MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **AMANDA YEAGER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **amanda_yeager@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 6:25 PM**

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

Hi my name is Amanda Yeager and I am a Missouri resident and currently reside outside of Rogersville, MO. I have alpha gal syndrome and was diagnosed last December. It’s changed my life and unfortunately it’s changing the lives of a lot of Missourians. I am 100% in support of reporting this condition, and I hope by doing so it can help others like me who have been effected by this. Fortunately for me I knew about the symptoms of alpha gal because my nephew has it. I was diagnosed pretty quickly. My nephew, on the other hand, spent 7 years with terrible symptoms before a doctor finally figured out what it was and diagnosed him. We need more people to be informed about this. This is not something that is rare anymore. Unfortunately it is becoming very common and everyone I know knows someone who has now been effected by it.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **AMBER KIMBRELL**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **amberhamilton65@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 7:50 PM**

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

I’m submitting this testimony in support of Missouri HB 986 because I’ve lived through the devastating effects of undiagnosed and untreated Lyme disease—and I’m still living with it today.I’ve had what I now know are Lyme symptoms since I was around 10 years old. As a young teen, I was constantly in and out of hospitals, seeing multiple doctors for fatigue, joint pain, and brain fog. They ran the “normal” tests, and everything always came back “within range.” I was told I was fine. But I wasn’t fine. I knew something was deeply wrong, but when every professional told me otherwise, I didn’t know where else to turn or how to get the help I needed.By the time I turned 30, my symptoms had worsened to the point of being unbearable. I had to become my own advocate and start a health journey completely out-of-pocket. I started with a nutritionist who guided me through diet, supplements, and all the holistic things. Still, my three main symptoms—severe fatigue, joint pain, and brain fog—persisted.In late 2022, my nutritionist ran a blood test for autoimmune markers, which came back positive. She recommended I find a functional medicine MD, and I had to travel to Illinois to do so. That doctor immediately suspected Lyme and ordered the right test. In December 2022, I tested positive for Lyme through alternative testing.Since then, I’ve been under the care of Dr. Crist, a Lyme specialist in Ashland, Missouri. I’ve spent tens of thousands of dollars out of my own pocket—because insurance does not help. I’m fortunate that I’ve had the financial means to pursue this treatment, but so many others do not. And that’s heartbreaking.Because doctors didn’t know to test me sooner, Lyme has now become chronic. I will likely never fully eradicate it from my body. My only hope is to treat it aggressively and maintain a strong immune system so I can reach remission and not live every day battling these symptoms.The CDC’s current protocol for a tick bite is 28 days or less of doxycycline. That is not enough. This approach fails to address the seriousness of chronic Lyme and the long-term suffering it causes.Even more alarming—women who have Lyme and don’t know it can pass it to their unborn children. This is a blood-borne disease. More and more people, including entire new generations, are unknowingly living with Lyme disease. We must start paying attention.Doctors are not being educated on Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses. They’re not taught to test for it, and as a result, patients are left to suffer for years, being misdiagnosed or dismissed entirely. The CDC needs to recognize the true scope of this epidemic, and our healthcare system—including insurance—needs to step up.Please support HB 986. Missouri families deserve early testing, better education for providers, access to real treatment, and insurance support for this life-altering disease. People shouldn’t have to fight so hard just to get the care they need.Thank you for hearing my story.—Amber

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ARIEL PROBST**		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **arielprobst12@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/1/2025 7:37 AM**	

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

In 2023, I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome, which is an allergy to all mammals and mammal byproducts contracted from a tick-bite. I had never heard of this allergy before I contracted it, and thankfully, my case was diagnosed early on, as it was affecting my breathing. I was told that I had bronchitis and asthma, which I did not have prior to this allergy. Just two days after changing my diet I was already breathing more easily. I consider myself fortunate that it did not have time to escalate further before I had time to educate myself and change my diet, which was a long process as many unsuspecting foods contain Alpha-Gal. Others are not so fortunate. Due to lack of provider and public education, many cases are not diagnosed for months or even years leaving many individuals without answers and fearing for their lives. Even though I have educated myself enough to get through most days without a reaction, there are still many times that I am fearful of accidentally consuming food, drink, or medication that might cause a reaction. And I know I'm not alone in this fear. This is why I support HB 986 and ask you to do the same. By supporting HB 986, you will bring increased awareness of Alpha-Gal Syndrome to the residents of the State of Missouri and help calm their fears through the support, education, and medical help that they receive. As this tick-borne allergy continues to spread throughout the State of Missouri and the U.S., more research will be needed and it starts here.Thank you for your time.Ariel Probst(Mid-MO resident)

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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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: **4/2/2025 11:58 PM**

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ASHLEY CURRY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **tripleseven1@icloud.com**	ATTENDANCE: **In-Person**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 7:49 AM**

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

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this Honorable House session with my personal testimony and traumatic encounter with Alpha Galactose sensitivity/reactions. The obstacles to identification and treatment at the first responder and clinician level need your attention, the dissemination and life saving solutions begin here, with proper identification and inclusion/adoption into formal recognition. At present, the patients are educating the physicians, first responders, dietitians, caretakers, food and beverage manufacturers and restaurants. This condition must be identified and recognized in order to proceed with the protections and inclusion in medical definitions, insurance allotments, and subsequent actions that enable effective and immediate treatment at the point of traumatic reaction and faster arrival at diagnoses, insurance allotments order to save lives and prevent damage to health of constituents that live in Missouri. Please consider my testimony:(time for testimony) Very Respectfully,Ashley Curry

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **BROOKE LEANN SENA**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **blsena162@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 9:18 AM**

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

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome about 7-8 years ago. Prior to diagnosis I was very ill for a couple of years prior to diagnosis. Alpha-Gal was an unknown thing in Southwest Missouri at that time and I had to endure numerous medical visits to the ER and my Primary Care provider with no results. I was treated very unfairly in the ER and was even told that it was all in my head. My reactions to mammalian ingredients include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, and reduction in breathing. I am also fume reactive to mammalian ingredients in the air such as bacon being cooked. I am not able to take a majority of over the counter medication as well as prescribed medications. This severely limits medications that are available to me and I have medical issues other than just Alpha-Gal. I have to have medication compounded if they can be. This disease needs to be reclassified into the same category as the top ten allergies that are already recognized by the federal government and treated as such. This disease has grow so much since I was diagnosed. Everywhere I go there is someone that has it and there are so many restaurants that are aware of it now. To me it is a silent epidemic.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **BRYSON JAMES HUTCHESON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **brysonhutcheson22@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 11:27 AM**

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

Hi my name is Bryson. I’m 11 years old and live in Southwest Missouri near Ash Grove, and I’d like to share a little about what it’s like to have alpha gal syndrome. It really stinks whenever we go to baseball games and I can't have anything from the concessions like popcorn and Reese's. When I go to birthday parties I can't have regular cake and regular ice cream like other kids and I don't like watching it. I am grateful for everything that I have right now in life, but I also want a better life in the future for myself so I'm not all stressed out about worrying about medicines and other foods. When I got my Hep A vaccine at the doctor’s office the next day or the next morning I barely could breathe and I was very weak. I could barely move and it made me feel really bad. My doctor didn’t know that the vaccine was unsafe for me. It makes me really anxious that I have to worry about shots and medicines. I just had tonsil surgery in January and I was very concerned that the medicines they were going to use were not AGS safe. Thanks to God for keeping me safe in there and for knowing what's safe for me. I'm glad that they made sure their medicines were safe and I would like more doctors to do the same.It just really stinks to have Alpha Gal, knowing that you might have it your whole life. Thank you for reading. I hope you support HB986 to help kids like me.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CARRIE M. HAMMOND**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **vishus.homesteader@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 12:36 PM**

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I have a chronic, damaging, and painful autoimmune disease called Psoriatic Arthritis. Its the one that makes your fingers, toes, and other parts of the body buckle up - and eventually become unuseable if not treated. However, due to my alpha-gal syndrome and the way my body reacts to it - I am unable to take the majority of available medicines as they contain filler ingredients with the alpha-gal carbohydrate (things like lactose monohydrate, magnesium sterate, and others) which can trigger anything from a mild reaction to anaphalatic shock - and can change from one type of reaction to the other without prior warning. Many of us are unable to take even the simplest of over the counter medicines such as Benadryl, which is supposed to be FOR allergies. Alpha-gal is preventing me from utilizing much of the treatment I need. I know there are others in the same situation. Please help us by making this horrible illness a part of case reporting.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **CHRIS WERDENHAUSE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **csw60970@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/31/2025 7:47 PM**

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I think more attention needs to be brought to alpha gal and Lyme like illnesses resulting from tick bites so doctors and individuals can make the best healthcare recommendations/decisions

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DEBBI AUDIFFRED**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **d2audiffred@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 11:26 AM**

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

More awareness of Alpha-Gal Syndrome is needed. I was diagnosed with AGS in 2018. I suffered for four months not knowing what was wrong with me. My symptoms included burning rash in my mouth and throat, difficulty breathing, stomach upset, light headed, headaches, low energy and itchy hands/feet. Even after seeking help from the medical profession, they couldn’t figure out what was wrong with me. Then I saw an article in a local newspaper about an allergy to meat from a tick bite. I asked my doctor for this test, and she had not heard of the test. I persisted, and the test was ordered. My results came back positive for AGS. My long journey to educate myself began. This is a life threatening syndrome, and a daily challenge. More awareness is needed as nearly half million people are now affected by AGS. Please help educate and bring awareness by passing this bill

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DIANE TREVORROW MARQUETTE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **frankndi007@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 5:20 AM**

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

Written Testimony in Support of Bill HB986As a fellow Missourian whose family is deeply affected by Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS), I fully support this bill. We need mandatory reporting because Missouri is a hotbed of AGS diagnoses, with new cases emerging daily. Currently, we have no accurate count of how many people are affected.I am personally affected by AGS. Not only can I not consume mammal meat, but I also cannot have dairy products, touch leather, or be exposed to fumes from mammal meat being cooked in an enclosed space. AGS symptoms vary greatly among individuals, which underscores the need for comprehensive reporting.Funding for further research on AGS is desperately needed. We also require proper labeling on foods and medicines, and better-informed medical staff. Accurate data on the number of affected individuals will help achieve these goals.Alpha-Gal Syndrome has significantly changed my life. The transition is challenging, and I rely on Facebook groups and friends who also have AGS for support. Unfortunately, many medical personnel do not understand that reactions to fumes are real. The mental health aspect of this allergy also needs attention, as it can lead to social isolation and awkwardness at gatherings. I often bring my own food to be safe, which starts conversations about AGS. I use these opportunities to educate others, but not everyone has my positive approach.My family, friends, and co-workers all fully support the passing of this bill.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **DONNA RAVENSCRAFT**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **donnandean25@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/1/2025 9:06 AM**

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This is the first step to getting all ingredients listed so those with Alpha Gal are able to keep themselves safe. Unidentified ingredients can be life threatening to highly reactive people with Alpha Gal. Thank you for taking action on this and trying to help us stay safe.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **EA FRANKLIN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **eafrank711@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 6:26 PM**

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Strongly support this bill - please pass it without delay.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ELIZABETH GRAVES**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **lpope9021@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 1:10 PM**

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Testify in person

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **GENEVIEVE WESEMAN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **genweseman@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **In-Person**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 9:40 AM**

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

Testimony in Support of HB986 My name is Genevieve Weseman, and I am here in support of HB986. Professionally, I am an epidemiologist at a local county health department, and personally, I have lived with Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) since 2016, with a formal diagnosis in 2018. My daughter was diagnosed two years ago, at the age of 15.This diagnosis has deeply affected my entire family more so than I can elaborate on in three minutes. I cannot be in the same room with cooked mammalian products, perfumes, or cleaning products, in addition to avoiding mammalian foods, medications, and topical products. This has made working in an office, participating in everyday activities, and accessing medical care incredibly challenging.Adding Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) and Lyme disease to Missouri's list of mandatory reportable conditions will help public health officials better track, monitor, and respond to these growing tick-borne threats. Surveillance is a foundational public health tool—it enables us to understand disease burden, identify geographic hotspots, educate clinicians, and allocate resources effectively.Data from a 2022 CDC MMWR report estimated more than 80,385 suspected AGS cases nationally between 2017 and 2021. Additionally, the CDC estimated there may be almost half a million individuals currently living with AGS in the United States. When compared to other tick- borne illnesses, this makes AGS the second most commonly reported tickborne condition in the U.S., behind Lyme disease, and the only non-reported tick-borne conditions from the data. This number most likely underestimates the true count of individuals suffering from AGS, as there is currently no formal surveillance in place.Emerging research has identified multiple tick species as potential AGS vectors in addition to the lone star tick (Amblyomma americanum), including the black-legged tick (Ixodes scapularis), western black-legged tick (Ixodes pacificus), and the invasive longhorned tick (Haemaphysalis longicornis). The longhorned tick has been implicated in spreading AGS in Asia and was recently detected in St. Louis County, expanding concerns about its role in spreading AGS and other diseases in Missouri.Additionally, a 2024 NIH study found that Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, ranked among the top three locations nationally—within their study population—for the highest rates of newly detected alpha-gal IgE sensitization among military recruits. Within the existing research, Missouri is often implicated as a hotspot for AGS cases.The evidence is clear: AGS is an emerging and under-recognized public health concern with a growing footprint in Missouri. Without accurate case reporting and surveillance, we are missing critical opportunities to educate clinicians, support affected families, and develop preventive strategies. HB986 is a necessary and timely step forward in ensuring Missouri is prepared to meet this challenge with data-informed action.I am thankful for the opportunity to speak with you today. I strongly encourage your support of HB986, which will help improve clinical awareness and public health surveillance for these life-altering conditions and translate to action and prevention for the people of Missouri. Thank you for your time and consideration.____References1. Butler, W. K., Oltean, H. N., Dykstra, E. A., Saunders, E., Salzer, J. S., & Commins, S. P. (2025). Onset of Alpha-Gal

Syndrome after Tick Bite, Washington, USA. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 31(4), 829–832. https://doi.org/10.3201/eid3104.2405772. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, July 15). Tickborne disease surveillance data summary. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/data-research/facts-stats/tickborne-disease-surveillance-data-summary.html3. Commins, S. P., et al. (2024). Multiple tick species can trigger Alpha-gal Syndrome. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 31(4), 869–876. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/31/4/24-1265_article4. Hooker, E. N., et al. (2024). Detection of longhorned tick in Missouri and its public health implications. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 31(4), 859–862. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/31/4/24-0577_article5. Kennedy, J. L., et al. (2024). IgE sensitization to Alpha-gal in the U.S. military and civilian populations. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11642159/6. Saunders, E. F., Sohail, H., Myles, D. J., Charnetzky, D., Ayres, B. N., Nicholson, W. L., ... Salzer, J. S. (2025). Alpha-Gal Syndrome after Ixodes scapularis Tick Bite and Statewide Surveillance, Maine, USA, 2014–2023. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 31(4), 809–813. https://doi.org/10.3201/eid3104.2412657. Sharma, S. R., et al. (2023). Geographic distribution of suspected Alpha-gal Syndrome cases — United States, 2017–2022. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 72, 813–818. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7230a2.htm8. Tick-Borne Conditions United. (2024, January 10). Alpha-gal by the numbers: A comparison of Lyme, AGS, and other tick-borne disease cases from 2017–2021. https://www.tbcunited.org/alpha-gal-by-the-numbers-a-comparison-of-lyme-ags-and-other-tick-borne-disease-cases-from-2017-2021/9. Washington University in St. Louis. (2025, February). Invasive longhorned tick discovered in St. Louis County. The Source. https://source.wustl.edu/2025/02/invasive-longhorned-tick-discovered-in-st-louis-county/

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JANA SUMMEY**	PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **janalsummey@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **In-Person**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 7:55 AM**

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

This is vital for those with Alpha-gal Syndrome. It is highly unreported, under diagnosed, and the medical community in most cases are highly uneducated leading to horrible and many times life threatening anaphylaxis incidents. I have had Alpha-gal for over six years now. I have gone into anaphylaxis shock three times. It has completely changed my personal and professional life. It isn't simply avoiding red meat. It is reading every food and personal hygiene label. It is researching the ingredients of every medication. It is sitting with an empty plate at business dinners, avoiding business meeting buffets, not going to backyard barbecues, and the end of many family traditions. Missouri is a hotbed for Alpha-gal syndrome. Please help this sadly growing population. I have started a business educating our communities about Alpha-gal syndrome and helping those with it to navigate its many challenges. Now you have the opportunity to help too. Please do so.

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JASON GILLISPIE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **gil79us@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 3:26 PM**

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

My name is Jason Gillispie I'm a disabled US Navy veteran and I got diagnosed with Alpha Gal in March of 2018 after 6 months of having allergic reactions and the Drs couldn't figure out why until I was sent to a specialist at the University of Missouri and I was lucky enough that Dr Franzese had seen this before and knew exactly what test to run and when she told me I had Alpha Gal I was like what I'm going to eat now and instead of feeling sorry for myself I I just told myself now it's time to adapt and overcome and starting cooking the same flavors that I had while I was stationed overseas and all the countries that I visited in the navy and there is a red meat that people like myself can have its Emu and Ostrich but the only problem is that the meat from those birds are very expensive and not everyone that has Alpha Gal can afford it and I think this bill will help Drs finally understanding this condition is happening more and more to people in our great state that is Missouri and also its more than being allergic to mammal meat but also meds that contain mammal ingredient's and when some that has alpha gal has surgery the Drs performing the surgery need to understand that you cannot use a anything that has pork in it to control the bleeding I ran into that back in 2019 when I was getting ready for neck surgery and the Dr came out and told me that he can't do the surgery because of me having Alpha Gal and he told me why and then connected me with the best Dr in the state for my type of surgery and on a closing note I have found that living with Alpha Gal does impact your life greatly by the foods and meds and even soap and other hygiene products that we have to avoid and how hard it is just trying to find a place to eat at safely when you want to take your family out to dinner I hope this bill is passed as a first step to solving this horrible syndrome

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JEANNE MUNTON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jmunton6@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 11:11 AM**

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

As a person diagnosed with alpha-gal, I support this measure as a step in the right direction. This is a growing problem where I live in southwest Missouri. Each case needs to be reported and documented. This tick-borne syndrome needs to be studied and researched. Alpha-gal has drastically affected the lives of my family. I am limited to just a few foods that I can eat. We don't get out much because I can have fume reactions where I have difficulty breathing. Alpha-gal I has triggered histamine and mast cell issues in my body, as well. My decision to retire early from teaching was partly driven by the health issues I was facing. Alpha-gal is so much more than being allergic to red meat. There are mammalian byproducts in foods and medications, perfumes and cologne, air fresheners and cleaning products, soaps and lotions. The list is endless. Going out to eat is like playing Russian Roulette. I have to ask servers so many questions. Sometimes it turns out okay, and sometimes I get very ill. My husband and I have raised beef cattle for years. I can no longer eat it, but it can't be cooked in my house either. I will either get light headed or develop breathing issues. I've tried to hit a few points of how AGS has affected my life. There are many, many more points I could mention. Please pass this bill that would be a step in the right direction.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JENNIFER KELLER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jenny.keller@californiak12.org**	ATTENDANCE: **In-Person**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/27/2025 8:31 PM**

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

I have been dealing with symptoms for 11 years, however I wasn’t diagnosed with AGS until 5 years ago. I am an elementary teacher and was constantly having reactions. After our school nurse used my epi pen and I was taken to Jefferson City hospital, my doctor was lacking anymore information to help me. I had to go clear to Dr Scott Commins at UNC for medical guidance. I react to fumes, food and mammalian byproducts. I plan to come and share my life altering diagnosis.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JERRY D. HOBBS**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jerry@hobbstopcc.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 3:49 PM**

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

I want emphasize the urgent need for a study of the causes and prevention of diseases such as tick bites that lead to Alpha-Gal Syndrome and Lyme disease. These conditions are not only debilitating but are also becoming increasingly prevalent in Missouri. I have had friends who were sick for weeks and some who had to be hospitalized, due to a tick bite with the bacteria causing Lyme disease, because their doctor was unable to provide an initial diagnosis. The results of the study and annual reporting of their findings to the CDC would also enable public health officials to educate healthcare providers and the public about prevention and early detection.By implementing this requirements of this bill, Missouri can take a proactive stance in protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of this state. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JESSICA CLARK**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jessthegardener@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 6:20 AM**

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

I was diagnosed with alpha-gal two years ago, but was sick for 12 years with symptoms and had given up on figuring out why I was so sick all the time until I had a particularly bad reaction to tacos. I went to a private lab and had blood work done. I can't eat anything I don't cook entirely from scratch now. I tried acupuncture and shortly after became fume reactive. I can't go anywhere food or other mammal fumes like fertilizer or paint without having a reaction. My reactions are bad too, I get hives, major migraine and ringing in my ears, then difficulty breathing, I've had anaphylaxis, violent episodes of throwing up and diarrhea until I passed out. It makes my joints hurt, and just feels like the flu for days afterwards. My blood pressure is all over the place all the time. This is so serious, it's more than just meat, byproducts are in nearly everything and carrageenan is in everything else. There are more and more people getting diagnosed, thousands joined social media pages from our state. It feels like the support groups on Facebook are better informed because of our collective knowledge than any of the doctors that we go to. Some people even say they're still having a hard time getting their doctor to test them so they're going to independent clinics like I did. I don't even know what will happen if I need emergency medical attention or dental work now because I'm allergic to so many aspects of that care as well. My life and the lives of those that care about me have changed dramatically.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JESSICA ELLIOTT**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jesalyn1102@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 5:34 AM**

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

I have Alpha Gal and it is extremely life changing. I had to change my entire life regimen from cooking to body products to socializing to sleeping. It is absolutely crucial that this allergy gets more attention with doctors, pharmacies, food industries, manufacturers, and health departments. I am willing to share my story and provide any help spreading awareness for this allergy. Please feel free to contact me. I have had this allergy for almost 4 years now. I think I am getting better, then am hit with set backs. The financial, medical, physical, and emotional impacts of this allergy to patients and families is devastating and most of us are training people who should be helping us! I had to educate surgeons at KU of how to have a safe surgery for me. That is mind blowing to me! Please help!!!

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JESSICA PERKINS**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jessdperk@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 6:38 AM**

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

I support further research, and labelling requirements for Alpha Gal. I have this horrible allergy, and it has ruined my life, as I contracted Lyme as well. Tick diseases are no joking matter. People are dying, & suffering from these diseases. Please help your citizens!

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JUDY WHEELER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jwheeler63435@pm.me**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 10:22 PM**

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

I'm writing as someone who has AGS, & I implore you to support passage of HB986. I believe it's extremely important that this bill gets passed & that each case of Alpha-gal in MO has to be reported. The public is terribly unfamiliar with AGS & unfortunately it seems like the majority of the medical profession are as well.I was diagnosed with AGS on December 7, 2023, but I believe I've actually had it for 15 years. That's when I suddenly started having allergic reactions to most medicines & vaccines. I also started getting itchy rashes & having gastro issues & GERD that seemed to be random, and I couldn't figure out a cause for, nor could my PCP or Dermatologist. In 2023 I started having chronic hives, that besides being itchy, also looked like & hurt like a chemical burn if anything touched them. I had been to my PCP after I was bit by a tick to be put on an antibiotic in case the tick carried Lyme disease, but I and my provider were both unaware of AGS. She tried to help me with my hives to no avail, as did my dermatologist. I finally was able to see an allergist after waiting for months and he tested me for everything under the sun including AGS. I was negative for everything but Alpha-gal. I've since seen him a few times and it is so disheartening because most of the questions I ask him he has no answer for. He said he has over 100 patients with AGS and he learns from us, and says I know much more than he does about it, and he doesn't seem motivated at all to increase his knowledge! AGS has radically changed my whole life and most of what I've learned about it is through living with it and researching and reading everything I possibly can. AGS is becoming more prevalent and it needs to be taken seriously with those of us who live with it getting the help and support we need. The only way the CDC will truly know how many suffer with it is if all cases have to be reported. Please, I pray that you will see how urgent it is that you vote to pass this bill! Thank you! Judy Wheeler

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JUNE BALES**	PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **junebugg1901@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 9:20 PM**

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

An allergy that could kill some of us and its spreading through tick bites throughout the U.S. Please consider passing this to help us and others .

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Health and Mental Health**	

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KALYNN RHOADS**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **nursekalynn@ymail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 11:02 PM**

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

I would like to register my strong support for HB 986. Alpha Gal Syndrome (AGS) has forced me to completely change my life. I have severe allergic reactions with any and all contact or ingestion of all mammal meats, organs and byproducts, which are in an unimaginable amount of foods and everyday products. This has caused me to have to limit social interactions, change my work location, take a huge amount of multiple safe for me antihistamines (yes, the Alpha Gal molecules can be found in many medications and medical products) and spend a lot of time and extra money finding foods, medications and products that won't make me sick for days. In my small town alone I personally know many other people with AGS. I believe passing this bill is the first step of many that will greatly help a very large population of Missouri residents live a safer fuller life. Thank you for your consideration and support of this very important bill!

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Health and Mental Health**	

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KAREN JO CHANEY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **kjc2015@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/27/2025 8:01 PM**

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

I am a 62 yr old native of SW MO and have always lived in the country, so I'm no stranger to tick bites. However, in June of 2024, I became ill with unexplained nausea, abdominal cramping and (weirdly) itchy hands and feet. It came and went, but grew increasingly severe each time. On July 4 I was taken by ambulance to the hospital where I had an emergency appendectomy. My symptoms persisted and I returned to ER 3 more times with no concrete diagnosis. I lost 40 pounds in 2 months. The doctors just kept telling me to just keep taking Metamucil. Everything made me sick. I had no energy and was miserable. During one of the scans I underwent to check my gall bladder (which showed it was functioning normally), a radiology tech who suggested I request my doctor test me for alpha gal. Thank God for him! I tested positive. My doctor wrote me a prescription for an epipen and told me to avoid red meat, referred me to an allergist. The allergist repeated exactly what my PCP had said and bid me farewell. That was it. It was only by my own research and the support of Alpha Gal groups on Facebook did I learn how to maneuver life with this illness. What I found was that I not only had to avoid red meat, but that the capsules of my prescription medications contained mammal. My skin lotion had mammal. I have to avoid touching leather. Many bottled waters are filtered through bone char. Cross contamination at restaurants prohibits the simple pleasure of dining out. Many non-mammal foods are enhanced with products that contain mammal DNA, etc…. So navigating something as basic as grocery shopping has become a nightmare. AG often causes other sensitivities to things like carrageenan … which is everywhere! This is a life altering illness that most people know little to nothing about. Even the medical professionals are mostly clueless. This needs to be studied and awareness raised. PLEASE.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KAREN SPRINGER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **kcspring2@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 7:53 PM**

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

Alpha Gal has become an increasingly common concern in rural areas all over the country, but especially in southern Missouri. In the last 2 years, I know of at least 20 families effected by it. This disease has completely changed peoples' lives and can be extremely hard to live with. We also know so little about the disease but it's spreading quickly. Shining a spotlight on this issue can help increase research, understanding, treatment and prevention and ultimately save lives.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KATHERINE CRAFT**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **kcraft79@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 11:09 AM**

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

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in June 2024 after a year of illness. My doctors didn't believe my symptoms aligned, so I finally went to functional medicine to get tested. As soon as I removed all mammal products, I began to heal. The responsible tick got me in my rural Missouri backyard while gardening. Along with mammal meat, I cannot have dairy or sugar filtered through bone char (found that out the hard way). Mammal-derived ingredients are prevalent in many of our foods. Even with apps, I cannot trust the safety of many ingredients. More and more of my neighbors continue to be diagnosed. It is LIFE changing. I have so much venison in my freezer that my family normally relies on to cut grocery costs, yet I cannot even have it cooked in our small kitchen without my eyes burning. As an avid outdoors person, I find myself stepping away from the very nature I love for fear that getting another tick bite will increase my symptoms to the point of anaphylaxis. Anecdotally, we KNOW alpha gal is on the rise and our area is a hot bed for this terrible, life-altering allergy. Anecdotally, many people believe it just goes away after a year or two. That is untrue for many people. There are no guarantees, and research shows it merely goes into remission. We need hard data and tracking to truly understand the prevalence and begin to tackle this situation.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KATRINA RICHARDS**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **krichards088@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 6:36 AM**

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

I have alpha-gal. My husband has alpha-gal, and my youngest son has alpha-gal. It took years for my husband to be diagnosed. He was having "panic attacks" and his vision was impaired and doctors initially referred him to a therapist to try to recreate his dizziness and panic attacks and help him get over it through immersion therapy. He was finally diagnosed by the Freeman ER after going into anaphylaxis. My youngest was vomiting and having IBS. He got sick after eating Halloween candy containing gelatin (not listed as an allergen). He was diagnosed easier because we were aware of the syndrome. I was vomiting, having severe anxiety and feeling pressure behind my eyes. Because we were aware of what to look for, I was diagnosed faster. But I continued to have reactions because there are medicines that contain allergens. I had a reaction to numbing gel at the dentist's office. Carrageenan is another major alpha-gal allergen. It's made from seaweed. I reacted to coffee creamer while home alone. My throat started closing and my tongue swelling. This allergy has seriously affected my family's life. It's difficult to eat out at restaurants. Foods and medicines contain undisclosed allergens, making it impossible to know if you we will react. It's a roulette of trial and error. The numbers of affected people are growing daily in our region. More awareness speeds diagnosis and will make businesses and manufacturers aware of the changing market needs. Medicines and medical devices are needed to accommodate those with this condition. Thank you for your support.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**
COMMITTEE: **Health and Mental Health**	

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KELSEY LYNNE HUTCHESON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **khutch0619@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 11:17 AM**

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

Two years ago I was officially diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome after seeing multiple doctors for more than 20 years regarding symptoms I have experienced most of my life. Alpha Gal Syndrome has caused a number of symptoms throughout my life–migraines and severe headaches, extreme fatigue, joint pain, plantar fasciitis, intermittent and unexplained heart rate increases, brain fog, extreme itching of hands and feet, acne, unexplained chest pain, heartburn, diarrhea and stomach pain, eczema, blisters on my hands and fingers, nausea, and most recently, anaphylaxis–most that disappeared within 3 weeks of completely eliminating mammal products from my life, but reappear with accidental exposure. I am grateful that the diagnosis of AGS was an answer to so many of my medical issues throughout the years, but it is certainly not a diagnosis to be thankful for as it impacts every aspect of my life. Today I'd like to share my experiences with you in hopes that you might be able to temporarily step into my shoes to see how impactful HB986 is to the progress needed to help Missourians, one of the top 3 most impacted states in the US, also diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome (AGS). When most people hear 'alpha gal' in Southwest Missouri there are three common reactions: 1) "I know someone that has that"; or 2) "I've never heard of that"; or 3) "That's the 'red meat' allergy, right?" The education that surrounds this allergy is very limited, including our neighbors in the communities we live and medical professionals. Nearly 75% of those that suffer from AGS have anaphylactic reactions, significantly higher than even peanut allergies and many have to visit the ER weekly for such reactions. I have personally visited many doctors over the past 2 years for myself and my children (who also share an AGS diagnosis). Each time we have needed medication I have had to provide guidance to the physician on which medication might be safe, sometimes even needing to defend the seriousness of this allergy and that their prescription could lead to anaphylaxis. A specific urgent care doctor I saw last summer was quick to remind me that HE was the medical professional and that "most medication does not have mammal" which is simply not true and could be very dangerous for any one of my 5 family members that shares this diagnosis. He became offended and argumentative when I again asked him to check the ingredients, which I discovered was because he had limited knowledge of AGS, the ingredients in the medication he was prescribing, and had no access to a database to help him know what was safe for me. A hospital visit to the emergency room last year also proved to be a dangerous situation for me as a patient with Alpha Gal Syndrome. I was losing blood at an alarming rate and upon arrival let the doctors and nurses know that I had AGS and to please check any medications prior to administering them. In the emergency department there are many times quick decisions must be made for patient safety, but alpha gal syndrome and the effects of the medication that they administer seem to be the furthest thing from their minds. But this scary scenario could lead to serious side effects for patients with AGS, including anaphylaxis, taking an already bad situation and making it much worse. During this visit and overnight stay I was administered and offered multiple medications that contained mammal ingredients. Because of the severe blood loss I needed an iron

supplement. I reminded my bedside nurse that I had alpha gal syndrome and could not take many medications so she consulted with the in-hospital pharmacist. When she returned I was very disappointed and frustrated with the response of the pharmacist who asked my nurse “What are her reactions? If it’s just hives it will be okay.” To which other severe allergy do we treat patients with this care, dismissing the possibility of even hives as a reaction? At 11:00pm my husband went to a local drugstore to find a vegan alternative to the medication to help because the pharmacy wasn’t educated on AGS enough to provide me with something safe. This continued into the morning when the cafeteria staff provided scrambled eggs (with dairy in them), bacon, and toast with butter as a satisfactory meal to fit my dietary needs. It is time for change in our Missouri hospitals. Many wonder, besides the actual mammal meat, what products could contain mammal ingredients. While this is not a comprehensive list, this list might help you to understand how HB 986 and the reporting of AGS cases to the CDC might provide motivation for hospitals, businesses, physicians, community leaders, and others to become more aware and educated on a diagnosis that an estimated 450,000 Americans share: Medications–over the counter and prescriptions, including vitaminsFood products–all dairy products, enriched products such as flours, breads and rice, food dyes, all mammal meats, alcohol, bone char mixed into products like sugar, also including fumes from cooking these foodsPersonal care products–makeup, soaps, lotions, hand soapCleaning and home products–disinfectant sprays, cleaning products, candles, air fresheners, laundry detergentsMiscellaneous products–wax and plastics, leather (couches, handbags, car seats, and furniture), clothing products (wool socks, spandex linings in undergarments), women’s sanitary products (tampons and pads), contraceptive devices.As you can see, this diagnosis is all-encompassing and requires a great deal of education for someone newly diagnosed. However, when I was diagnosed with AGS, I was simply advised to avoid mammal meat and dairy. It took continued reactions for myself and my son to realize that many of these other products were also causing us medical issues. Once they were eliminated, we were better. I now cook 3 meals a day for our family of 5 since we became extremely reactive. We cannot eat out to get a break from cooking because of the risks of cross contamination and the lack of restaurant managers and cooking staff understanding all of the risks. We have suffered anaphylaxis many times from trying to eat out early in our diagnosis. Holiday meals, family gatherings, church events, fall festivals, and sporting events are all events that my family is not able to enjoy fellowship with others due to our diagnosis. We have to eat ahead of time, or provide our own meals or snacks. Imagine being a 11, 9, or 3 year old, showing up to your family Thanksgiving or Christmas and having to bring your own food rather than sharing the meal that everyone is talking about being so delicious. Imagine all of the guys from your 8U baseball team grabbing an ice cream or popsicle at the end of the hot summer game while you drink your water and watch them enjoy treats. Imagine attending a birthday party as a 3 year old with cake and ice cream to celebrate a friend and sitting to the side while you wait for everyone else to finish eating. While I’ve tried to make accommodations for my kids by bringing treats or food that are safe for them, it’s still not the same and they still notice. When we’re in town and everybody is hungry because our errands took longer than expected we can’t run in to grab a snack or a quick meal. All of these instances are real and provide a glimpse into our daily lives. We recently purchased a travel trailer to help us return to enjoying family vacations due to the need for us to bring our own food and have access to a kitchen. We can no longer go out to eat shrimp on beach vacations, dive into those delicious funnel cakes at Silver Dollar City, enjoy dinners out to celebrate a special occasion, or pop into a fast food restaurant to grab something quick on the road. Every meal must be carefully planned and while traveling, often results in peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, as even many deli turkey meats have mammal ingredients and are unsafe. The effects on mental health are very tough for myself and my kids to overcome some days–especially around the holidays. So how does HB986 help those with Alpha Gal Syndrome? Reporting these diagnoses to the CDC will provide actual numbers of affected Missourians. It will give a reason for Missouri hospitals and physicians to become educated, leading to safer experiences for their AGS patients. As more and more states pass similar bills, it will potentially lead to national changes in nutrition labeling, making it easier for those with alpha gal syndrome to recognize a potentially fatal ingredient in foods or medications. It will encourage drug manufacturers to really understand the ingredients in their medications, leading to the removal of unnecessary mammal ingredients so that more patients are able to take life-saving and life-giving drugs. But we have to start somewhere, and that ‘somewhere’ can be right here, in the state of Missouri, to begin reporting that there is a big issue at hand when it comes to AGS. As a constituent, a mother, a wife, and a representative of so many with this diagnosis, I appreciate your commitment to bettering the health of Missourians and encourage you to support HB986.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: **HB 986**	DATE: **4/2/2025**

COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **KEN HAMILTON**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 12:00 AM**

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: **Health and Mental Health**	

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **LYLA OVERCAST**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 12:00 AM**

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **MALIK STIFFLER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **malikstiffler@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/27/2025 8:31 PM**

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

It is apparent in the alpha gal community that the health care system needs more knowledge when it comes to this food allergy. So many of us that have been diagnosed with alpha gal had spent years going from doctor to doctor fighting for answers. When I was finally requested to take an allergy test it showed I had elevated antibodies towards beef and protein that was never something I had growing up. I questioned the doctor, could this be alpha gal? Her response was proof that alpha gal is something that doctors need to be made aware of. My doctor told me if she was an allergist she would tell me that I was not allergic to beef and pork. I knew I had to be my own advocate and pushed for an alpha gal test and am so glad I did. The result is exactly what I was expecting, I was diagnosed with alpha gal.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **MARY BROWN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **eegmary@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/28/2025 4:09 PM**

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

I can not attend the hearing on April 1, 2025. I would like to comment on this bill. I feel it's necessary for the the HB 986 to pass. There absolutely needs to be more public awareness about Alpha-Gal Syndrome for one thing. My GI nurse practioner recently tested me for it at the same she sent me for pre-op labs so I could be cleared for a scope of my stomach. I was found to have gastritis and a hiatal hernia. Just 4 years ago I had the same test and those issues were not present. I feel like they were triggered by the Alphagal. The other thing is, that I tested positive for the Alphagal before the surgery but my doctor didn't inform me until 2 weeks after. No special arrangements were made to make sure I didn't have a reaction to any drugs or utensils used! So, even the doctor that tested for it, isn't very knowledgeable about Alphagal. We've got to be made aware of this problem! There needs to be more education and research.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **MAUREEN VANCE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **mochamostamper@mac.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 9:01 AM**

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

I was diagnosed with Alpha gal about a month ago. As a hospital pharmacist it is very difficult to supply meds to patients unsure of each individuals reaction. Reporting needs to be done as well as making pharmaceutical companies to list if their inactive ingredients contain mammal products. It isn’t safe to withhold meds and also isn’t safe to verify all the ones that could be a potential problem.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **PAULA BARKER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **prgmr7@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/29/2025 8:50 PM**

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

I have alpha gal syndrome. I was bitten by a lone star tick last spring. My reactions started that evening when my belly was in severe pain. Not knowing what was causing the pain, I continued my usual red meat diet at the bbq. I was sick for eight weeks before a doctor ran the right test. This is after visiting the er twice and my primary care doctor. Since my reaction was heavily in my gut and my stool was not formed but runny constantly. I decided to see the colon doctor for help. It was then that I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome. I’ve stayed away from eating and cooking red meat. My husband has to stay away from it too because of my allergy, not his. For the last 9 months I have been unable to eat a burger or a steak. I can only eat chicken, turkey or fish. Please label ??? packages whether they are AGS friendly.

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

REGISTERED LOBBYIST:

WITNESS NAME: **RON HICKS**	PHONE NUMBER: **636-328-7050**	
REPRESENTING: **GREAT STATE STRATEGIES**	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: **319 WASHINGTON STREET**		
CITY: **JEFFERSON CITY**	STATE: **MO**	ZIP: **65101**
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 12:00 AM**

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

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **ROXANN KELLY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **kellyroxann@hotmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 11:46 AM**

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

I would wake up in the middle of the night with severe stomach pains with vomiting off and on for about nine months. The pain would be sudden and make me jack knife, sweat and become dizzy even though I'm laying flat on my back. After numerous gastrologic tests, finally my doctor sent me to the lab for AG bloodwork. That was in October of 2022. All they told me was to avoid mammal meat and dairy. As I travel the journey I'm constantly finding out about ingredients and hidden ingredients within processed food that I can not have. Every time I eat at a restaurant I know I'm taking a chance for cross contamination. This knowledge I'm gaining is through other AG folks that share information on various Facebook groups. Please encourage restaurants to educate themselves on the allergy and take the necessary precautions to protect us.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **SHARON FORSYTH**	PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **sharon@alphagalaction.org**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/27/2025 8:34 PM**

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

As Co-founder and Executive Director of the Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund—a nonprofit that advances policy solutions that improve the lives of people affected by alpha-gal syndrome-- I would like to register my strong support for HB 986. Passage of HB 986 would meet an urgent need for surveillance of alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), an emerging, tick-borne condition characterized by potentially life-threatening allergic reactions to a sugar found in mammals and products derived from mammals. The CDC reports that AGS is a growing clinical and public health concern, and state-level surveillance is a “critical need” to determine its true prevalence and trends in its expansion. This information is vital for public health decision-making. Importantly, passage of HB 986 would also serve as a mechanism to educate the scores of healthcare providers who remain unaware of AGS. Missouri is one the top three most impacted states in the U.S. Almost 30% of Missourians may have the allergic antibody to alpha-gal—and up to 47% of the population in some areas of the state. About 5-10% of people with the allergic antibody will develop full-blown allergy to alpha-gal, meaning that a mind-boggling 87,000 to 174,000 Missourians may have alpha-gal syndrome. But we need to do better than estimates–we need hard data on the number affected!We believe that by passing HB 986, you can help make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of thousands of Missourians. This legislation presents a pathway to document the true prevalence of AGS and monitor its expansion, which is needed to facilitate and fund public health measures addressing this issue.Sincerely,Sharon ForsythExecutive DirectorAlpha-gal Alliance Action Fund

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **SHERYL (SHERI) FARMER BSN RN**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **solesistertoo@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/31/2025 10:14 AM**

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

I am in SEMO north of Poplar Bluff. In 2012, I was one of the first diagnosed, in this area, with Alpha-gal by Dr. Tuck in Cape Girardeau. There was very little to read about it and I was one of just a few hundred in the nation according to what I could research. I know I had it at least 1-2 years prior and was misdiagnosed and treated like a nut-case by the medical community prior to the actual diagnosis. (I’m a BSN RN). I started a FB group for SEMO and it stayed under 100 members for years. In the last year, it has grown to nearly 800 members. It is not limited to SEMO now since I want to reach as many “victims” as possible to help with providing accurate information and support. We just had one join from Sweden. We have a FB group of just site administrators and are able to share information. I’ve met with newly diagnosed people in person many times because there are few medical providers who have any knowledge or care to even learn. In 2024, I assisted Ozark Pharmacy to become the first pharmacy in Missouri to be registered with VeganMed. I have consulted with school staff and make myself available to speak at libraries or small meetings with family. I also was on a Dr. Oz segment years ago. Please help me help others and myself. It breaks my heart to see this being diagnosed in children or entire families. I am also showing evidence of internal damage thought to be caused by this now recognized as a disease (multiple ligament injuries). We must know the numbers so we can develop the best support for those affected. It is life-changing and so much more that just “red meat”. In October 2023, I had my first fume reaction from a place cooking BBQ. In November of 2023, I had my worst reaction that resulted in a true emergency. I was in full-blown anaphylactic shock. I’m in a rural area, as many of us are, and the ambulance arrival was very delayed. This happened in short time compared to other delayed reactions. This was caused by me picking up a pack of chicken that was sitting near a roast that had leaked blood onto the chicken package. (We later found blood in the Aldi bag). I have so many more stories but will stop here and would be happy to provide more personal history or those stories others have shared with me. Thank you for your time. Please excuse any typos as I am having issues with my vision.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEE:
Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **SONYA LAKEY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **lane_n_sonya@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/1/2025 8:29 PM**

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

Dear Representative Overcast,I would like to share my experience with alpha gal and Lyme disease. I was diagnosed, if I remember correctly, in the spring of 2019 with both diseases. For alpha gal, I was told to avoid all red mammalian meat (beef, venison, bison, lamb, etc.), and for the Lyme disease, I was merely told I had it. I was not given any other information or instructions, and I received no treatment for either condition. The doctor did tell me that I might be able to introduce beef again after 3 years of avoidance, as I might "outgrow" the allergy. After 5 years of not eating beef, I tried it once again (last year.) I went into anaphylaxis within a few hours. From my experience with doctors, I opted to treat myself at home rather than go to the ER. My reactions have become much more severe, to many more products. Now, rather than just being allergic to eating the beef, I react to products which contain beef byproducts, and even the fumes of beef cooking send me into anaphylaxis.In January of this year, I ate some Starbursts candy. It contains beef gelatin; however, it is not marked beef gelatin on the packaging. Again, I went into anaphylaxis. As I was recovering from that, I also ate potato soup with cheddar cheese and heavy whipping cream (dairy products to which I had not previously reacted.) However, I did not make that connection for several weeks, and I continued eating the soup frequently. Again, I reacted with anaphylaxis... nearly every time I ate, the anaphylactic reaction would sweep through my system again. (Here is a list of some of the symptoms I experienced: severe shortness of breath which left me bedridden for 9 weeks, intense chest pain and tightness, headaches, lightheadedness, severe palpitations, low blood pressure, low oxygen saturation, low heart rate alternating with racing heart, head burning, no energy, shakiness, pain, and the list goes on. I still have to sleep in a reclined position to be able to breathe well.) On Feb. 20th, after yet another severe anaphylactic reaction, I went to the ER with chest pain, difficulty breathing, low oxygen saturation, electrical pain in my chest, palpitations which caused obvious movement of my body, facial itching and more. When I got to the ER, they ran tests quickly. I told them I was having an anaphylactic reaction to Starbursts (not realizing the cheddar cheese was probably the culprit at this point). The doctor did not believe that I would still be having an allergic reaction 4 or 5 weeks after eating the Starbursts. He ordered several tests which all came back fine. However, from what I understand from my bloodwork results, he did NOT run any tests to see if I were in an active state of anaphylaxis. I was discharged from the hospital without receiving any treatment whatsoever, while still in distress. The doctor told me they ruled out any serious issues, and I was not going to go home and die. He and the discharge nurse both treated me as though I were making this all up. I was in distress, and they sent me home.It was through our own research at home that we realized I was reacting to more than just beef. It was byproducts from mammals that was causing a continuous reaction. Yet, the doctor was clueless, unsupportive, and greatly unknowledgeable of the severity of my condition. I found a page on FB which has helped me further; yet, it consists mainly of other alpha gal patients who are also struggling to find doctors who can help. Doctors need to be informed of this condition so they are better able to

assist patients who are in distress. I hope you will consider funding medical research and training so others will not have to experience what I have gone through.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☑ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **TERRY BAKER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **bakerterry48@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/27/2025 10:32 PM**

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. I am in support of HB986. I have Alpha-Gal Syndrome. I was diagnosed in the fall of 2022 after approximately 3 years of seeking answers on why I was having so many health issues. I truly believe that I am here by the grace of God after a scary anaphylaxis event in 2020 and another one in 2021. Doctors were continuing to treat me during this time period but could never figure out what was wrong with me. The medication that was prescribed time and time again contain mammal by-products and also created multiple allergen symptoms that were unexplained. The first round of allergy testing showed I was allergic to nothing and it was a year later when I made an appointment with my allergist and told him I needed answers on why I had lost my hearing multiple over that summer. It was at that time he did blood work and testing for everything and discovered that I had Alpha-Gal. I walked out of the doctor's office after diagnosis with a "don't eat beef or pork", no epi pen, no advice on mammal byproducts, personal care products or even medications even though I have an allergy that can cause an anaphylactic event. This allergy is not as simple as don't consume beef or allergy. I have learned about this disease and it has all came from trial and error. I have learned that beef cooking on the stove in my house can cause an allergic reaction. I have learned that most medicines and personal care products on the market have mammal byproducts in some form as an ingredient. I have learned that on some days that even though I always am working to avoid mammal that I can still have some issue because of Alpha-Gal. The most frustrating part of the Alpha-Gal diagnosis is not that I can't eat a hamburger but from the lack of knowledge within the medical community. As an individual who spent 20 years working and volunteering on public health issues I believe it is important to make Alpha-Gal and Lyme disease a reportable disease to the Department of Health. The lack of knowledge and resources to empower our public health and medical communities is difficult and frustrating for patients like myself. It has created a deep distrust with patients because our medical and public health communities because the majority still do not have proper guidance and education to handle the growing number of Alpha-Gal cases in Missouri. This must change. I think the other that really bothers me is those with Alpha-Gal in rural communities. Many of our smaller rural communities have smaller limited retail and grocery stores. These stores (many located in communities considered food deserts) are filled with prepackaged foods and types of foods are limited in selection and most really should not be consumed by Alpha-Gal patients because of the long lists of ingredients that are complicated to read and most likely could contain mammal byproducts. While I do not know much about Lyme disease one of my colleagues does have Lyme and struggles with many of the same issues that will completely wreck her body. Thank you for your consideration in making these two diseases a reportable disease to the Department of Health. By doing so you will be giving Alpha-Gal and Lyme patients support in improving their health outcomes.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **TRACEY HANKINS**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **traceyhankins09@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 2:59 PM**

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

My life has been impacted by Alpha Gal Syndrome, AGS, for many years, but only diagnosed 2 years ago via testing of autoimmune diseases. I have suffered chronic and debilitating migraines as well as chronic intestinal problems. After being diagnosed and researching the impacts my life changed drastically. Of course I eliminated beef, pork, and all dairy, but that is only the beginning. AGS impacts so much more, nearly every food item on the shelves in grocery stores has some kind of mammal product. You must be educated in order to know the 'mammal ingredient' that could trigger your allergy because it certainly is not labeled as a mammal product. As well, it is important for doctors and pharmacists to be educated, required to be educated, about AGS, as they are prescribing medication that is not safe for AGS patients and unless you advocate for yourself, you may find yourself in an anaphylaxis state. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for taking it seriously. As your constituent I ask that you pass this house bill.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **VALERIE REESE**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **dv_reese@yahoo.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/1/2025 3:35 PM**

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

I am in strong favor of making Alpha-Gal a mandated reportable disease. So many families in my area have been negatively impacted by this disease. We need to understand the true prevalence of this disease in order to provide better education and resources to our citizens. Please consider approving HB 986

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☑ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **BRAEDEN COOPER**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **braedencooper12@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 10:44 AM**

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

I am only 23 and I have been diagnosed with Alpha gal for over 2 years. In the fall of 2022, I spent six days in the hospital due to an intestinal infection and a stomach blockage. The doctors assumed I had Crohn’s, and they kept feeding me alpha gal sensitive food without testing my allergies. Unable to solve my problem, the released me without helping my pain. With my doctors not knowing about alpha gal, I was subjected to multiple days with an NG tube and an unneeded colonoscopy. It wasn’t until months later when a family friend told me about alpha gal that I got myself tested. Despite following a strict diet, I still face pain from alpha gal multiple times a month.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

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WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **JERRA LITTLETON ALUMBAUGH**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **jerraalumbaugh@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **In-Person**	SUBMIT DATE: **3/30/2025 11:33 AM**

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

I was bit in 2021 by a lonestar. Not only did I get alpha gal, I also got Lyme and several co-infections. When I reported it to our local health dept and doctor they told me we “didn’t have those ticks here”. I’ve lived in hell since and was bedridden until my primary tried a new medicine on me. I’ve been told by doctors and surgeons for almost four years that it isn’t possible to get such disease in Missouri and I must have been in Connecticut - I’ve never been there. I was bit in my living room in central Missouri. I’d like to do whatever I can to help those suffering quietly and often misdiagnosed in the state of Missouri.

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Health and Mental Health

TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☑ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

WITNESS NAME

INDIVIDUAL:

WITNESS NAME: **TILDA MAE KENNEDY**	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: **tmk031969@gmail.com**	ATTENDANCE: **Written**	SUBMIT DATE: **4/2/2025 4:02 AM**

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

I do think AlphaGal needs more information dispersed among physicians and pharmacists. I have had to be my own advocate simply because the information is not out there. This is a HORRIFIC allergy! The symptoms we deal with daily is more than any one person should have to deal with. To top that off, no support from physicians in rural areas. It is left to myself to find the medication that is safe for me. That says so much about our communities and the lack of care our care takers represent. I do not have a problem with registering with the Department of Health, as long as we get mandated physician education in return. Communicable diseases are reported to Dept of Health, we are NOT a harm to society! If anything, society, at the moment, is a harm to US! We need to force FDA to mandate labeling of our goods to include mammal components. Before AlphaGal, I never would have dreamed that every time I was drinking a bottle of water, it had been filtered with mammal. Using regular white sugar and flour, filtered with mammal. Fresh fruits and vegetables at the grocery store… mammal wax to preserve them longer. Let Missouri be the first to stand up to Big Pharma, and say No More mammal medications. For those of you not familiar with this horrible illness, I beg you to educate yourself. I cannot be present today, as I am scheduled for surgery this morning. Yes, caused from AlphaGal. God Bless You for taking a stance on our behalf! Please amend HB986 to include education for our care takers.