

BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DA <sup>-</sup>	TE: 13/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions					
TESTIFYING: VIN SU	PPORT OF [	IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR	INFORMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: `JESSICA TROUT			Ph	HONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:			TI	TLE:	
ADDRESS:			•		
CITY:			ST	ΓΑΤΕ:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jessica.trout@slu.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025</b> 8	::18 PM

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

Dear Chairman and Committee, I would first like to thank you for hearing this bill! I am increadibly excited to know that you all take this as seriouesly as I do. A ban on food assistance after incarceration for drugs feels both like a double punishment, as well as a way to increase recidivism rather than deter it. If people do not have ways to get back on their feet after being incarcerated, they are more likely to go back to old habits. People stepping away from drugs need food, shelter, and stability to be able to continue to focus on both recovery and finding a new path. Not only that, but drugs are personal choices that generally harm the person making the choice. It is not a violent crime. I also think it's important to look at the changes in the system around marijuana. This substance is now legal, but the convictions have not been expunged. Finally, 69% of SNAP participants are part of families with children. Mothers leaving incarceration and working to provide a safe and stable home for their children after making mistakes is noble and denying these benefits may not only decrease the family bonds, but also harm the children. I hope you will consider eliminating the felony drug ban on SNAP.Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
<b>BUSINESS/ORG</b>	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX EATON			PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NOW INIT			TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1717 W COUP SOUTH STE 180				
CITY: HOUSTON			STATE: <b>TX</b>	ZIP: <b>77027</b>
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT <b>2/11/2</b>	DATE: 025 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONES	WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE  PHONE NUMBER:				
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:					
ADDRESS:			·		
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yah	oo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT <b>2/11/2</b>	DATE: 1025 11:54 PM	
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#### WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions						
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES		
		WITNESS NAME				
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:					
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WOOL	ΣΥ		PHONE NUME <b>314-503-7</b>	<del></del>		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMPOWER MISSO			FOOD SE MANAGE	CURITY POLICY R		
ADDRESS:						
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>65101</b>		
EMAIL: christine@empow	ermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 2/10/20	DATE: <b>025 2:08 PM</b>		

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

To: Representative Don Mayhew and The Members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee From: Christine Woody, Food Policy Manager, Empower MissouriRE: Support for HB 916My name is Christine Woody and I am the Food Policy Manager at Empower Missouri. Empower Missouri has spent more than 120 years fighting poverty in Missouri. Today, I am asking for your support of HB 916 which provides support to some of our neighbors with the lowest incomes. I have been with Empower Missouri since 2009. And the issue of the lifetime ban on SNAP for those with a drug related felony is an issue that we have worked on since before I started. For years and years we have been advocating for Missouri to completely opt out of this optional federal SNAP provision.10 years ago in 2014, I thought we had done it! A bill was sponsored by then State Representative Paul Wieland and State Senator Kiki Curls.At the time, because of compromises made to get the bill passed, the bill ended up not completely opting out of the ban, but modifying it instead. At the time, even with the compromises and the modifications that were made, we thought it was a win! We celebrated. And then, just a few years ago, after believing our work was truly helping those it was intended to help, I was informed by an attorney at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri who works with these individuals that they have rarely had a client who has a drug felony on their record qualify for SNAP because of all of the difficult modifications and stipulations with in the current law.So I looked into current law more closely. The current law is complicated, and it is nearly impossible to navigate for SNAP applicants and makes the application process more complicated for the DSS workers who are processing it, even when there is an attorney who is an expert in law and specifically public benefits law helping out. The current law is a prime example of red tape and bureaucracy that is not helping anyone. But it is an easy fix and we can do it. It is time to completely opt Missouri out of this lifetime SNAP ban. A majority of other states have already fully opted out including states like Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, West Virginia and Louisiana. Their law now states that having made a mistake and serving time for your mistake does not equate to a lifetime of punishment. Missouri needs to do the same. SNAP is an amazing program that can offer vital support to help ensure folks who are returning from incarceration succeed and not get stuck in the re-incarceration cycle. Denying people food assistance is not a way to support success which is why I am asking you to please pass House Bill 916 out of this committee. Thank you.



#### WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES		
		WITNESS NAME				
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:					
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WOOL	ΣΥ		PHONE NUME 314-503-72			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMPOWER MISSO			FOOD SEGMANAGE	CURITY POLICY		
ADDRESS:						
CITY:  JEFFERSON CITY  STATE: ZIP:  MO  65101						
EMAIL: christine@empow	ermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/10/20	DATE: 1 <b>25 7:46 AM</b>		

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

Date: February 13, 2025To: Representative Don Mayhew and The Members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee From: Christine Woody, Food Policy Manager, Empower MissouriRE: Support for HB 916My name is Christine Woody and I am the Food Policy Manager at Empower Missouri. Empower Missouri has spent more than 120 years fighting poverty in Missouri. Today, I am asking for your support of HB 916 which provides support to some of our neighbors with the lowest incomes. I have been with Empower Missouri since 2009. And the issue of the lifetime ban on SNAP for those with a drug related felony is an issue that we have worked on since before I started. For years and years we have been advocating for Missouri to completely opt out of this optional federal SNAP provision.10 years ago in 2014, I thought we had done it! A bill was sponsored by then State Representative Paul Wieland and State Senator Kiki Curls. At the time, because of compromises made to get the bill passed, the bill ended up not completely opting out of the ban, but modifying it instead. At the time, even with the compromises and the modifications that were made, we thought it was a win! We celebrated. And then, just a few years ago, after believing our work was truly helping those it was intended to help, I was informed by an attorney at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri who works with these individuals that they have rarely had a client who has a drug felony on their record qualify for SNAP because of all of the difficult modifications and stipulations with in the current law.So I looked into current law more closely. The current law is complicated, and it is nearly impossible to navigate for SNAP applicants and makes the application process more complicated for the DSS workers who are processing it, even when there is an attorney who is an expert in law and specifically public benefits law helping out. The current law is a prime example of red tape and bureaucracy that is not helping anyone. But it is an easy fix and we can do it. It is time to completely opt Missouri out of this lifetime SNAP ban. A majority of other states have already fully opted out including states like Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, West Virginia and Louisiana. Their law now states that having made a mistake and serving time for your mistake does not equate to a lifetime of punishment. Missouri needs to do the same. SNAP is an amazing program that can offer vital support to help ensure folks who are returning from incarceration succeed and not get stuck in the re-incarceration cycle. Denying people food assistance is not a way to support success which is why I am asking you to please pass House Bill 916 out of this committee. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED L	OBBYIST:				
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER			PHONE NUM <b>573-635-7</b>		
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHO	OLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:		
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVENUE, P.O. BOX 1022					
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	,		STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>65102</b>	
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocat	tholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT <b>2/11/2</b>	DATE: 025 9:59 AM	

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Missouri law restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders does not currently apply to counties and municipalities. Shackling pregnant offenders demeans the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk, and the Missouri law should be applied on a state-wide basis.



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TESTIFYING: ✓IN	SUPPORT OF	IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ELLIE BLEDSOE			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:			TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ellie.bledsoe@ppgr.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/11/20	PATE: <b>25 9:38 PM</b>
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This bill is clearly something we can all get behind. Giving pregnant women more deference to ensure that they are treated humanely is the bare minimum.



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TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF SMITH			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI APPLE			TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/11/20	OATE: <b>25 12:00 AM</b>
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### WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 916			DATE: <b>2/13/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions	3		
TESTIFYING: ✓IN SUPPORT	T OF IN OPPOSITION	TO FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUM <b>573-635-6</b>	
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCI LOUIS COUNTY; MO NETWORK AG		TER; ST.	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1805			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT <b>2/11/2</b> 0	DATE: <b>)25 8:07 PM</b>
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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions					
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	□FOR	INFORMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINC	EL		PI	HONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TI	TLE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			S	TATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo	.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2</b>	::56 PM

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

Missouri currently has one of the nation's most stringent bans for receiving SNAP benefits (Collateral Consequences Resource Center, Accessing SNAP and TANF Benefits under a Drug Conviction: A Survey of State Laws)HB916 is a positive move to remove the prohibition on additional drug offensesIncarcerated pregnant people should be viewed as expectant parents in need of comprehensive health care, rather than as criminals who forfeited their right to a safe, respectful, and humane childbirth (Shackling and pregnancy care policies in US prisons and jails)



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		WITNESS NAME		
<b>BUSINESS/ORG</b>	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DEN HOLL	ANDER		PHONE NUME <b>202-353-0</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION COAL	ON NAME: ITION OF AMERICA		TITLE: NATIONA	L FIELD DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 8730 NORTH PARK BLVD STE 1D				
CITY: CHARLESTON			STATE: SC	ZIP: <b>29406</b>
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 2/11/20	DATE: 125 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DATE: <b>2/13/2025</b>
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
<b>BUSINESS/ORG</b>	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM BUCKMAN			PHONE NUME <b>660-833-8</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION FEEDING MISSOU			TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE				
CITY: COLUMBIA			STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 2/11/20	DATE: 125 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 916				DATE: 2/13/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Pu	blic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGA	NIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD			PHONE NUME <b>573-239-3</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION LEAGUE OF WOME	NAME: IN VOTERS OF MISSO	URI	TITLE: PRESIDEI	NT
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER	R RD., SUITE 104			
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@y	ahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 2/11/20	DATE: <b>025 9:04 PM</b>

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

This bill repeals prohibition for individuals convicted under federal or state law of a felony offense involving possession, distribution, or use of a controlled substance from receiving SNAP benefits; prohibits restraint of pregnant offenders; amends the age a statement from a child may be admissible in criminal proceedings from under 14 to under 18. Missouri currently has one of the nation's most stringent bans for receiving SNAP benefits. HB916 is a positive move to remove the prohibition on additional drug offenses. Incarcerated pregnant people should be viewed as expectant parents in need of comprehensive health care, rather than as criminals who forfeited their right to a safe, respectful, and humane childbirth The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that policies and procedures that apply to employees of and incarcerated individuals in local jails and state prisons ensure that all correctional systems provide humane, dignified, non-discriminatory treatment of incarcerated people and personnel, including appropriate health care and access to community-based rehabilitation programs. The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports HB 916.



#### MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE MARTIN	I		PHONE NUME <b>636-577-9</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION ST. LOUIS AREA			TITLE: DIRECTOI ENGAGEN	R OF COMMUNITY MENT
ADDRESS: 70 CORPORATE V	WOODS DRIVE			
CITY: BRIDGETON			STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>63044</b>
EMAIL: mmartin@stlfoodl	bank.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 2/10/20	DATE: 25 3:29 PM

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

Dear Members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee, We are writing to express our support for House Bill 916, which seeks to fully opt Missouri out of the lifetime ban on SNAP benefits for individuals with drug-related felonies. This bill is a crucial step toward fostering a more just and equitable society, recognizing that those who have made mistakes deserve the opportunity for redemption and support as they reintegrate into their communities. The current lifetime ban disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, making it nearly impossible for many to access basic necessities such as food. By removing this barrier, we acknowledge the importance of second chances and the role that nutrition plays in rebuilding lives. Ensuring access to SNAP benefits for individuals with drug-related felonies is not only a compassionate approach but also a pragmatic one. We urge the committee to pass House Bill 916 and take this important step toward dismantling the barriers that prevent individuals from achieving stability and success. Together, we can create a Missouri that values compassion, support, and the transformative power of second chances. Thank you for considering my testimony.



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TESTIFYING: ✓IN SUPPORT O	OF IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK BENSON		PHONE NUMI <b>314-337-6</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY		TITLE: CASE MANAGER, R2R-V	
ADDRESS: 2342 LASALLE STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>63104</b>
EMAIL: patrickb@cjmstlouis.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 1 2/11/20	DATE: 025 7:50 PM

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

Hello, My name is Patrick Benson. I am a case manager with the Release to Rent-Veterans (R2R-V) grant at Criminal Justice Ministry, a reentry nonprofit in St. Louis, MO. The R2R-V grant is a project funded through the Veteran's Grant-per-Diem program of the Veterans' Administration (VA.) Our project provides transitional housing and reentry support for veterans faced with the possibility of being unhoused due to involvement with the criminal justice system. Many of the veterans that I serve at CJM are working in need of transitional housing and reentry support after involvement with the criminal justice system due to drug charges, often possession charges. Amongst the support services CJM and the R2R-V program offer these veterans is a "Seeking Safety" class, a research-based, evidence-based counseling service that helps individuals heal from addiction that results from maladaptive efforts to soothe unresolved trauma. Many of the veterans find great relief from this service. A lot of the veterans in our program developed substance use disorder (SUD) after coming home from deployment with the branches they served in. Many of them have undiagnosed PTSD, and in their attempts to self-medicate the effects of living for an extended period of time in an increased state of vigilance and surrounded by traumatic events, they find themselves facing drug/alcohol-related criminal charges. One of the biggest indicators of whether we can help a veteran successfully transition from the R2R-V program is whether or not we can give that veteran assurance that they can feel safe as they work through this stage of their life. When a veteran doesn't have to worry about the basic necessities of food and housing, they are free to work on the other circumstances that are keeping them from realizing their full potential. In the past, I have had veterans not meet the eligibility requirements necessary to receive SNAP benefits due to drug charges. This inability to receive nutritional assistance places the veteran in a situation where they are required to find employment immediately to earn money to feed themselves. Having to go to work before they are able to address the underlying issues that led to their SUD and involvement with the justice system places these veterans in a tremendously disadvantaged position. I am urging you to please support House Bill 916 and give these veterans that so selflessly served their country the fullest opportunity to live the life they deserve. Thank you, Patrick BensonR2R-V Case Manager, **Marine Corps VeteranCriminal Justice Ministry** 



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK PLEIN			PHONE NUME <b>202-347-9</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO AMERICAN CONS			DIRECTO	R NOLAN CENTER
ADDRESS: 1199 N FAIRFAX S	ST STE 500			
CITY: ALEXANDRIA			STATE: <b>VA</b>	ZIP: 22307
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT [ 2/11/20	DATE: 125 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gma	nil.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/10/20	DATE: 125 6:13 PM
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Missouri currently has one of the nation's most stringent bans for receiving SNAP benefits (Collateral Consequences Resource Center, Accessing SNAP and TANF Benefits under a Drug Conviction: A Survey of State Laws). This will further hurt those who already struggle financially to feed themselves and their children. With all the concern about protecting children from inappropriate books and the teaching of US history, you should be just as concerned about making sure children get fed.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL H. LEE			PHONE NUME 314-368-4	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE N	MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTO	R
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 142585				
CITY: SAINT LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>63114</b>
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mind	lspring.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT 0 2/10/20	DATE: 125 3:02 PM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FORM	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



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<b>TESTIFYING</b> :	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA KAY KEELY		PHONE NUMB <b>314-532-12</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: 3 DAUGHTERS AND 1000 SONS		TITLE: EXECUTIV	E DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 3811 LAWLER DRIVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>63121</b>
EMAIL: 3daughtersand1000sons@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/11/20	ATE: 25 6:39 PM
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I submitted a written statement in a separate email.



#### WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Insti	tutions			•	
TESTIFYING: VIN SU	PPORT OF	IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR I	INFORMATIC	NAL PURPOSES
	V	VITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: SARA BANNOURA			PH	IONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:			TIT	ΓLE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			ST	ATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Sara.bannoura@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 1</b>	:29 PM

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

Dear Members of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee. I write today as a food justice advocate, as a researcher, and as someone deeply committed to the kind of justice that restores, rather than punishes. As a follower of Jesus, I believe in an advocacy that reflects His radical compassion—one that does not withhold basic human needs as a means of control, but instead seeks to uplift, heal, and restore dignity to every person. House Bill 916 presents a clear moral and policy imperative: Missouri must fully opt out of the lifetime ban on SNAP for individuals with drug-related felonies. The current law is not justice; it is retribution masquerading as policy. It denies people the most fundamental necessity—food—at the very moment when they are trying to rebuild their lives. Jesus was clear about our duty to feed the hungry, to care for the imprisoned, and to walk alongside those seeking redemption. Missouri's current policy does the opposite—it withholds the most basic support from those who have already served their time, deepening cycles of poverty and re -incarceration. Denying food to someone trying to start over is not justice. It is cruelty. A majority of states—including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, West Virginia, and Louisiana—have already fully opted out of this ban. They have recognized what research confirms: food security is a key factor in reducing recidivism and supporting stable reentry. Missouri has an opportunity to correct this injustice, to align its policies with data, common sense, and a moral vision that centers dignity over punishment. House Bill 916 is not about politics. It is about people. It is about ensuring that no one—no matter their past—has to suffer the indignity of hunger in a state that has the means to provide. I urge you to pass this bill and bring Missouri into alignment with justice, evidence-based policymaking, and the fundamental values that call us to care for our neighbors. Sincerely, Sara Bannoura



BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DATE: 2/13/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	Public Institutions			•
TESTIFYING:	<b>☑</b> IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	IATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: SARAH FELTS			PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.felts@gmail	l.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT <b>2/10/2</b> (	DATE: 025 12:39 PM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DATE: 2/13/2025
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: SHELBY RUDOLP	н		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			•	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: shelby.m.rudolph(	@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 2/11/20	PATE: 25 9:01 PM
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Every one of us deserves the stability of not worrying where our next meal will come from. How can we

Every one of us deserves the stability of not worrying where our next meal will come from. How can we expect people to make their way back in to society if they're fighting every day just to find something to eat?



BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DATE: <b>2/13/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: Corrections and P	ublic Institutions		,	
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: WARD COOK			PHONE NUME 816-210-32	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PROSE	CUTORS ASSOC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. 899				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 2/11/20	OATE: 025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



gsholtz@gmail.com

#### MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

#### BILL NUMBER: DATE: **HB 916** 2/13/2025 COMMITTEE: **Corrections and Public Institutions** ☐ IN SUPPORT OF **✓** IN OPPOSITION TO FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES **TESTIFYING: WITNESS NAME BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:** WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: **GEORGE A SHOLTZ JR** 417-260-0071 **BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:** TITLE: **KUNQ BIG COUNTRY RADIO 99.3 FM** ADDRESS **11471 UPTON RD** CITY: STATE: **PLATO** MO 65552 SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 10:28 AM EMAIL: ATTENDANCE:

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Written

The summary of the bill say's "prohibited from participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This billrepeals that prohibition, allowing those individuals to access SNAPbenefits." You are talking about letting convicteddrug users and sellers of drugs get welfare. I don't think that we should make it easier for convicts and we sure should not give them welfare



BILL NUMBER: HB 916				DATE: <b>2/13/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Pub	olic Institutions			
TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	BBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAWN RHOADS			PHONE NUME <b>573-635-5</b>	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SHERIFFS	S UNITED		TITLE: LOBBYIS	т
ADDRESS: BUS HIGHWAY 50.				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: shawn@rhoadsanda	ssociates.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT II 2/11/20	DATE: 025 2:06 PM
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