center in November of 2024, but could've opened in August, had we been granted a temporary license from the beginning. I had to go two levels above the licensing specialist to get any movement. Not only were parents waiting in limbo or forced to find care elsewhere (or not at all), but we had staff also waiting in limbo, needing to work. In November of 2024, we began the process of taking over the pre-K after school program, that Branson School District has been operating. This was just another expansion of the current license. Our goal was to be operational when school resumed in January. An 8" hole in a fence prohibited us from doing so. This hole had never been addressed before when the program was inspected. When that was repaired, a variance was required for the director approval. We are still waiting on that variance approval. We are constantly thinking outside the box, trying to do our part in this childcare crisis, only to be met with delays and obstacles that impact our community. The parents who are trying to work and provide for their families are the ones suffering. Temporary licenses would have allowed us to provide care in a more timely manner and fix the inconsequential issues on the back end.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA WEHNER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-831-0150	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JORDAN VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH		TITLE: VP OPERATIONS	
ADDRESS: 440 E TAMPA			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN T SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 9:00 AM
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My name is Robyn Schelp, and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Kids Win Missouri. We advocate for issues of child well-being, including child care and early education, child welfare, and healthcare. Kids Win Missouri supports a temporary child care license, as created by HB 50, HB 482, and HB 850, and we appreciate Rep. Haley, Rep. Hausman, and Rep. Schmidt for sponsoring these bills. Child care is in crisis and it is impacting the well-being of children, families, and our communities. Seventy-eight counties in the state are considered child-care deserts, where there are more than 3 times as many children as there are licensed child care slots. Kids Win Missouri wants to ensure that existing child care programs that wish to expand can do so without barriers. These bills allow programs that are in good standing with their licensing and have approved fire-safety and sanitation inspections to begin enrolling and serving children while waiting for the final state inspection. We appreciate this legislature's commitment to improving access to affordable, quality child care and we ask for your support of HB 50, HB 482, and HB 850.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TIM HELM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-436-1177
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GATEWAY REGION YMCA		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 2815 SCOTT AVENUE SUITE D		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63103
EMAIL: tim.helm@gwrymca.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 8:45 AM

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Passage of the Provisional Licensing Bill will allow our Gateway Region YMCA to be able to deliver childcare services in a more effective, efficient and consumer friendly way. For families to be able to access childcare when they need it, without barriers, is beneficial for everyone-families, employers, community, school districts and most importantly the children we serve. This would allow us to:
*Increase current licensed programs to accommodate additional enrollment needs without having to place families on lengthy waiting lists until the license can be amended and expanded.
*Begin new programs that are requested close to the start of the school year that in the past would not be able to open and accommodate family needs when school starts. This would allow decreasing delays in care while the license is being finalized-where now it can take an indefinite period of time.
*Allow us to be more responsive to our School District Partners who rely on our before and after school program to support their students and families with high quality care opportunities when they need it and not be on a waiting list to obtain those services.



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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: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2025 11:47 PM	
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I am very Opposed to this Bill. We are putting in jeporady the safety of our State's children by cutting corners and not doing all of the necessary backround checks and searches. This is very bad Public Policy. Defeat this Bill!