



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1749		DATE: 1/27/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICH AUBUCHON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-1845	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI VALOR ALLIANCE, INC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 112 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:52 PM	
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We do above and beyond for Vet's!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 6:57 PM	

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I submit this testimony not only as a Missouri resident and taxpayer, but as the direct descendant of American veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, the Spanish-American War, and the Korean War — all from the same family line.

Service is not an abstraction in my household.

It is inherited duty, lived consequence, and earned respect.

That is precisely why I oppose HB 1749.

Honoring veterans does not require diluting public procurement standards or embedding preferential scoring systems into statute that are vulnerable to abuse.

In fact, doing so risks turning genuine service into a checkbox commodity, rather than treating it with the seriousness it deserves.

HB 1749 expands bonus-point preferences in public contracting based on ownership percentages.

These frameworks are structurally easy to manipulate, difficult to audit, and historically prone to fronting arrangements that benefit non-veterans while exploiting veterans' names and status.

That is not honor. That is exploitation.

Public contracts exist to serve the public interest, not to function as indirect subsidy mechanisms shielded from scrutiny. When contracts are awarded based on bonus points rather than demonstrated merit, cost efficiency, and performance, taxpayers absorb the risk — and confidence in government erodes.

Additionally, this bill grants broad rulemaking authority to the Commissioner of Administration while declaring the provisions nonseverable.

That combination is not a safeguard; it is a legislative pressure valve that threatens instability if any part of the framework fails constitutional review.

If Missouri truly wishes to support veterans, it should do so directly and transparently:

Through access to capital

Training and mentorship

Auditable grant and loan programs

Strong enforcement against fraudulent ownership structures

Veterans — including those in my own family who served without preference or favor — did not fight to weaken standards or lower the bar.

They fought for institutions worthy of trust.

Respecting veterans means building systems that are fair, accountable, and abuse-resistant, not symbolic gestures that invite misuse and undermine public confidence.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose HB 1749 or substantially revise it to include rigorous safeguards, independent oversight, and clear anti-fraud enforcement.

Honor should strengthen the Republic — not cheapen it.

Honor earned through generations of service should strengthen our standards, not be reduced to a bonus-point loophole — do better.

— Rev. Sarah M. Berry