



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--|----------------------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 855 | | DATE: 4/9/2025 | |
| COMMITTEE: General Laws | | | |
| 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: ALEX EATON | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-9860 | |
| REPRESENTING: OZARKS TECH | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 1001 EAST CHESTNUT | | | |
| CITY: SPRINGFIELD | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65802 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 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: CADE TREMAIN | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 428 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-294-0497 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 205 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 100 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LEAH STRID | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-6561 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | | TITLE: DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS | |
| ADDRESS: 301 WEST HIGH STREET | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: TORI MERCADO | | PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | | TITLE: PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER | |
| ADDRESS: 202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY | | | |
| CITY: SPRINGFIELD | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65806 |
| EMAIL: tmercado@springfieldchamber.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | | SUBMIT DATE: 4/9/2025 10:31 AM |
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Dear Chairman Keathley and members of the House General Laws Committee: On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 855, sponsored by Representative Dane Diehl. Access to a trained workforce is one of the top issues facing employers and has a tremendous impact on business growth. The Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant is an important program that encourages adults to pursue training in high-need employment areas by providing tuition support to eligible participants. This program has made Missouri's workforce development strategy more competitive with our surrounding states, increased talent attraction and retention efforts, and has paved the way for additional training and employee upskilling in high demand fields, including health, education, business and computer science. The Missouri State Legislature has made significant improvements to the program in recent years to help increase accessibility, including lengthening the program sunset and amending the funding mechanism from a loan to a grant. These innovative approaches have allowed the program to grow in popularity, with Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University being the number one and number three users in the state, respectively. Unfortunately, the current eligibility income cap hinders participation from interested individuals across the state. The proposal today would encourage a more flexible cap without requiring additional steps needed by the legislature in the future. As interest in the program continues to grow, there is a significant pool of individuals who are likely interested in the program but may not currently qualify. The key users referenced in our region have already identified significant opportunities to access more individuals who are interested, but currently make more than the current income cap. We encourage your support of House Bill 855, which would increase the maximum gross income eligibility for the program and continue to improve Fast Track as an important tool in Missouri's workforce development toolbox. Sincerely, Matt Morrow
President and CEO Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce 202 S John Q Hammons Parkway



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
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