



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
TESTIFYING: <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>AVERY FRANK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>avery.frank@showmeinstitute.org</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 4:39 PM</b>

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

**TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Avery Frank. I am a policy analyst at the Show-Me Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, Missouri-based think tank that advances sensible, well-researched, free-market solutions to state and local policy issues. The ideas presented here are my own and are offered in consideration of Missouri's educational environment. Sports, theatre, band, and other extracurricular activities teach students teamwork, discipline, resilience, leadership, and other life skills. These activities bring individuals together to work toward a common goal and can help turn a larger group into a community. Parents of students in nontraditional education settings are taxpaying community members too, yet the Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) effectively excludes their children from participating in after-school activities by requiring them to be enrolled in and regularly attending at least 80% of an allowable course load at a member school. If schools use local taxpayer dollars to fund extracurricular activities such as football, then it seems reasonable for those activities to be open to local, nontraditional students. Senate Bill (SB) 63 would prohibit schools from being members of, or remitting funds to, a statewide activities association (like MSHSAA) that bars nontraditional students access to the extracurricular activities it oversees. Passage of SB 63 would ensure that nontraditional students have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities from which they might otherwise be excluded. Opportunities May Be Limited to School-Based Activities Co-ops and various organizations offer homeschoolers and others access to activities like music, martial arts, or gymnastics. However, some activities, such as football, are almost exclusively conducted at the school level. If a nontraditional student wants to be part of an 11-man football team, a local school team is often the only option. SB 63 would make it possible for these students to participate. Strengthening Local Communities Numerous movies, such as Remember the Titans, have demonstrated the stories of different school communities coming together to achieve a common goal. This is not just a theme for film; in recent Missouri history, the merger of Brentwood and Clayton led to success in the 2023 playoffs. A coach from Clayton described the success of these different students joining together, stating: We joked that as long as the adults don't mess it up, the kids will do just fine. That's pretty much the way it's gone. The players just want to play football. A student on the team echoed this sentiment: We didn't know each other, and we'd never played together before. It took a while, but we've formed a brotherhood and we're starting to play like a real football team. This example highlights how different groups of students can come together to achieve a common goal, a dynamic that could work for nontraditional students as well. This bill could help students take part in beneficial and enjoyable activities and enable them to contribute and develop their talents while learning valuable lessons in teamwork. SB 63 is a common-sense measure that recognizes the contributions of all taxpayers and helps more students have access to the benefits of extracurricular activities.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRANDI FOSTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mrsbrandifoster@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 6:37 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Passing this bill would greatly help our family. We currently drive 40 mins each way so my daughter can swim on a team and she would love to swim with her friends on the high school team in 2 years and not have to separate. The only difference between homeschool kids and public is where they learn. They still want to hang with friends, be in clubs and play sports and letting them join teams could really help take some of the stigma away from homeschooling. Thank you for your time.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAMBRIA HOLLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 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>CHELSEY DOYLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>chelseymoyle13@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 7:12 PM</b>

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

**As a homeschooling mom to two elementary-aged athletes, I strongly support Missouri Senate Bill 63. This bill ensures that homeschooled students, as well as those in family-paced and full-time virtual schools, have the same opportunities to participate in public school sports and activities without unnecessary enrollment requirements. Access to these programs is crucial for young athletes to develop their skills, build teamwork, and engage with their communities. SB 63 promotes fairness and inclusivity, ensuring that all Missouri students have the chance to pursue their passions, regardless of their chosen educational path. I also urge lawmakers to keep this bill clean and focused on its intended purpose, without adding unrelated provisions that could delay or weaken its positive impact.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CINDY O'ROURKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cindymcorourke@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 10:23 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My family respectfully asks you to support SB 63. We greatly value giving our children a quality education. We also believe that extra-curricular activities contribute to the well-being and development of children. We live in a rural area, which means our children have limited opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Our school district does not currently allow homeschool or virtual students to participate in any extra-curricular activities. Even if the school board would change their policy to allow participation with two seat-time classes (per MSHSAA's requirements), it would put a burden on our family to do this. Participation in two classes would easily take 3 hours out of our school day, and our children would still need to complete all of their studies at home. Additionally, our children would no longer be able to participate in their current Classical Conversations curriculum, because they would no longer be able to attend all the classes. Some people think that community sports can replace school sports for homeschoolers, but those opportunities are extremely limited in rural areas, and the ones that are available stop being offered after 8th grade. Our daughter participates in Track & Field. We had to obtain our own high jump mats so she would be able to practice that event. We travel a minimum of 75 minutes to AAU track meets in the Kansas City Area for her to have the opportunity to compete. For Volleyball, we travel 75 minutes to be able to practice with the closest homeschool team, and drive up to two and a half hours away for games. This creates a great burden on our family. Our daughter wants the opportunity to be able to play sports locally with her peers in our community. SB63 ensures that ALL students will be given an opportunity to participate in the many activities that can contribute to their education and well-being.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMBRY COLLINS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY HUFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emilyhuff@me.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 10:47 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Thank you committee for hearing his bill! Being a homeschool family, we pay taxes that fund public schools, including sports programs. Our children should have the right to participate in these activities. Sports provide valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and leadership. We believe our children should have access to these experiences just like their public school. Participating in sports helps homeschoolers build friendships, work with diverse groups, and feel more connected to their local community. Many student-athletes use high school sports to earn college scholarships or gain exposure for athletic careers. Denying homeschoolers access could limit their future opportunities. If a homeschool athlete can contribute to a team's success, it helps everyone involved. Please consider voting yes on this bill!!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HOLLY TUCKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>holly.j.tucker@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 11:19 AM</b>

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

Hello,I'm writing to ask you to support SB 63 We are a homeschool/public school family. We adopted 2 teenagers from foster care several years ago. Both those boys went to public school until we determined the second oldest would benefit from homeschool. (The oldest graduated from Fair Grove.) I was new to homeschooling at that time but we figured it out and he did well. He's very athletic and became involved in homeschool sports. The difficulty was that we live in Fair Grove and had to drive to Nixa/Springfield several days per week for practices and games. It put a bit of a strain on our family but we were able to make it work. Some homeschool families don't have the finances and/or the time to allow their children to participate in homeschool athletics outside their communities. Another issue could be that the kids can't play sports with their friends in their own communities. My son did have some friends at Fair Grove, but because he'd only been at the school for a couple of years, he wasn't super connected to them and he made new friends on the homeschool teams. However, my 3 biological children are younger and they attended public school in Fair Grove until 2022. They currently homeschool in the mornings and attend public school for the last few hours of the day, considered 3 "seated" hours. They have many friends that they attend school with and have played sports with through the park board. The oldest is now in middle school and if he continues to play sports he would like to be able to compete with his teammates. My husband is a teacher and coach at the public school my kids attend. We pay our taxes and support local businesses here. We have invested in this community and want our kids to have the opportunity to play and participate with their friends here. Can you please vote in favor of SB 63 and allow them that choice? Respectfully, Holly





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HUNTER WADE ARNALL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>longlanepuppies@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 5:41 PM</b>

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

Testimony in Support of SB63 Missouri House of Representatives Hello, Hello, and thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Hunter Arnall. I'm 12 years old, homeschooled, and I love baseball, working hard, and being part of a team. My story is a little different from most kids, but it's important. When I was just one year old, I was placed in foster care. Later, my foster parents adopted me. Growing up wasn't always easy. When I started school, I had a hard time fitting in. I couldn't sit still, concentrate, or make friends easily. My mom, who was a teacher, worked really hard to help me, and after some tests, we found out I was on the autism spectrum. I had ADHD, ODD, and a sensory disorder. I saw counselors, therapists, and case managers, but school was still really tough. I changed schools a few times, and while some years were better than others, I still struggled. My parents saw that I needed a different path, so, we decided that homeschooling would be the best option for me—and it has been. But what I really love is baseball. I play for the Marucci Midwest team, and I work hard at it. My parents drive over an hour, twice a week, just so I can practice. I'm lucky that my parents can make that happen for me. Not every kid has that option. Many families in Missouri rely on their local school teams as the only way to play. In small towns like Hartville, there aren't travel teams—if you can't play for your school, you can't play at all. I've always dreamed of playing for the Hartville Eagles, just like my mom, sisters, and family members did. But I can't—because my district requires students to take seven classes to be eligible for sports. That rule leaves me out just because my parents chose to give me the education I needed. But here's the thing—my family still pays taxes that support public schools. We support the school district just like everyone else. My mom even taught in public schools for years! Why should homeschool students be banned from something their parents help pay for? I'm not asking for special treatment. I just want the same opportunity as other kids who go to school in the district. The school wouldn't have to do anything extra for me—I'd show up, work hard, and play by the same rules as everyone else. It doesn't seem fair that I have to miss out on something so important just because traditional school didn't work for me. I've had to overcome a lot of challenges in my life, but I work hard and keep going. Please pass Senate Bill 63 and remove this extra obstacle so kids like me can follow their dreams. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACKIE GINTHER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jackieginther@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 9:44 PM</b>

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I am mom of 4 children and I have homeschooled 3 of them for 5 years. It has been the most incredible experience and the best decision for our family. Our kids have thrived in the homeschool environment. They all play sports and our daughter, who will be in 8th grade for the 2025-26 school year, wants to have the opportunity to play soccer while continuing to take her homeschool classes. In order to keep playing soccer year round at the highschool ages and competitive level she needs to be on a high school team. As it stands right now, the Francis Howell school district is making it difficult for homeschoolers to play high school sports and is not open to welcoming homeschoolers into sports. Our daughter deserves the opportunity to play ball just like the rest of the students despite where she is getting the education for her core classes. I want to see schools welcome homeschool children into their sports programs.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER STEELMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIA NORTON DOTSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jdotson20@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 9:26 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

On 2/24, when this passed the Senate, I sent Sen. Brown the following...Thank you for the work you are doing! It was bittersweet that it happened today. Over the weekend our child played their last basketball game with the Lincoln Co Trojans after 3 seasons. Next year we would have to enroll them in 2 district classes. That is if they'll even allow it. Today, we sat in Children's. I'm there with one child every 3 weeks and another every 4 for plasma infusions. This is in addition to specialist appointments, health setbacks, etc. Infusions, doctors, and any PT happens during business hours. Extracurricular activities through the school district happens in the afternoons, evenings and on the weekends. Our children deserve the ability to have a normal childhood. To utilize our tax dollars and participate with their peers. To experience as many normal childhood activities as possible. All while being allowed to seek medical treatment and have a robust home education, which isn't feasible within the district because of the constraints of their medical needs. Again, thank you for the work you are doing. We appreciate you highlighting the need for this bill to pass.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JUSTIN MOREHEAD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>soonerjus@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 10:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Justin Morehead and I am from Neosho. I am writing to say I support SB 63. There are many talented homeschool kids that form bonds with teammates in youth sports/activities. Once they hit Jr High years, it is difficult for homeschool kids to continue to participate and lose those bonds with their teammates. I have experienced it first hand in my many years of playing/coaching sports. I ask you to please move this bill forward and give these homeschool kids opportunities to compete. Thank you!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHARINE SECHREST</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sechrestkate@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 9:34 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Hello and thank you for your time. I had always imagined myself as a working mom- I thoroughly enjoyed my career as a high school science teacher. But as I became a mother and later explored the idea of homeschooling, it became increasingly appealing. We jumped in! We have been able to enjoy traveling on my husband's work schedule, without worry for the schedule of tradition school or my own work schedule. We have attended numerous field trips, volunteer opportunities, programs, co-ops, and currently attend a classical cottage school one day a week (where we are on the board and I also tutor). But now the time has come for my oldest to begin middle school sports- and the love of basketball runs deep in the Sechrest family. The approval of SB-63 will allow our family to continue our journey of classical schooling, a flexible travel schedule, and most importantly extra time with our children, while also participating in local sports and supporting our local school district (as well as have always done). Thank you for your time and consideration. Kate Sechrest, Farmington, MO (Park Hills Central R-3 school district)



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KURT SIECKMANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kurt@farmtuned.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 5:29 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hello I'm messaging as a father of 5, 3 being homeschooled by my wife. All of our children are very involved with extra curricular activities. But those days are numbered for the three youngest because they currently cannot participate in school athletics after elementary school. I know the kids would love to continue, and we can continue to support the schools by attending games and contributing our time and investing money back into their programs.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDSEY CROUSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lindseycrouse33@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 1:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Although our children are young, deserve to experience and learn all fundamentals that come from playing sports. They shouldn't be denied to continue with any peers they have had through little leagues. All children should be included and treated no different within every community. These are massive learning opportunities all around, let's give our youth nothing but the best!





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA BUNN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lbunn0486@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 2:40 PM</b>

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

Hello, my name is Lisa Bunn. I have two children who exemplify the saying that no two kids are the same. My son is a freshman in high school by age and a freshman in college by academic performance. He recently took the ACT test and scored 34 at the age of 15. Academically, he has always been ahead of his peers, and I have encouraged him to continue striving for excellence to prevent boredom and complacency. He is currently enrolled in Calculus 1 online with Fort Hayes State University and thoroughly enjoys the class, despite the complaints from his college peers about its time demands. Additionally, he is taking German 102 and had the opportunity to practice his German during a family trip to Germany this winter. Although education has come effortlessly to him, sports have taught him the importance of hard work to achieve his goals. My daughter is in sixth grade. After many challenges, we finally found a suitable schedule and curriculum that enabled her to thrive. She works diligently to understand and retain what she learns. In a public-school setting, she would likely be an average student, neither excelling nor failing, and thus overlooked by the system which uses standard curricula for all students, rather than one tailored to her needs. She aspires to be a Blue Angels pilot, requiring her to strive for excellence. Unlike my son, while she has faced challenges in academics, sports come naturally to her, providing an avenue for success and enjoyment. Currently, both children play club soccer in Northwest Arkansas, an hour away from our home. My son wishes to participate in cross-country and track, but our club schedule makes it difficult to engage in another club sport. My daughter also plays basketball and is the pitcher for the sixth-grade softball team in our district. Due to MSHAA's restrictions on participating in both club and school sports simultaneously, my son cannot play club soccer in Missouri if he wants to participate in both spring and fall seasons. Consequently, he is at a disadvantage in the spring compared to teammates who play on their school teams during the fall. We are located in an underperforming school district, and the school is a 20-minute drive from our home. This situation poses challenges in finding suitable classes for him and making multiple trips to the school daily. I am committed to prioritizing my children's educational needs over their participation in sports. However, preventing them from playing sports at their local high school will hinder their ability to earn scholarships for higher education and pursue their passion for sports. Please support SB 63 and keep it a single item bill to allow homeschooled children to excel both academically and in their extracurricular activities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>LUCAS GOODLETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lukegoodlett@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 1:10 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

As the father of a full-time homeschooled son who has aspirations to play football post high school, I am in support of SB 63. I am a former HS teacher and Coach as well. We have attempted to enroll our son at Francis Howell HS according to the MSHSAA requirements of 2 seated classes for his senior year (Class of 2026). The school has additional requirements above and beyond MSHSAA which are not accepting of his homeschool high school transcript. They only accept credit hours from accredited schools/programs. So even though our son has met & exceeded the minimum homeschool requirements for the state of Missouri during his high school years thus far, his accomplishments are not recognized by a Missouri public school and therefore they say he is ineligible to participate in their extracurriculars. It honestly makes zero sense and is an absolute travesty for our son and students like him. We are thankful that one of the area private schools is adhering to MSHSAA requirements and he's been able to play football for them since his sophomore year. This was our only option to help our son follow his passion while remaining homeschooled. This has been a costly choice for our family as the private school tuition is expensive. As tax-paying citizens, our desire would be that our son would have the same opportunities as his peers in our community and that his education, which upholds Missouri homeschool law, would be recognized by Missouri public schools, as it should be.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>MEGHAN SEXSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>meghansexson@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 3:09 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

This Bill means a lot to myself & my family, even though we don't homeschool. I have a very active teenager who plays almost every sport & thoroughly loves them all. I would never dream of telling him he couldn't play a sport because of his schooling. One of my very best friends homeschools her kiddos & they are a huge sports family as well. Their daughter, who I have enjoyed watching grow up and love like she was my own, is a truly talented softball player. She has a true knack for the game, but beside that - she loves it. Softball is her life & I'm thankful she has been a part of a traveling team the last several years so she has more time to play the sport she loves so much. Passing SB63 would be the most beneficial option to promote young athletes and push them to be able to continue to enjoy the love of the game. Children should have every opportunity to be active, & either develop a love or nurture their love of sports, regardless if they are in a traditional school setting. Homeschooling has gotten a bad wrap in previous years & administrations, but I have seen first hand how some students struggle day in & day out in traditional school, but then thrive once they are switched to homeschool. Please allow this bill to pass. Our future generations are depending on it. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>MELANIE DAVIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mellalcorn@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 9:15 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Melanie Davis, and I am both a homeschooling parent and a member of my local school board. I am writing today in strong support of SB 63. My husband and I made the decision to homeschool because the public school system was failing our children. Both of our kids were academically ahead of their peers, yet they received little to no attention in the classroom as teachers had to focus on students who required more assistance. Since transitioning to homeschool, my children have excelled in ways I never expected. They are thriving both academically and mentally in ways they simply were not before. I love our public school system, schooling is just simply not one size fits all. Despite educating our children at home, we continue to pay public school taxes just like every other family in our community. I do not believe it is right to deny homeschooled students the opportunity to participate in public school extracurricular activities when their families contribute to funding those very programs. As a school board member, I have seen firsthand how important these activities are for students' mental and physical well-being. They foster teamwork, discipline, and a sense of belonging. We recently attempted to pass a policy allowing homeschooled students to participate in activities within our district, but unfortunately, it did not succeed. Children should not be punished for their parents' decisions regarding their education. SB 63 ensures that all children, regardless of their schooling choice, have access to the benefits of extracurricular participation. I urge you to support this bill for the sake of the children and their overall well-being. Thank you for your time and consideration. Melanie Davis Rolla, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>MELISHA MEREDITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>		
TESTIFYING: <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>MICHELLE BEIRING</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>fmbeiring@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 10:55 AM</b>

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

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 63I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 63 and to share how its passage would positively impact my family and others like ours. As a resident of Kearney, MO and a taxpayer, my family and I are fully invested in our local community. We love our town and want our children to have the same opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities as their peers who attend public school. For homeschool families like ours, access to community-based extracurricular activities is not just a matter of fairness—it is essential. Our children grow up alongside their peers, and they desire the same opportunities to engage in sports, music, and other programs that build character, discipline, and teamwork. Unfortunately, without legislation like Senate Bill 63, many homeschool students are excluded from these opportunities simply because of their educational choice. One specific example is tackle football. The closest available option for our children is nearly an hour away, which is simply not feasible for our family. Meanwhile, the public school in our district offers the very same activity, yet our children are not permitted to participate—even though we contribute to the same tax base that supports these programs. This creates an unnecessary barrier for homeschool families who want to be actively engaged in their communities. The majority of states in the U.S. have already adopted some form of the Tim Tebow Law, recognizing that all children—regardless of their educational setting—should have access to the extracurricular activities their families help fund. By passing Senate Bill 63, our state would be joining this common-sense movement, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to grow, learn, and contribute to their communities through extracurricular involvement. I deeply appreciate the work you do on behalf of all families in our state. I urge you to pass this legislation, not only for my children but for all children who simply want the chance to participate, build friendships, and experience the same extracurricular opportunities as their peers. Thank you for your time and for considering this important bill. Sincerely, Michelle Beiring Kearney, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>MOLLY ANGLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>angleacres3@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 10:33 AM</b>

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

Hello, My name is Molly Angle. I am testifying in support of SB 63. As a homeschool parent, my children are involved in many activities within the community. They played recreational sports up until this year when they will begin to age out and cannot play recreational sports anymore. We live in a rural area where it is nearly impossible to join comp teams. We would have to travel an hour or more away just to play on a comp team that we could afford. I own 2 commercial properties in our community and my home so I pay 3x taxes on all of my assets yet cannot participate within our school district in any way. I have taken this matter to our school board twice and both times have been turned down without explanation. The Lathrop R-II school district is one of few districts in our area that will not adopt the MSHSAA policy of 2 seated classes. Almost every other district in our area allows homeschool participation. They wanted the minimum to be 7 hours, in that case, they would be a full time student of the public school system. We would appreciate a favorable vote in this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>NATHALIA BURLESON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nathaliaburleson@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 11:06 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My son will be going in to his junior year this fall. He wants to play soccer at our local high school. He has a 4.0, works part time and carries a full school load. There are no good options for club sports within an hour of where we live. He is unable to play soccer at our high school with the rigid in person class attendance policies in our local area. With a policy that allows students to participate in only the classes required for their sport, this would be an option for him. Please vote for SB 63 in order to all my son as well as many other students the ability to participate in the districts that they pay taxes in. Thank you for your hard work on this.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>NICOLE COLLINS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>naepema@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 8:44 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My children are homeschooled but are very active young men. All of my school aged children are active in multiple sports including basketball, football and swimming. My oldest is 14 and will be in 9th grade next year. He swims competitively with his club team, but would love to participate and develop new relationships within our school district with other high school swimmers. Unfortunately, because he does not attend two in-seat classes, he is currently unable to participate. We have tried to find two in seat classes he could attend, however, his homeschool co-op meets one day a week and being absent from his in seat classes that many times is not acceptable or appropriate. His studies are rigorous and it is not an option for us to take him out of homeschool right now. He is taking an online course through the public schools online option and is doing very well, however this does not help him in meeting the requirements of the current law. I ask that you consider the many homeschooled students who will greatly benefit from participating in sports with their public school peers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>OAKLEIGH STEELMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>RHEANNE GRISWOLD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rheanne.griswold@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 9:45 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**We are an extra curricular family! We love sports and music and WE PAY OUR TAXES! We homeschool for several reasons, but we also are involved with hands-on volunteering at our local public school (booster club concession stand, big fundraisers, etc.) and participate in programs we are "allowed" to, like sports camps led by/through the school. We were at a city rec soccer game tonight for our daughter and we were approached by our public school's head high school and junior high coaches asking us if our son will be attending public next year so he can play and so they can continue to develop him through their program. They mentioned that he's welcome to attend some of the off season things, but they were curious as to how much they'd benefit from their investment in him, and mentioned he'd be one of their top guys. My son is good friends with the boys on the team too. Currently, our understanding is that he cannot play unless we follow MSHSAA rules like two seated classes. Why isn't there a law that we don't pay taxes to the public school if we don't use it? We pay out of pocket for our own curriculums and other tools and manipulatives for our children's education. We already sacrifice a lot so that we can do what we feel is best for our family--and it is a sacrifice I will never regret We love to invest in our kids and community. I also hope that if this would pass that it would not have any "small print" items snuck in to it to blur our freedoms to homeschool that we are blessed with in Missouri. It seems only right that taxpayers, like us, get to use what we pay for. I appreciate you taking the time to read this and your consideration in this matter.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>RINNIE REED</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rinnie.reed@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 7:31 AM</b>

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

Dear Representatives, My name is Rinnie Reed, and I'm a Missouri homeschool mom. I want to kindly ask for your support of SB 63, which would allow homeschool children to participate in public school sports. As a foster mom of eight years and an adoptive mom to six children, I've seen firsthand how removing children with trauma from the public school system can significantly improve their educational outcomes. Understanding that every foster family does not have that luxury, having educational freedom has helped our family immensely. Homeschooling has given our children the one-on-one support they need to thrive academically, but I firmly believe they deserve the same opportunity to participate in public school sports as their peers. Sincerely, Rinnie Reed



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>ROYAL STEELMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>RYAN MEREDITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rmeredith.95@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 10:08 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

For the past several years, my family has experienced firsthand the challenges that SB63 seeks to address. As a homeschooling family, we believe in providing a well-rounded education that includes opportunities for extracurricular involvement. However, our local school district’s restrictive policies have made it nearly impossible for our children to participate in activities alongside their peers. Despite MSHSAA’s minimum requirement of two courses for non-traditional students, our district imposed additional barriers, requiring excessive course loads that disrupted our homeschool structure. After years of advocacy—meeting with administrators, presenting detailed curriculum plans, and appealing to the school board—we were finally able to secure a policy change. However, this is not a battle that every family should have to fight on an individual basis. SB63 provides a clear, fair standard that ensures all Missouri students, regardless of their educational path, have equal access to extracurricular activities. It protects school districts’ ability to maintain their expectations for student conduct and academic eligibility while preventing them from adding unnecessary hurdles that exclude homeschool and virtual school students. Most importantly, it upholds parental choice by allowing families to decide what is best for their child’s education without sacrificing access to vital social and developmental experiences. Missouri’s homeschool community is diverse, engaged, and committed to quality education. SB63 simply ensures that all students—whether educated at home or in a classroom—have a fair chance to participate in the activities that enrich their learning and development.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<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>SAMMIE GOODSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sjgoodson@live.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 11:46 PM</b>

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

My daughter is a 12-year-old homeschooler who LOVES sports. She plays year-round softball, and she is fantastic! I know as parents, we all like to think our kids are the best; so talented, and really "going places." People start to eye roll when we brag and sigh when we give game stats. So, I won't go there. But, I will say- I know with certainty, she works harder than any other 12-year-old I've ever met. Not just at softball, but at everything. She goes 100mph head-on at life. Gives every task her all and then still wonders if it's enough. This is why, around 3 years ago, when my daughter wasn't reading at grade level, I was deeply concerned. Even at such a young age, it wasn't like her to not charge forward and tackle the obstacle in her way. By mid-year of 2nd grade, she went from loving school, to not wanting to go. I started asking questions. I talked with her teacher, then the principal and finally requested a reading evaluation. I was told, at the time, her reading difficulties would not be a priority. That we should "wait and see" and that she would likely catch up. I did what they suggested. Knowing that our rural area school had scarce resources and other problems (only a couple years following the pandemic). I did not fault them, but my concerns remained. Many schools in our area are facing teacher shortages, some utilizing a 4-day school week and lack the time it takes to intervene with learning differences and disabilities. The following school year, when she was still struggling, we took it upon ourselves to seek help through a private evaluation center. We were told that she has severe dyslexia and an associated language disorder. They suggested around 7-8 hours of reading therapy, speech therapy and tutoring weekly. We had little hope our school would be able to provide the kind of help we knew our daughter needed. We decided to homeschool. Using learning strategies proven to be effective for students with dyslexia, reading therapies through a tele-med system and regular sessions with a reading specialist, she is now 100% on track. We have even discovered she is gifted in math and has a very deep interest in history. Her learning style still requires daily maintenance. Dyslexia impacts students in all subject areas, not just reading. Please take a look at updated research and information about dyslexia, and the devastating effects it can have on a student's ability to learn. Children across the state are being homeschooled for so many different reasons. Denying them the opportunity to participate in extracurriculars and time playing with their friends pushes them away from their communities, sending the message that they don't belong. Children need to be embraced, given a feeling of inclusion and celebrated for their strengths and differences.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>SB 63</b>		DATE: <b>4/2/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHERYL SCHMIDT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-616-1605</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION, INC.</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>239 ROCK COURT DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>MARSHFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65706</b>
EMAIL: <b>staff@fhe-mo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 10:51 AM</b>	

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

Testimony Regarding Missouri Senate Bill 63[Specifically-Repeals and establishes provisions relating to participation of certain students in nontraditional settings]Sheryl Schmidt, Families for Home Education (FHE) Registered Lobbyist – April 2, 2025Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:I am Sheryl Schmidt, registered lobbyist for Families for Home Education (FHE). Since 2009 my husband and I have served on the Families for Home Education Board as Regional Directors, Assistant Executive Directors, Executive Directors, and continue to volunteer. Over that time, I have walked hundreds of homeschool parents through the process of withdrawing their children from public school. FHE supports the repeal of RSMo 167.042, SS SB 63, pages 5-6, lines 1-25. RSMo 167.042 provides for an optional “declaration of enrollment of intent to homeschool” which few parents or guardians use. The original purpose of the statute was to minimize “unnecessary investigations due to reports of truancy”. However, this has not been the case. It has actually done just the opposite. RSMo 167.042 has caused much confusion and led to harassment of homeschooling parents. Many school districts and school personnel treat it as if it is mandatory to submit a declaration of enrollment. Homeschooling is a wonderful option for many parents and children. Many of these wonderful families have already been through traumatic circumstances. They should not have gone through harassment just to withdraw their child from their local public school to choose a legal Missouri education option. The Families for Home Education board members, past and present homeschooling parents all of which are volunteers, spend many hours throughout the year helping new home schoolers when schools refuse to accept their withdrawal letters. The cases FHE cannot solve many times go to an attorney such as Home School Legal Defense Association.Although the repeal of RSMo 167.042 as presented in SS SB 63 is FHE’s preference, the wording change in HCS HB 31 would be acceptable. FHE respectfully asks the Committee to support making this improvement to Missouri’s “home school” law which is one of the best “home school” laws in the country. Home School Legal Defense Association defends many parents in Missouri over these issues. They wanted me to pass along they are also in support of this change.If you would like examples of the issues, please feel free to contact FHE or myself.Respectfully,Sheryl Schmidt





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEPHANIE WORTLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>stephanie.wortley@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 6:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Dear Members of the Missouri State Legislature, I am writing to express my strong support for SB-63, which would allow homeschooled students to participate in public school sports without requiring them to enroll in seated classes. As a homeschooling parent, I believe this bill is essential in ensuring that all Missouri students, regardless of their educational path, have fair access to extracurricular opportunities. My son is passionate about wrestling. He has dedicated countless hours to training, conditioning, and honing his skills in a sport that teaches discipline, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Unfortunately, under current rules, he is unable to join our local school's wrestling team unless he enrolls in seated classes, which disrupts the very structure of education that allows him to thrive. We chose homeschooling because it provides him with an education tailored to his needs and learning style, but that choice should not come at the cost of participating in school athletics. Wrestling is more than just a sport to him—it's an opportunity to grow, challenge himself, and be part of a team. However, because of outdated policies, he is shut out of an opportunity that should be open to all students in our community. Public school athletics are funded by all taxpayers, including homeschooling families. Many states have already recognized this and allow homeschool students to participate in sports without forcing them to enroll in seated classes. Missouri should follow suit and ensure that students like my son don't have to choose between their education and their athletic aspirations. I urge you to vote in favor of SB-63 and open the doors for dedicated, hardworking student-athletes like my son to represent their local schools on the mat. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Stephanie Wortley



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TARA NIELSEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tnielsen84@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 2:05 PM</b>

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

My name is Tara Nielsen, and I am a Missouri resident, a proud parent of three children and an educational advocate. I am reaching out to ask for your support of SB 63, an important step in improving education in Missouri. As both a parent and a homeschool educator of children with IEP/504 plans, I have seen firsthand how current policies impact students like mine. My two sons have Autism and ADHD, and my daughter was recently diagnosed with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy. For my youngest (7yr old), homeschooling became a necessity after experiencing persistent bullying and a toxic learning environment that negatively impacted his well being and academic progress. Despite efforts to address these issues within the school system, the lack of a safe and supportive atmosphere left us with no choice but to seek an alternative path. Homeschooling has provided him more individualized attention, flexibility, and given us a supportive community where he is thriving. He does mention missing chess club and wants to play basketball with friends... We are discussing the option to homeschool our older children as well. Families like mine need policies that support educational choice and flexibility, ensuring that every child regardless of their circumstances has access to the best possible education and development and this includes with their peers. Currently, my older children attend Wentzville School District, where elementary and middle school homeschool students are prohibited from participating in sports or clubs, and high school students must be enrolled in at least two classes to take part in activities. We need policies that evolve to provide families in similar situations with equal access to sports and club opportunities, free from unnecessary restrictions. Data shows the benefits of student participation within a their community, not only promote physical health but also fosters life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and time management. Engaging in extracurriculars has been linked to higher academic performance and increased self-confidence. My children are all active athletes and club programs. Providing access to these opportunities should be a priority for helping students develop both in and out of the classroom. It is unfair and harmful to alienate homeschool students due to their religious beliefs, learning style, or need for a safe learning environment, particularly when it comes to access to sports and club activities. Homeschooled students deserve the same opportunities as their peers for social connection and community involvement. SB 63 would protect homeschooling rights and improve equitable access to extracurricular activities. This bill is a step in the right direction for Missouri students, and I strongly ask you to vote in favor when it comes before the Education Committee. Missouri families deserve policies that encourage them to make the best choices for their children's education, and this bill helps move us in that direction. I appreciate your time to improving education for all Missouri families and hope your support. Kindly, Mrs. Tara Nielsen



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRACI CANBY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 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>WHITNEY GAYMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>whitneygayman@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/31/2025 9:03 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My husband and I are homeschooling our three children. Last fall my daughter saw my team volleyball state championship photo on the gym wall and told me that she wants her photo on the gym wall someday. This bill is one step closer to her making that a reality. Thank you for considering this.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WHITNEY HOLLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 12:00 AM</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>4/2/2025 11:38 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**I Oppose this Bill. This is a continued erosion of Accountability and Public School Systems.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID KLARICH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-560-1616</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FAMILY COVENANT MINISTRIES</b>		TITLE: <b>ATTORNEY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>438 GATEFORD DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63021</b>
EMAIL: <b>dklarich@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2025 3:32 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2025 10:51 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I urge you to oppose SB63 (Brown), which expands the funding and abilities of home schools and homeschooled students. Under the proposal, school districts could not turn away homeschooled students or belong to an activities association that requires homeschooled students to take classes in order to participate. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead fully fund and support public schools and teachers to provide a free quality education to all of Missouri's children, allowing them to learn, grow, and thrive.