



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1783		DATE: 1/29/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 10:09 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill. However, by the State Department of Public Health and Senior Services, Contracting for the Delivery of Health Services and Programs, will cost 40% more than if the tasks and duties were performed In-House by Employees and Medical Personnel of the Department.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6044
REPRESENTING: REACH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 124 1/2 E HIGH ST		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 9:09 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 186S			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM MARRS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 223 E CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: govservicesjcmo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 9:23 AM
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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: 1/27/2026 2:26 PM

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HB 1783 proposes that Missouri address public-health capacity by outsourcing state functions to nationally affiliated private entities.

At a time when this state is openly confronting structural budget constraints and long-term fiscal instability, the premise of this bill is not merely unconvincing—it is fiscally incoherent.

If the General Assembly’s concern is cost control, it must explain how diverting taxpayer dollars to external affiliates—complete with administrative overhead, contractual insulation, and diminished legislative visibility—somehow resolves a state deficit rather than deepening it.

**Outsourcing is not a cost-saving mechanism when:
 the state retains ultimate responsibility,
 private intermediaries add layers of expense,
 and the Legislature relinquishes direct operational oversight.**

This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Senior Services to shift public functions to entities that do not answer to Missouri voters, Missouri budgetary controls, or Missouri constitutional accountability structures.

That is not efficiency. That is displacement of responsibility.

HB 1783 offers no fiscal note demonstrating long-term savings.

It contains no performance benchmarks, no cost-containment requirements, and no termination triggers if expenditures exceed projections.

The only accountability mechanism is an annual report—issued after funds are expended and decisions are finalized.

From a governance standpoint, this bill asks the Legislature to accept the following proposition: that Missouri’s budgetary shortfall will be addressed not by strengthening internal capacity, but by paying external organizations to perform state work with less transparency and weaker control.

That proposition is not supported by evidence, economics, or constitutional design.

If the Department lacks sufficient staffing or expertise, the solution is legislative appropriation paired with direct oversight—not contractual outsourcing that obscures costs and fragments accountability.

Missouri's fiscal challenges will not be solved by exporting state authority while importing invoices.

Outsourcing core state functions is not a fiscal solution—it is a transfer of public authority without corresponding public accountability.

-Rev. Berry