



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 995</b>		DATE: <b>2/24/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Conservation and Natural Resources</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:19 PM</b>

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

**I am in Support of this Bill. We have a huge duty to protect all of the School Children acrosss Our great State and ensure that Lead in Pipes and in the water is finally abolished once and for all! This MUST be a top priority of the Missouri Department of Public Health, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.**



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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/24/2025 11:12 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am full Support of this Bill and its intension to rectify and correct the State Law, by merging the intension of the State Statues. We NEED to ensure that there is zero-lead allowed into any drinking water or other water sources. We have an obligation to protect each and every child across Our Great State and every School Building.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BEN TERRELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; SENIOR SERVICES</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/24/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY HORNSTRA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emlife@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 8:44 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARIA MARSHALL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>watermelon.missouri@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2025 8:05 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>This should have been enacted years ago</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-581-0561</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>UNIVERSITY CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/24/2025 2:21 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Chairman Farnan and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 995 makes necessary improvements to existing law by lowering the action level for lead to five parts per billion, establishing clear testing protocols, mandating timely remediation of contaminated water sources, and providing a practical framework for implementation. The bill wisely prioritizes remediation efforts in early childhood education centers, kindergartens, and elementary schools where the youngest and most vulnerable children spend their days. It also establishes funding priorities for disadvantaged school districts, ensuring that all Missouri children, regardless of zip code or economic status, have access to safe drinking water. By requiring public reporting of test results and remediation plans, HB 995 promotes transparency and accountability, empowering parents and communities with information about water quality in their children's schools. Importantly, this legislation represents a long-term investment in our state's future, as preventing childhood lead exposure yields substantial economic benefits through improved educational outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, decreased special education services, and increased lifetime earnings. The bill's approach is both comprehensive and practical, balancing the urgent need to protect children from lead exposure with realistic implementation timelines and funding mechanisms. By passing HB 995, Missouri would join the growing number of states taking decisive action to protect students from lead in school drinking water. I urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation and demonstrate your commitment to safeguarding the health, well-being, and future potential of Missouri's children. People at Increased Risk for Childhood Lead Poisoning, CDC, April 10, 2024. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/risk-factors/index.html>. Childhood Lead Poisoning: Conservative Estimates of the Social and Economic Benefits of Lead Hazard Control, Elise Gould, March 31, 2009. Available at: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2717145/>.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>libertytree.cottage976@passinbox.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/7/2025 8:57 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>I SUPPORT HB 995 as originally filed.    I would like to see fluoride included in addition to lead.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SANDRA ABRON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mltbusinessinc@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/24/2025 7:09 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Testimony in Support of HB 995, but in favor of amending the recommendation of 5 year testing to annually testing. Dear Members of the Committee, Today, I am writing to you to advocate for a critical change in our approach to safeguarding the health and well-being of our children: the implementation of annual water testing for lead in our schools, rather than the current practice of testing every five years. As we all know, our schools are not just places of learning; they are environments where our children spend the majority of their day. They deserve to be safe and healthy spaces. Unfortunately, lead contamination in drinking water is a very real threat that can silently infiltrate our schools, putting our children at risk. Lead exposure, particularly in young children, can lead to severe developmental issues, cognitive impairments, and a host of long-term health problems. The current five-year testing interval is simply not adequate. In just five years, a multitude of factors can contribute to the deterioration of water quality. Aging infrastructure, plumbing repairs, and environmental changes can all introduce lead into the water supply. We must ask ourselves: how many children could be affected by lead exposure during that five-year gap? How many classrooms could unknowingly become a source of contamination? Consider the fact that many of our school buildings are decades old, with aging pipes that may contain lead solder or fixtures. With the changing climate and increased heavy rainfall, we are also seeing shifts in water quality that may exacerbate contamination risks. A five-year testing cycle could allow for dangerous levels of lead to go undetected, potentially impacting hundreds, if not thousands, of students during that time. By adopting an annual testing protocol, we can ensure that any contamination is identified and addressed immediately. This proactive approach will not only protect our students' health but also foster a culture of safety and care within our educational environment. Monitoring water quality on an annual basis would provide peace of mind to parents, staff, and the entire community, knowing that we are taking every possible step to safeguard our children's health. Moreover, annual testing is becoming the standard for many schools across the country. It is a necessary response to the growing body of evidence highlighting the dangers of lead exposure, especially in vulnerable populations like our children. We must not fall behind; we must lead by example in our commitment to public health. The problem of exposing the next generation to hazardous levels of lead through the water they drink at school, must be solved by the government, which is responsible for public health, public education, and public infrastructure. Denial is fruitless, delay can be lethal, and inadequate policies and programs are shortsighted. And, as with many environmental hazards, those with the least power and financial means suffer the most. In conclusion, I urge you all to support the initiative for annual water testing for lead in our schools. Let us take the necessary steps to protect our children, ensuring that their educational environment is not only a place of learning but also a sanctuary free from health hazards. Together, we can take proactive measures to ensure a safer future for our students. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Note: As a former WIC Nutritionist for over 15 years. Lead poisoning was something that I seen a lot of throughout



**St Louis City and St Louis County. I am in support the bill, but annual testing would be a better safe guard for our children.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WHITNEY MINOR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>whitneysbooknook@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2025 7:22 PM</b>

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Why are we removing language about districts needing to notify parents if lead is found in their water? Personally, if excessive lead was found in my school district's water, I would want to know. Now I will request these results, but not every parent will know they can ask for these results. Why not share with all the families that the results could impact?