



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HCR 4</b>		DATE: <b>4/29/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</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>ALICIA AMOS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/29/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<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>4/29/2025 11:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

"Infertility Awareness Week" is already recognized Nationally and I thought that the same week was being recognized by ALL 50-of Our States at the State-Level. I am not understanding your intension and what you plan to do with this week? Is this not a duplication of Programs and Awareness that is already and currently being done? I heard the House Committee on Children and Families Public Hearing Testimony from State Rep. Murray's Wife, another Testifying and the Committee Members. But, it is my understanding that we already reconize this National Awareness Week. Am I missing any facts and information?



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ASHLEY M COSSINS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ashleymcossins@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/28/2025 3:50 PM</b>
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**My testimony is in support of HCR4. Lines 17-19 highlight the value of raising awareness and reducing shame and stigma. As someone who has personal experiences with infertility, I can attest to the benefits of having candid, realistic, and fact-based discussions on the topic of reproductive health. Raising infertility awareness allows people to show one another empathy and solidarity, as well as opening doors for sharing of tools and resources.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ASHTON GAVELEK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ashton.gavelek@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/26/2025 7:25 PM</b>

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**As a women who went through infertility and now only can go only go through surrogacy awareness in the community is crucial.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BETH MIDDENDORF AROMANDO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>middenbn@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/25/2025 9:10 PM</b>
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Each year at the end of April, infertility warriors across the country and I join forces to raise awareness about the disease that affects 1 in 6 families. For such a common reality, so much confusion, stigma, and questions exist. Having an Infertility Awareness Week gives infertility warriors the opportunity to bring clarity, answer questions, and normalize infertility. Furthermore; there is trauma associated with infertility. Infertility Awareness Week allows us to connect through our shared experiences and provide hope. No one should feel isolation or shame while trying to build a family. I am 1 in 6. It was during Infertility Awareness Week 2020 when I attended a virtual conference that connected me with resources for education and support throughout my journey. Although I am one of the lucky ones to have a miracle baby, infertility warriors never finish the race. We just cross the finish line and circle back to run alongside another warrior. I stand beside infertility warriors and am in support of an Infertility Awareness Week in Missouri.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAITLIN KELCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ckelch@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/27/2025 8:21 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Infertility continues to be a disease that is affecting more and more families. Not too long ago the stats were 1 in 8. Now it's down to 1 in 6. Those stats are real people and families that want to give so much love and life to a person. This is something that impacts peoples every day life and they didn't make choices to get in these heart wrenching situations. On a national level, we are worried about declining birth rates. Here is a great way to begin to help support families grow! Sadly I can't be in the Capital personally but please so something that will make a difference.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINA KELCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>chrismkelch@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/28/2025 8:00 AM</b>
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Infertility is such a huge part of many women's lives. My daughter, Hannah, struggles with this health issue. It affects her daily physical, mental and emotional well being. Designating a NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS week will bring much needed change towards this issue.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIELLE ZOLL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/29/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY STOINSKI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emilysto@rocketmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/28/2025 10:02 PM</b>
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**My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am in support of this because too many Missouri families suffer in silence and feel isolated in their family making journey. By designating this time to bring awareness, it will ensure families feel less alone in their pain.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GRACE KWEON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-449-5783</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>8 PRICE CT, OLIVETTE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL: <b>gracekweon16@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/24/2025 12:03 PM</b>

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

I am in support of this bill. We need more awareness of infertility. Many people I know, especially youth and young adults, have a limited understanding of infertility. Having a week to advocate for it can open greater conversations surrounding infertility and reduce the misconceptions and stigma associated with it. I believe this can further shed light for greater infertility research and improved support for those facing infertility. We need a community that is more aware of these challenges and I believe this bill can do that.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HANNAH WRIGHT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wrightehannah@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/25/2025 11:30 AM</b>
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Our journey started in July 2020. We tried naturally for a while and then went to a doctor after about 6 months. They told us to keep trying and I have "one and a half markers for PCOS". We went to a NaPro doctor who diagnosed me with endometriosis and had a laparoscopy. We tried for about a year and a half with this doctor, but ultimately made the decision to move on to REI in November of 2022. We transferred in December 2022, got pregnant (YAY!) and made 4 other euploid embryos. Unfortunately, at 17 weeks I developed PPROM and we lost our baby girl in March of 2023. We transferred in September 2023, October 2023, and March 2024 which all failed and led to further testing. We figured out that my body would benefit from hormone suppression from Lupron Depot so we did that and got pregnant in October 2024. Sadly, I miscarried at 6 weeks, but it has given us hope that I can get pregnant again. In January and February 2025, we did two cycles to get the four euploid embryos we have now. We are currently applying for grants to fund our upcoming embryo transfer because as a teacher in the state of Missouri, I have no fertility coverage. Thankfully, I have secondary coverage through my husband's insurance that has gotten us this far. We have hit my secondary insurance coverage lifetime max of \$10,000 and our friends and family even hosted a trivia night to pay for medications needed to do IVF. We have taken out a second mortgage so that we do not have massive credit card debit. My story is unique, but my situation is not. There are so many couples living with infertility. When I started this journey the statistics were 1 in 8, now they are 1 in 6. Infertility is a disease that I live with everyday. It is mentally, emotionally, physically, and financially exhausting. Infertility is real.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACLYN NOROÑO-RODRIGUEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Jaclyn.noronoleon@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/27/2025 10:40 PM</b>
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Infertility is a medica diagnosis that needs the full support of everyone. I have been dealing with Infertility for the last couple years and are still surprised at how little support is offered via health insurance and/or the government depending on the state one happens to live in. If the government truly wants to battle the lack of future pipeline for the country, then it needs to start with Infertility financial support.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA BURKHARDT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/29/2025 7:36 PM</b>

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A much needed bill! We all desperately need more education around infertility and HCR 4 is a wonderful first step. I'm very grateful that Representative Murray is carrying this. It's great to see good things like this happening in Missouri. I strongly urge the committee to vote yes on HCR 4.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MADDIE BOBBITT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mabannes@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/25/2025 9:48 AM</b>
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As a lifelong Missourian, and someone who has battled infertility and loss for 5 years, National Infertility Awareness Week (NIAW) is something close to my heart. With 1 in 6 individuals suffering from infertility, it should be a simple decision for Missouri to recognize those who battle infertility through NIAW. Knowing that we are not alone and knowing that our state recognizes us makes a huge impact in our journeys.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA ANNE FECHTER GATES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>pfechtergates@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/28/2025 3:19 PM</b>

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**This would be a powerful way to show those who experience infertility support.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BROWN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>smthomas424@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/25/2025 8:39 PM</b>

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Infertility affects 1 in 6 couples of childbearing age. It affects men and women almost equally (40% of infertility diagnoses are of the male partner). Infertility doesn't care if you are young, healthy, rich or poor, or what color your skin is. My husband was diagnosed with severe male infertility after we'd been trying to have a baby for almost two years. At the ripe old age of 35, he found out even though all his bloodwork, genetic testing, and physicals indicated he was healthy, he was producing almost no sperm. Medical professionals don't know why this happens, but it just does sometimes. IVF was our only chance to have biological children. Because our employers do not cover infertility treatments, we have spent over \$40,000 during the last six years to grow our family. Infertility is hard financially, emotionally, mentally and physically. We should recognize the amazing pains 1 in 6 couples go through to build their families. Recognition should be just the beginning: infertility treatment coverage needs to be required for all insurance plans in this state and every state.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH SHERER SINGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sarahpsherer@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/28/2025 3:49 PM</b>
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I am writing about the proposal to make the last week in April infertility awareness week. I'll be honest, I don't know how much these days and weeks really do. It is one thing to make a declaration and another to really take notice. I don't honestly have an opinion on whether this is an official week, but I urge you to do anything you can to really address infertility. Require insurance to cover infertility treatments. Take a good look at laws that were created to limit abortion access, but end up hurting families who are desperately trying to have a living child. My son was stillborn this past October, in part because when I went to the hospital at 38.5 weeks pregnant, my preeclampsia symptoms were allegedly not bad enough for the doctor to be able to legally justify inducing me before 39 weeks. This 39 week limit is standard across the state, but serves no real purpose. All it does is limit the ability of doctors to assess and treat what they really see. When I returned just two days later, my child's heart had stopped. Had that rule not been in place, I think my son would be here with me today. So, pass this resolution if you want, or don't, it isn't going to matter much. But please, take a look at the statistics of infertility and pregnancy loss in the state. Take a look at whether our rules are serving a purpose or just causing more harm.