



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABIGALE ARCHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 6 year old and 8 year old both have alpha gal confirmed by blood test. Alpha gal has completely changed our lives. I have to read every single label of food they consume, it affects them at school a lot too. This is truly a medical condition not just an allergy. It affects their lotion, hair products, soaps, dental procedures, medical procedures, diet. It truly is a life changing diagnosis.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADALYNN OVERCAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:32 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this bill



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADREANNE DUDLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter has been diagnosed recently. She has been sick for a few months before we figured this out. Its been really hard finding what she can eat and cant eat. Especially with all the added ingredients that might have mammal products in it. So hard for a kid to have to change their diet so drastically just to try and fele better. Trying to find somewhere to eat when out is also difficult, alot of people really dont understand it. Anyways it really has been a huge adjustment. Its a big problem it seems like. We know several people that have been diagnosed with it. Thank you for your time!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEXIS COTTRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have lived with alpha-gal for the past three years, and during that time it has profoundly affected nearly every part of my life. Managing this condition requires constant vigilance. I must carefully read every food label, verify ingredients in medications and everyday products, and remain alert to hidden exposures that could trigger severe allergic reactions. Simple activities eating at a restaurant, attending events, traveling, or using common household items now involve risk and planning that most people never have to consider.

Despite the seriousness of this condition, public awareness remains extremely low. Many people, including some in the medical and emergency-response community, are unfamiliar with alpha-gal and the dangers it presents. This lack of awareness can delay diagnosis, complicate treatment, and place individuals like me at greater risk.

This bill would help create essential protections for people living with alpha-gal by improving awareness, supporting accurate labeling, and encouraging systems that keep consumers and patients safe. These measures are not only practical they are necessary for those of us who face this condition every day.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and help improve the quality of life and safety for individuals across our state living with alpha-gal syndrome.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALISON WADE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-gal Syndrome 2 1/2 years ago, luckily my nurse practitioner noticed a tick bite on me along with a significant amount of weight loss, almost 40lbs. I literally thought I was dying, thought possibly colon cancer like my grandmother. I was violently ill, every night spent in the bathroom. It was life changing, cost me alot of things, my marriage, had to retire from my job earlier than expected. My mental state has really suffered. I have tried to adapt but I still haven't figured out all of the "what I can and can't ". I still end up with problems. As much as i follow a strict diet, the GI is better, but still require Benadryl when I have dairy or a possibly cross contamination. Pay a crazy amount every year for an epipen I may or may not need, luckily haven't yet. I think I am a lucky one when I read about others. Still I hope more is done to find relief or a cure for this. It is just scary not knowing.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLEE TYLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal almost a year ago now. Since being diagnosed, I've lost over 40lbs that I cannot gain back no matter what I do, I cannot eat lunch at work because of cross contamination with microwaves/air fryers and air contamination. I can no longer safely go out to eat or go to events without worrying about eating or being near something that will cause a reaction. I spend double the time in grocery stores going over every single ingredient in every single item I get. I struggle when I see someone eating a burger, not only because I want one too, but because it causes a reaction just being around someone eating one. From stomach cramps and headaches to anaphylactic reactions, alpha gal effects everyone differently and not enough is known about it to do anything.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA BOYD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I know of several people in our area who are effected by Alpha Gal Syndrome. Many of them suffered with symptoms for many months before they were tested and treated properly, due to many Healthcare facilities not being aware of the issue, therefore not testing for it. One of these people even had unnecessary surgery before she ordered her own test kit online and realized her symptoms were all due to AGS all along. If there was surveillance, we could learn which areas it seems to be more prevalent, and ensure that testing is done in those areas and that proper treatment is initiated.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA GARVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son was diagnosed at 12 years old. He endured several months of an excruciating pain before diagnosis he still continues to suffer to this day going out to eat is almost not an option. participating in school parties is not an option. He misses out on so many things he due to this allergy. The fear we live in daily is almost to much to bare. The pain he has to deal with when he or someone makes a simple mistake in preparing his food is unimaginable.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA GROGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been sick for years. I have gotten many diagnoses over those years from anxiety to Dercum's Disease. Alpha Gal has rocked my world. I am sick every day, despite eating mostly plant based with a few added non mammalian proteins. I have gotten new household products, personal care items, and am trying to get access to safe meds. My pharmacist had no idea what all was in my meds so that is now a weekly chore of mine to seek them out just to have safe ones. And just when you think they're safe, the manufacturer changes their formulation or gets a new supplier. It's exhausting.

I can't walk into a steak house due to fume reactions, or hardly go to my job and church because of fume reactions, my children can't have a regular hamburger because of fume reactions (and we live on a cattle farm in Howell County!)....it has honestly flipped our world upside down.

Reporting is a great start, but more needs done (food label changes, quicker access to health care, knowledge from medical professionals, and more!) to help ALL Missourians with AGS live a joyous life.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA LINDSAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son has this and there is not much h information about alpha gal and it seems that doctors don't know much either. After he tested positive I was told the doctor wouldn't see him for a year and then she would test him again. I guidance or anything. I have had to do all the research myself. We should be able to get answers and help.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA NEIGHBORS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:18 PM
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As a parent of a daughter with Alpha Gal, this is not just an allergy to us. We have been called to pick her up several times because the lunchroom has cooked beef. She is fume reactive, this is not just a case of her reading labels, this is not being able to walk down the street without a reaction. This has been hard to figure out as everything has some form of mammal product. This bill would help inform our population of this allergy and where it's most prevalent.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA SCANLON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:11 PM

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I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome last year. We now have to have two different meals prepared for me and for my family. I have to take Claritin on a daily basis because of my allergy. But I have lost over 30 pounds since I was diagnosed. We are spending a lot more money now on food.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER HAMILTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:43 PM
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My son has alpha gal. He was in and out of the ER. He seen so many specialist and underwent so many test. These were expensive and time consuming. He ended up not being able to work because he was literally sick everyday. He lost 105 pounds, had no energy, was depressed, and just overall not in a good place. Now that he has been diagnosed and along with it came MCAS, he is now very limited on what foods he can eat. Food to meet his diet is expensive. He is 23 years old and trying to make it as an adult, but this allergy and limited knowledge of it has really been hard. Many people are affected by this and it is literally ruining people's lives. Any help on the issue would be much appreciated.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER VOGEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:22 AM
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I have lived in Missouri my whole life and love this beautiful state and exploring everything that has to do with it until I got Alpha Gal. I rarely leave my house, I don't go outside in fear of being bit by a tick or chiggers. I have loss so much weight due to not being able to eat a majority of food.Scared to go to doctors, dentist due to them not being educated enough about AGS. It's really scary and not enough people believe its serious but it definitely is. I believe they need to do more for us AGS'ers all around. It has changed each and everyone of us differently. We just want to be normal again and be able to live our lives like everyone else! Thanks for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMELIA HART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:52 PM
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Unfortunately I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome in May of 2025 after an ER visit due to an anaphylactic reaction to beef soup. This has greatly affected my life as well as my fiance's and sons. It ravaged my body by depleting it of vitamins and nutrients to where 3 months in I could no longer eat normally, go to the bathroom normally, and then even walk. I've been in physical therapy for 4 months and on vitamin supplementation for six trying to get back to some semblance of normalcy. It is such a struggle just to take care of my home and fix meals for my family. But last July August Etc I couldn't even take care of myself I had to have help getting to the bathroom and showering etc. So many doctors are unaware of this allergy/sundrome and what it really entails and effects. I myself have had to educate them on what I can and cannot have which is very scary in a hospital , where we're used to relying on the medical professionals to know more than we do. I am now allergic to all things mammal. Beef, pork, lamb, dairy, medicines that have mammal in them. There are so many more than you would even think.. Hidden mammal in so many foods and products. I only eat at home, things that I make that. I know are safe for me. We appreciate everything Mr Overcast is doing to bring attention to this syndrome and the way it affects our daily lives. Please please support this bill as well. Thank you so much for reading my story. I so wish I could attend in person but my health will not allow it at this time.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:51 PM
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I personally suffer with alpha gal syndrome from a tick bite. This has drastically changed my and my family's daily life. I'm able to manage myself and always carry 2 EpiPens as anaphylaxis is a real possibility without the knowledge from others to help understand this horrible disease. If there could be proper reporting so more people are aware of the issues and we can start addressing many of the concerns that "we" all have and hopefully at some point have some type of guidance to better manage.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:45 AM

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My 19 year old son is a tree trimmer and has had alpha gal for over a year , half of his fellow climbers have the disease. It has changed our daily lives .



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW MASTIC		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:23 PM
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Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Andrew Mastic. I live in Missouri, and I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome 18 months ago. I support efforts to collect anonymized data to determine appropriate public health measures.

The tick bite that gave me AGS likely occurred while I was mowing my lawn or hiking near my house. AGS reactions are usually delayed by several hours after eating an allergen, so it took a while to receive a conclusive diagnosis. Living with AGS, I cannot eat any mammalian meat and must carry an EpiPen. I know three other people in the area who also have AGS.

At the grocery store, it can be challenging to figure out what products are safe to eat, since some ingredients that contain meat have obscure names.

Most people do not know what AGS is, so I usually have to explain my allergy at restaurants. It can be difficult to order safely, since cross contamination is very common; even with vegetarian dishes.

Some medicines contain ingredients derived from mammals as well. Before a procedure, I nearly received anesthesia with an allergen in it, which had to be switched at the last minute.

I am fortunate that my AGS is not triggered by dairy. I have one friend whose AGS does react to dairy; her dietary challenges are much more significant.

AGS rates in our country rose 100-fold over the past decade. With better data on AGS in Missouri, we can generate more awareness for prevention, and to assist those living with the disease. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA PHIPPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:58 PM
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I have 3 examples on why Alpha-Gal should be looked into please:

1. My daughter was 16 when we found out she had alpha-gal. She gets stomach cramps and constipated. Sometimes the cramps are so bad she passes out. She has to get a 504 for school due to passing out twice and for being in the restroom so long. Also, imagine being 16, finally able to drive and go hang out with friends or date. What are you going to eat? She couldn't eat dairy or any red meat. In West Plains, that only leaves a few places, but not cheap for teenagers.

2. My mother-in-law has alpha-gal severely. She swells all over and it takes about a day and a half for all the swelling to go down completely. She can't cross contaminate at all! If her chicken touches a plate that had a steak, she swells. She doesn't eat out.

3. I've been a teacher for 18 years. This is my first year to have students with alpha-gal and I have 2 of them. We have to be careful of snacks with gelatin, marshmallow, at parties and EVERY breakfast/lunch. These two students are always school breakfast and lunch (free lunch). Even for field trips we have to be careful what we have. Normally we could do pizza, but if they can't do dairy their parents want the school to provide a different lunch.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARYIANA PURK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:47 PM
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I have lived with alpha gal syndrome for years now and it still affects me pretty badly. I can barely leave my house and if I do it can't be a long drive because I suffer from the gi symptoms of alpha gal. I need all organic food that might not be safe and costs a fortune. There's little to no treatment or help with it and little information about it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY CURRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:26 AM
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I am honored to submit testimony as a recently diagnosed member of the Alpha Galactose 1,3 Community. During accelerated and focused training in college to become an airline transport pilot (ATP) I experienced several unexplained dizzying episodes due to loss of blood pressure, which I later discovered were anaphylactic response to a trigger food ingested. I was finally able to clear my symptoms entirely by 1)identifying the allergen through direct to consumer testing through Quest on recommendation of my cardiologist (he did not know how to order the bloodwork) and 2) consulting with the support groups and community that exist organically to know what foods contain mammal derivatives and 3) set a plan to completely avoid all allergen triggers and communicate this plan to the FAA in order to keep my First Class Medical active for flight school. The U.S. Flight Surgeon carved out time to personally meet with me and I offered my medical record and testimony to provide further evidence on diagnosis, symptoms and remission for evaluation and application to all flight safety and future pilot applicants with the Alpha Galactose 1,3 diagnosis.

I have found our local, clinical doctors have little to no knowledge of the complexities of vector borne tick illness, let alone this now very prominent protein allergen, that frustrates the teams and sends them deep diving into medical diagnoses and specialist referrals that could be avoided with proper surveillance and training. I want to offer my assistance and further testimony to the Missouri Legislature, our hospital boards and our U.S. Congress and Senate as it is needed to enact metrics, training and treatment and the appropriations of funds to cure and prevent the immense hold vector borne infections and subsequent dietary restrictions have on our communities.

Where I live is not rural, I was bitten by a small nymph stage lone Star tick on my back porch in our subdivision. 8 months later, I was taken by ambulance while experiencing a drop in blood pressure, vomiting, rapid elimination, urticaria, tennitus , and atrial fibrillation. The concerning part of this rescue effort is that I was immediately dosed medication (Heptin sub dermal blood clotting prevention) that contained pork elements that could have triggered a secondary life threatening reaction. Thankfully it did not, but it is important to note several other Alpha Galactose patients have died due to this mistake/misidentification.

Please help us in rapid identification and continuous surveillance.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY MAYO		PHONE NUMBER: 785-317-1075	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BEER BELLY'S BAR AND GRILL		TITLE: RESTAURANT OWNER	
ADDRESS: 6241 STATE HWY W			
CITY: PONTIAC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65729
EMAIL: golucky21@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 2:07 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have AGS. Something needs to be done about it. Doctors need more education. Food suppliers need to have more safe foods for us to purchase. Access to more safe products at an affordable cost. Manufacturers need to be truthful and upfront about what ingredients are in their foods. I own a restaurant in Ozark County, MO. I am the first restaurant within 90 miles to provide an actual Alpha-Gal safe menu.

A year ago, less than 0.1% of my weekly sales were admitted Alpha-Gal customers. With my new AGS safe menu, I'm regularly seeing 5 to 10% of my weekly sales are from the Alpha-Gal community. I'm in the middle of nowhere in Gainesville, Missouri, with a tiny population of 800 people. You can't tell me that this is something that can be ignored. There is no stopping this. Pandora's box has been opened. This isn't going to go away, this is only going to get worse. We need to get prepared for it and get the food suppliers up to date with current demand. Doctors need to be educated on a large scale, not an individual basis. This is the new peanut allergy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AUDRA YATES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I live in rural Missouri and was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome 3 years ago. It has been completely life changing in numerous ways. Living in a rural area decreases the access you have to healthcare. The grocery stores where we live have limited access to specialty food items. Not only do I have to drive for almost 2 hours to see an allergy specialist for this condition, in a true emergency I would have to drive 20 minutes for care.

I am a single mother of a teenager. My first reaction I encountered before knowing I even had Alpha gal, I woke up in the middle of the night short of breath like I had just climbed several flights of stairs. I attempted to take Benadryl, but my throat was too swollen. I was able to swallow liquid Benadryl. By the time I had gotten my son awake, the swelling started to subside. Had I not had liquid Benadryl on hand, it would have been a different ending. I was completely unaware that I had this allergy. It was scary. It is imperative that awareness be spread, cases be tracked, and research be conducted on this disease.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARRY VILLAVERDE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:16 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I've had alpha-gal syndrome for a year, now, and it has certainly affected my life and lifestyle. Caution and great care are necessary in eating at a restaurant, neighbor's, etc. I must carry an epipen. If this bill contributes to the CDC recognizing this is a problem and legislation requiring labels on food indicating alpha-gal, etc., than I'm certainly for it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BENJAMIN JESUS JIMENEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello my name is Benjamin Jimenez and I was diagnosed last year with Alpha Gal. Since being diagnosed I have struggled to make sure I have enough food to eat being that I am on disability and don't make enough to compensate with the price increase that comes with foods and medication I won't react to. I have also had to relay on people more since I am blind and have a hard time reading labels since they are not boldly marked like other allergens. It is extremely hard to find food that doesn't contain mamamal by-products in our rural areas and even harder to try to go out to eat with my kids cause restaurants don't have to let you know every ingredient that is in even the oil. Something that should be a extremely easy access for everyone is extremely difficult for us with this horrible allergy. It's not even food that needs to be marked boldly it's ALL products all the way down to toilet paper. Every day items that we use I have had to learn aren't safe for me to not only use but be around. Alpha Gal is something that a lot of people don't take seriously because it isn't a "recordable or main" allergen. I've even had a pharmacist tell me it was nothing major since it just causes an upset stomach. Everyone needs to aware of it but even more so our medical industry. Alpha can and will become so much worse the more people are diagnosed and with there being no scientific study put into do to it not being a mandated recordable allergen. Please take this just as serious as all other allergies there are. This is only gonna grow and more people are gonna be diagnosed. It's time that we have to record the numbers and put effort into it to help us with this horrible allergy be able to not only life a "normal" life but better educated access to medical Drs without being told I will have to Google and see.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH SCHULTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and Members of the Committee,
My name is Beth Schultz, and I am a resident of Ozark County, Missouri. I am here to respectfully ask for your support of HB 1855 and the tracking of Alpha-Gal Syndrome cases in our state.

Just a few weeks ago, I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. In that short time, my life has changed dramatically. I have discovered that mammal-derived ingredients are present in many medications, supplements, vaccines, and even in common products such as sugar and water processed through bone char. Personal care products can also contain mammal-based ingredients. What most people take for granted has become a daily risk to my health.

This diagnosis is not simply about avoiding red meat. It requires constant vigilance, extensive label reading, and ongoing uncertainty. The lack of clear tracking and data in Missouri leaves patients like me feeling invisible and unsupported.

I love Missouri. I love the cattle that graze near my home. I want to support our agricultural community and livestock industry. At the same time, I worry about my neighbors and the future of our cattle industry as Alpha-Gal cases continue to increase.

Twenty-two years ago, I was diagnosed with Lyme disease. That illness ultimately triggered Multiple Sclerosis. At the time, Lyme disease was poorly understood and widely mismanaged. Even today, there remains a lack of accurate testing and effective treatment for chronic Lyme disease. I fear we are repeating that pattern with Alpha-Gal Syndrome, underestimating it, underreporting it, and leaving patients without answers.

Tracking Alpha-Gal cases through HB 1855 is a crucial first step. Without data, there is no visibility. Without visibility, there is no progress. Surveillance will help us understand the scope of this condition in Missouri, improve physician awareness, and guide future public health decisions.

Please be a voice for those of us living with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. Please help ensure that Missouri recognizes and tracks this condition so patients are not left behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Beth Schultz

Ozark County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH WONDERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:51 AM

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

I have alpha gal and there is hardly any support in this area. Doctors don't seem to be educated about alpha gal in this area or meds to help us.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BOBBY KAYE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 6:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I contracted Alpha Gal from a tick I picked up a little over 3 years ago while working in the woods in St. Francois County. I have a severe case and carry an epinephrine injector - it's important to note that Alpha Gal is unique in that it is not an immediate anaphylactic reaction like most food allergies. The allergic reaction is delayed by hours (mine are usually in the 6-8 hour range). Because of this delayed reaction I personally know a number of people who have also contracted this allergy and do not even realize this is what's causing their severe or moderate allergic reactions.

I was a Summer Camp Director for a number of years at one of the largest camp properties in Missouri and I'm also pretty outdoorsy. I know a lot of children and adults who have contracted this allergy - my observation over the past 3 years has been that the number of people who have this is increasing at a rapid rate and a lot of people in my area (eastern Missouri) are not aware of how life altering this allergy can be. It's especially irritating for someone like myself who used to be a big fan of bacon, ribeye, cheeseburgers, Imo's bacon pizza, venison, and all of the other delicious things your average Missouri citizen loves to eat on a daily basis.

The months after contracting alpha gal are incredibly challenging to navigate since most foods do not indicate if they contain mammal byproducts and the nature of it being an "anytime allergy" instead of being an "every time allergy" means that you can think a specific food item is safe when it's really not and you end up having a severe reaction the 3rd time you eat it. The 3-6 months after contracting this are incredibly depressing for someone who is a normal person who loves eating steak, cheese, bacon, etc. For someone like myself, this allergy has been the equivalent of being forced to become a hippie vegan living in California or Portland which is sub optimal and depressing.

It's important to note that while most people who are aware of this allergy just know it to be the "red meat allergy" for many of us who have it it is way more impactful than just that. It is really an allergy to anything derived from mammals. Some people who have this can still have things like dairy or utilize products containing something like lanolin, but others cannot which adds to the confusion. Someone in the food industry may think something they're offering is "alpha-gal safe" because their cousin who has a less severe case can eat it, but in reality it contains dairy which means a large portion of alpha-gal patients can not have it without moderate to severe reactions. With the newer trend of beef tallow getting added to food and home products it is becoming incredibly hard to navigate for your average Missouri resident. If I'm in a room or near a grill that's cooking mammal products I will typically get very nauseous and on occasion I'll vomit and experience severe stomach pain. Myself and other people with this allergy also are reactive to cross contamination - we may be able to eat a chicken breast, but if it's been cooked on a surface that's also cooked a mammal product, we'll react.

This bill is a good first step towards raising awareness about alpha gal in order to prevent more people from contracting this allergy, finding ways to decrease the tick population in Missouri, and making it easier for people who have contracted this to navigate daily life.

TLDR: Alpha-Gal sucks. Please pass this bill. If you haven't contracted this yet, you probably will if you do anything outside where ticks are present. Enjoy having a normal diet and lifestyle while you still can - eat a ribeye for me.

Thank you for your consideration.

**-Bobby Kaye
Jefferson County Republican Central Committee Secretary**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BOYD KROHNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 6:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha gal syndrome needs to be cured, people are dying do to AGS and its not getting diagnosed. I found out I had AGS January of 2019 I almost died. Stayed in the hospital overnight and they couldn't figure out what happened, just though I had a allergic reaction to laundry soap because it was in the middle of the night when I was sleeping told me to see an allergist sent me on my way. In the mean time my wife remembered an npr episode on AGS and told me not to eat red meat until I had seen the results of the allergy test, made sense because I had a steak out for dinner that night but I had a steak at home the week before and has fine. Got the results back and confirmed alpha gal, allergy doctor said just it steak at home and not out, I don't if he really knew anything about alpha gal. I haven't had mammalian meat since 2019. Moral of the story is it is missed diagnosed and people ate dying. Its not like a normal allergy it doesn't happen immediately its at least 4 hours later when you digested the mammalian food, that's where it gets missed diagnosed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRADLEY D GROGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My wife has been diagnosed with alfagal. Our lives have changed. We seldom get to eat at a restaurant anymore for fear of a cross contamination. Even what we eat in our own home has changed drastically. I made a hot ham and cheese one afternoon in the kitchen. My wife was in another part of the house. She had such a reaction we debated for about an hour whether we needed to go to the hospital or not. We have to carry epi pens now. I've have to teach my kids things to watch out for incase their mother has a reaction while im not with them. What to tell emergency personnel if that should happen. Without knowing if a product of any kind is safe or not we eat every meal with one eye on my wife just in case. We have bought product that had been safe but the formula changed and now we have a severe reaction because there is not labeling to warn of the allergy. I ask that you please pass this bill to require the labeling of products and help to bring awareness so that other living in fear can have some sense of hope and peace back.

Thank you for your time,
Brad Grogan



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON LESESNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been dealing with Alpha Gal for over 4 years now and it has completely changed my life in an extremely negative fashion. It has not only effected me but my whole family as well. Please pass any bill that would help get this out to the public and further address tylhe issue.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA SUE BARGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I tested positive for Alpha Gal syndrome 10/2024 after multiple trips to the doctor for unexplained rash / GI symptoms difficulty breathing, facial flushing I presented to the ER unable to breath, with rash and purple fingersand face swelling. After diagnosis, I learned my thyroid meds contained mammal as did most of the alternatives for replacement. I am a thyroidectomy patient and require life long replacement or I will die. It has been a challenge to find one that works and my body can utilize and help my body to function. Fast forward to

12/2024. I had my first inpatient stay for 2.5 days due to anaphlyxasis. There is so much that the health field does not know and it took a lot of research to find an inhaler to work. I am a nurse and did not know much about this syndrome until I was diagnosed. I have had multiple reactions prior and since due to unknown exposures.. I rarely go out to eat. Just grocery shopping alone leaves me exhausted with the amount of scanning and prep work. Recently before Christmas I called a resteraunt to find out how they prepare their"steamed green beans" that were on the menu.They use a beef broth as a base. Had I not called ahead of time to inquire and then proceed to ask for special preparation for my meal that evening, I could have went into anaphlaxsis . It is anxiety provoking.Any med whether over the counter or by prescription has to be checked for mammal byproducts. It has changed how we do our outdoor activities, to family gatherings to the products we purchase: clothing, make up, household supplies. Again, my biggest challenge is finding a thyroid replacement that is safe. It has to keep me alive.

It is not just this medication but all medications. Trace byproducts can build up in your system. We need transparency in all products.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRETT WILLIAM SWANSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:16 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Brett Swanson, and I am a Missouri resident living with Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS). I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1855 to improve reporting and data collection on this condition. Alpha-Gal is not a traditional food allergy. It is a tick-borne condition that causes delayed allergic reactions to mammalian products. In my case, this means I cannot consume beef, pork, lamb, dairy, or any hidden mammalian derivatives without risk. Reactions are often delayed by several hours, which makes diagnosis and management extremely difficult. Many people go years without answers. The lack of formal reporting and tracking in Missouri creates real consequences:

Healthcare access and recognition.
Many providers are unfamiliar with Alpha-Gal. Delayed reactions are frequently misattributed to anxiety, gastrointestinal disorders, or “unknown triggers.” Without statewide data, AGS remains invisible in clinical practice and policy decisions.

Cost of living and food access.
Safe food options are limited and often significantly more expensive. Cross-contamination is a constant concern. Dining out is risky. Even medications, supplements, and medical products can contain mammalian byproducts.

Safety concerns.
Because reactions are delayed, individuals may go to sleep feeling fine and wake up in anaphylaxis hours later. That unpredictability changes how you live your life. It affects travel, social events, and daily routines.

Public health planning.
Missouri is a high-risk state for Lone Star ticks. Without structured reporting, policymakers cannot accurately understand how widespread AGS is or how it is trending. We cannot respond effectively to a condition we are not measuring.

My wife also manages complex immune-related health conditions, and our household has had to make significant lifestyle adjustments to reduce inflammation, avoid triggers, and manage risk. When a condition like Alpha-Gal enters a family system, it affects more than just one individual. It changes grocery bills, meal preparation, medical decision-making, and stress levels.

HB 1855 is not about alarmism. It is about data. Better reporting allows:

- More accurate prevalence tracking
- Better provider education
- More informed public health strategy
- Smarter allocation of resources

Numbers matter in committee hearings because numbers drive policy. Alpha-Gal is increasing in prevalence across Missouri, yet it remains undercounted and poorly understood.

I urge you to support HB 1855 so Missouri can make data-driven decisions regarding this growing tick-

borne illness. Transparency and surveillance are foundational public health tools. This bill is a practical step toward protecting Missouri families.

Thank you for your consideration.

— Brett Swanson
Missouri Resident



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN ROBINSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was undiagnosed for over 5 years, I suffered hives and gastro intestinal issues without any idea why. 2 gp, a dermatologist and 2 allergist didn't diagnose me. Finding out what was causing it has been a relief, but living with constant fear of what I am eating is not much better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTNEY PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have alpha gal and more physicians need to be aware if this and need to educate those around them. When I was first diagnosed, that itself was an absolute nightmare, I was told nothing because the doctor knew NOTHING and felt I was being over reacting. I struggled and have struggled with this for 3 years.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BROOKE FULLIAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal Syndrome has ruined my life and the lack of education surrounding the allergy makes life that much harder. It took a rotation of doctors and a year worth of tachycardia spells and multiple ER visits for my mother and myself to land a diagnosis of alpha gal. Our symptoms began in 2021 and we were diagnosed a year later. Alpha gal has led to the increase of anxiety and depression to the point of which I sought out antidepressant medication to manage the uncontrollable and surprising reactions I have had from unknown consumption of products and food containing red meat or its derivatives. This is not just a red meat allergy, it is a complete change in lifestyle that leaves you second guessing everything you put on or give your body. I completely lost myself navigating this allergy as I continue to try supplementing the vitamins and nutrients that I'm lacking because of my inability to get such things from red meat. Please hear our voice and recognize how serious this allergy is and how it quickly flips a persons whole world upside down leaving them to struggle with mental health issues they now battle on top of it all.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARLOS E ARRASTIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal this past year. Now I can't eat mammal meat. I'm on a diet of chicken, Turkey and fish. Other meat sources like Emu, Ostrich, etc. can be costly and difficult to find. Some restaurants know about it and try to accommodate for it, but many don't even know about it. It affects my iron levels, my energy and overall health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN KELB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had Alpha gal for several years. It is very hard to find non mammal products including medicines without the byproduct glycerin.

Having alpha gal is very frustrating. I was sick for several years before finally being sent to an allergist that knows and tests for alpha gal.

It's becoming very scary of how many people actual have alpha gal now.

I have a couple of family members who have alpha gal now.

More information needs to be out about alpha gal. Alpha gal is a severe allergy. I have had to change everything in my life from food, medicines, to personal hygiene products. Allergies can change your whole world.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN MARIE MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with AGS 10/2023. Life has changed. I knew very little about the allergy, but luckily, I have an allergist that knows quite a bit about it. My 1st trip to the dentist, he was not aware of AGS, so was not aware of what products could be used. He does now.

Eating in a restaurant is always a gamble, and I almost always have to ask about food ingredients. I gave up lunchmeat, because the butchers don't clean the blades between ham and turkey. An accidental exposure puts everyone around me in a panic.

I think AGS cases are on the rapid rise, and needs to be monitored. AGS has the highest percentage of anaphylaxis than any other food allergy. I luckily, have only ended up in the emergency room, once, after an employee of a restaurant, accidentally gave me a pork sausage instead of a chicken one (I had him check to make sure the chicken sausage was not in a pork casing—most are).

My last epi pen was \$265.00. The neffy nasal epi was going to cost \$853.50, I said no thank you. Have you ever seen anyone go into anaphylaxis? Not one that I've seen, has been able to grab the epi and inject themselves.

It would be nice if more around us were educated. We have defibrillators in many public spaces, to save lives from heart issues. I think the public needs to be better educated on this extremely serious food allergy—because mammal products hide in so many food ingredients.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARRIE HANK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was recently diagnosed with AGS. I live in St. Louis County, but was bit by a tick in Columbia, MO in 2025. Alpha Gal is a life-changing, debilitating diagnosis that is a very complicated maze to maneuver. It's so much more than avoiding red meat! Mammalian ingredients are in every aspect of our daily lives. Dairy, gelatin caps, sugar, natural flavor, prescription drugs, beauty products, cleaning products, all may contain mammalian ingredients. Eating out at restaurants is like playing Russian roulette since many don't know all ingredients used in their menu items or can't assure no cross-contamination in their kitchen. Doctors, including Primary, GI and Allergists don't have the knowledge to advise me about medications that contain mammalian ingredients or whether a colonoscopy's prep, anesthesia or IV solution is safe for me. Reactions to exposure vary greatly in each person, but can include GI upset, hives, muscle pain, headaches, respiratory distress, fatigue. Most of us carry an EPI pen in case of anaphylaxis. Alpha Gal has been spreading in Missouri for years. The state and medical professionals need to recognize Alpha Gal numbers so it will be recognized as a very serious threat. We need help from the medical field and need FDA to make labeling much more accurate. Manufacturers use every part of a mammal in our products with no clear labeling! Please help us get the word out and help us navigate this terrifying Alpha Gal Syndrome! Thank you, Carrie Hank



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE M YORK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I found 2 years ago that I had Alphagal. I was throwing up when watting beef. I shook so badly tgst I couldn't walk on my own. I am at remission at this time, but still can't eat beef, pork, lamb or any mammal.

I have had three round of accupuncture, which has helped. I can have some dairy at this time. I still suffer from wonkiness in my head. In the Texas county area we have talked to several people that have this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHI BARTH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome in September 2025. Given what I know now, I had the disease since the fall of 2024. So much education is needed by medical professionals. I had an anaphylactic reaction in January 2025, yet the ER did not test me for this disease. Please pass this legislation to bring about awareness of Alpha Gal, the seriousness of it and the sheer number of folks in our state who are suffering and living with this condition. Thank you!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLOTTE KEELING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:23 PM

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I've had AGS for several years. It effects my life drastically every single day! We need help!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL A. CHANEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My grown daughter has AG. She is raising 4 wonderful children & also works full time. I moved to be closer to her & help out with cooking, cleaning etc. Sadly, I can no longer fix her favorite foods, & must be careful about any products used for cleaning. I worry constantly about her having a reaction to something she is totally unaware of- it could be an odor from a Restaurants kitchen, or simply the hand lotion her daughter uses.

It's unpredictable & knows no boundaries. Many physicians are uneducated & unaware of the poisons that could even cause a death. Let's get this monster under control.

Thank you .



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISSY MILLIGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:25 PM

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

Alpha Gal has taken over my life- I'm fume reactive- animal byproducts are in so many products - skin care- shampoos- no mammalian meat- no dairy - cross contamination occurs daily- have to carry an epi pen - take Benadryl daily- histamine levels are so high that a mild allergy is now a massive allergy-



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA PALMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am saddened I cannot attend, but would like to share my testimony.

I am lucky to be alive. I was misdiagnosed by multiple specialists for years with minor symptoms, and after 3 more tick bites, for months with acute symptoms, and given a lot of medications that made the symptoms worse, because they contained magnesium stearate, which is a mammal product. I lost consciousness on multiple occasions, once waking up on my garage floor after laying there so long the sun burned my legs, and I severely bruised my face when I fell on the concrete and lost consciousness.

I saw countless physicians who suggested I had anxiety when I explained I couldn't breathe well, and my heart would race. I would do my hair and make up for physician appointments, appear upbeat, but casually mention the issues, hoping someone would listen and not write me off again. I left one doctor's office and stood in the parking lot and broke down in tears after being told again that it was all in my head, and I had anxiety because of my job... When in reality, I love my job, and the tests never showed anything because my appointments were in the morning before I ate anything. I was extremely underweight despite eating multiple times per day, as a 5'5" tall, 42 year old woman, I went from a slender 119 pounds to an emaciated and very sick 103 pounds while still eating cheeseburgers and pizza. I was malnourished, my hair falling out, my skin was grey, my body wasn't digesting food, and my whole body hurt like I had the flu every day for months, due to the inflammation. After seeing my primary care, a pulmonologist, and a cardiologist multiple times, in addition to a dermatologist, gynecologist, and multiple trips to the convenient clinic and the ER, all for symptoms related to anaphylactic and severe allergic reactions that kept being diagnosed as anything but anaphylaxis, I updated my will thinking I would die before anyone figured out what was wrong with me. I am lucky I am alive after the number of times my Apple Watch showed my oxygen dropping to 70. I finally got food allergy testing and a diagnosis in December of 2023. Once I cut out all mammal, my body got healthy again, and I am able to function again. Much of the damage to my body could have been avoided if physicians were aware, which beings with documenting diagnosed cases, which brings awareness, and eventually, education to physicians and the community. It could have prevented many unnecessary trips to specialists, which would open those appointments for people who need them, and it could have saved my insurance company a lot of money as the appointments and tests went far beyond my deductible. It could have saved my employer many hours of sick leave used to go to physician appointments, and increased my productivity dramatically if I had received a more prompt diagnosis. Most importantly, I am almost certain that finally getting diagnosed saved my life, because I don't think my body could have taken much more. As such, I am still an employee of the State of Missouri, and have been for nearly 11 years now.

I had never heard of Alpha Gal Syndrome when I was diagnosed with it. We need awareness to prevent the loss of life, so doctors can accurately diagnose. We need reporting to see where education would be the most valuable in the community. We need a standard of safe care for medical patients with alpha gal to ensure we do not end up on a surgery table, or in a dentist chair with our airways closing. (The latter of which I have experienced.) People need to know anaphylaxis is not what you see in the movies or on tv where someone drops to the floor clutching their throat; it is most often someone who may have a slightly red face, or no redness at all, silently 'going to sleep.'

This can happen to anyone. It can happen to you to someone you love. If you go outside, or you have pets that go outside, you are not safe from Alpha Gal Syndrome. This is a community issue for the entire state of Missouri, and a significant portion of the nation.

In order to ensure safety, we need information to ascertain the scope of the issue, to determine what efforts would be most beneficial to ensure the safety of the citizens of Missouri, many of whom may currently, or in the future, suffer from alpha gal syndrome without their knowledge. It's a simple blood test that if reported, would provide vital information in the future of medicine, as well as the well-being of the citizens of our state. The investment in documenting cases could most certainly benefit the medical system by not utilizing the time of specialist physicians unnecessarily, the economy by reducing sick leave employers must pay their employees, increasing productivity at work when employees are not suffering from brain fog or other alpha gal related symptoms, and insurance agency profits by not paying out so much for patients to seek the help of so many physicians before testing is recommended.

Most importantly, if this testing and reporting can save even one life, let alone the lives of countless citizens not just of Missouri, but in the nation, can the cost or inconvenience of not doing the testing and reporting be justified?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE MICHELLE KLEEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 4:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha-Gal has been a life changing diagnosis. As a cattle producer in Southwest Missouri I would have never dreamed the one thing I love to raise and care for would ultimately be trying to kill me. Being active on the farm and outside constantly I take the usual precautions to keep ticks and unwanted pests off of me but that changed in 2020 when I was bitten by a lonestar tick. After years of joint pain, unexplainable rashes and so many health issues it took 5 years to get a diagnosis of alpha-gal. After being tested for everything under the sun the last Hail Mary was the ig-protein test. It came back a glaring positive. This was a huge revelation and within a few weeks I armed myself with apps, books and all of the knowledge that I could to help me with my diagnosis. Except, the apps don't paint a full picture ingredient lists are not transparent and even being extremely careful I have had terrible, life threatening reactions. It is scary just trying to live with alpha-gal. My feminine products, shampoo, body wash, makeup and even my toilet paper had to be replaced because of the constant reactions my basic needs were causing me. There needs to be transparency in product ingredients as well as education to the general public because this awful disease is in our own backyards.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WHEAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with AlphaGal about 2 1/2 years ago. I spent the previous 6 years wondering what I had. I had my gall bladder out, no, that did not fix me. I still had symptoms. I was then diagnosed with Celiac, no! When my GI doctor tested me for AlphaGal and I found out I had it. I did not feel like a crazy person anymore who kept going in to figure out what was wrong. 8+ years of wondering. Now that I know what I have, I can control it better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE BUCKLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband was diagnosed with this horrible disease at the 'tender' age of 76. Changing your entire diet at that age is not easily accomplished. We have had to change all our dairy products to plant-based. Cheese that used to cost us less than \$2 is now more than \$6 for the same amount of product. Then there is the constant fear when we eat out that something on his plate as been cross-contaminated because the kitchen doesn't fully understand the consequences. So far his symptoms are gastrointestinal, but we also live with the fear that the next reaction will be worse. He is a VietNam war veteran with many issues caused by Agent Orange. We have to be very diligent about the medications the VA prescribes to be sure they don't contain any mammal by-products. It is a daily struggle! We need better data, better awareness, especially in the medical community, and smarter policy decisions for our state.

Please pass this HB 1855



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE KLOPPE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Was diagnosed over 5 years ago. It has changed my life in too many ways to mention. I have been in the ER numerous times. I can't just grab a bite to eat on the way home. I have to designate several hours a day to cook every meal every day because I can't eat out. My husband has had to give up eating beef and pork because I am fume reactive. I don't enjoy hiking like I use to. Hiking use to produce relaxation now it causes anxiety. To say this disease has affected my life is a gross misconception it has stolen a lifestyle that I may never get back. Yes I have adopted and accepted but it will never be the same.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA J. WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I had experienced mysterious reactions and abdominal symptoms for several years. I sought treatment with my family physician and was put through a battery of very expensive tests, which revealed nothing. Unfortunately, they were unfamiliar with AG and that diagnosis wasn't even on their radar. It wasn't until I almost died from an anaphylactic reaction that I took it upon myself to seek treatment with an allergist in Kansas City. After some blood work he identified that I had Alpha-gal Syndrome.

Since my official diagnosis in 2013 I have found that most physicians, pharmacists and nurses I have encountered during medical care don't even know what Alpha-gal is, or what specific medications must be avoided to prevent reactions or even death. And the ones who have heard of it do NOT know about the alpha-gal ingredients in specific medications.

We need to get an accurate count of just how many people are impacted by this dangerous syndrome so providers understand just how likely it is that they will come in contact with a patient with AG and learn how to treat them safely.

Please consider passing HB 1855.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAISY ZELCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 1:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello.

I was diagnosed with AGS 2 years ago this June.

I had an anaphylactic reaction during childbirth from a medication and thankfully with a skilled team at St. Luke's-Chesterfield, was able to still be here for my son. Living with alpha gal syndrome is a nuisance and is scary when labeling isn't clear. Having this allergy affects my daily life and truly is debilitating.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANA POE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:45 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This past 2 years, alpha gal syndrome has caused what seems like endless hardships in our everyday lives. My fiance was diagnosed with AGS, after several years of being misdiagnosed as psoriasis. Where it was nice to actually have true reasons for his reactions, it also has opened up extremely difficult way of life. AGS has also caused him to have MCAS, which complicates our diet even more. Not only a mentally draining disease, but financially draining as well. Many of the treatments are not covered under his insurance. Our small town grocery stores rarely carry mammal free, vegan foods or ingredients, so we've had to resort to stores 30 minutes away for our groceries. Same with shampoos, detergents, soaps etc. I'm having go order so much from the internet. I could go on for days, but bottom line is whether you acquire AGS or not, this disease WILL affect you, your business, your family/friends. We went from eating beef twice a week, to not even being able to wear a leather belt because it caused hives. Please, we beg you to put more focus on this disease, its prevention and cure. My fiance has made comments in past about how 'off'ing' himself would be better than done days. We're exhausted.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Danielle Johnson. I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in April of 2021. It has caused me issues at work when I don't know if I ate the wrong thing. My stomach does not like it I could be in the bathroom for hours. I try to eat right but not knowing what I can eat hurts. I am having to do a lot of research. I always have to ask what's in something to see if I can eat it. It makes things hard for my family trying to see what I can eat so they can help make things. We need a change since most of the people have alpha gal or know someone with it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha gal has limited everything I do on a daily basis from eating to smelling things to not knowing what exactly is in something because they just put natural flavors to taking medicines mammal is in everything and it's hard to tell when it's not on the ingredients lists



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID SOLOMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I first came to Missouri in 2015 at the age of 27 to work as a seasonal state park employee responsible for leading youth corps members in habitat restoration projects. This was one outdoor, conservation job among many in my career. In 12 states across the country, I have either worked for a federal agency, a nonprofit organization, a state agency, or served as an Americorps volunteer. I have encountered ticks in most of these positions, but I believe it was in Missouri in 2015 that I contracted Alpha Gal Syndrome given the prevalence of the illness here. My first symptoms appeared as full body hives in 2016 while living in Florida. I did not receive a diagnosis until December of 2024. For 8 years, I lived with these mysterious, reoccurring symptoms that included full body hives, swollen lips, gastrointestinal irritability, and wheezing. These symptoms impacted my daily comfort, detracted from my work performance, impacted my mental health, and very nearly could have killed me if my constricted airways were not treated with steroid inhalers or antihistamines. Antihistamines often failed to fully prevent these symptoms. I saw doctors, allergists, and gastroenterologists in multiple states during those 8 years. None of them ever suggested alpha gal as a possibility even though I discussed the type of work I did. I had blood tests, fecal sample tests, a colonoscopy, and allergy panels with food elimination diets for normal food allergens. None of these produced a definitive answer. Finally, at the urging of my girlfriend who is a Registered nurse, I went to a new allergist in Missouri after she expressed concern over my daily need for an Albuterol inhaler. My PCP was unsure of what the cause was for my symptoms, but the allergist quickly pinpointed it. My PCP later told me that I was the first patient she saw with alpha gal whose primary symptom was hives. Since seeing me, she has come across many others.

The extended time without answers was the worst part of having alpha gal for me so far. I hope that required reporting will lead to more awareness among medical professionals so others won't have to go through what I went through. I have adapted to the diet. I have lost a freedom most people take for granted – the freedom to eat what you want when you want. I have to be cautious about anything I consume. This means diligently reading food labels, researching restaurants and calling ahead to make sure I can be accommodated, explaining alpha gal to waiters, not being able to participate in pot-lucks or eat at parties, bringing food with me when traveling because places along the way or at the destination may not be safe. Mammalian ingredients are hidden in many medications. I am concerned that in an emergency situation, the attending physicians won't be familiar enough with alpha gal to quickly find adequate alternatives.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to support this bill and help ensure alpha-gal syndrome is accurately tracked in Missouri. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE ELDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I suffer from Alpha Gal syndrome and am actively involved in agriculture. I am also a managing editor at an agricultural newspaper. Many of us in agriculture suffer and do not even know. I have had this for many years and not been aware. We need reporting on AGS and support from the medical field.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE MARETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in 2019 along with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and later discovered I also have Lyme Disease. . It has been quite a journey since then. In my opinion doctors need required training on how to treat patients with tick borne diseases. I didn't receive timely treatment so I still have lingering effects.

Food labeling needs to be more transparent and I think that Alpha Gal should be considered a major allergy like soy and peanuts are. Those with Alpha Gal spend much time reading labels and researching what is safe for them to eat.

Along the same lines medications and medical supplies need to be labeled better too. Many medications have bovine and porcine ingredients which can cause reactions for us. Medical procedures and tests even simple ones like imaging tests that require barium drinks can be unsafe. I have had two procedures cancelled that my doctor wanted me to have because they couldn't find safe products to use.

Better training, quicker treatment and transparency as to what the ingredients are in food, medications and medical supplies are needed now. Not later.
Please consider the importance of this legislation and its effects on Missouri citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE WADE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal caused a lot of health issues for me. I had no idea what was wrong, but after months of suffering, a test confirmed I am allergic to beef and pork, and have sensitivity to dairy. This had never been a problem for me, and then I started getting sick. Ticks didn't just start causing this health issue. Something has happened to cause a widespread change in ticks to cause this. I have a theory, but meanwhile, I had to give up a lot of foods I love, and if we went out to eat, and the restaurant cooked my order in the same pan, rack, oil, etc as beef or pork, I would get sick. I carry an EpiPen, just in case, but the reason for AlphaGal must be found, so a cure can be created.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal Syndrome was a life changing diagnosis for me at the age of 68. I am no longer comfortable to eat ANY food until I know all the ingredients AND the process by which the food was prepared to determine if the food item is free of mammal ingredients and/or cross contamination with mammal ingredients. I had to change all household cleaning products, health/beauty and makeup to insure they contained no mammal. Try reading ingredient labels on anything and decide with complete confidence that you will not have an anaphylactic episode 3-8 hours later. I went to 8 doctor appointments over 3 months before I finally got help. Until help was found, I kept frozen (wet) towels in a cooler by my bed to place on my skin during the night when reactions were the worst. This was in addition to taking 6 antihistamines/day and sometimes resorted to Benedryl to sleep when I was desperate. I live with fear of ever needing to go to the hospital or live in assisted living, etc. So many health care practitioners are not familiar-nor have any protocol for AG allergy. (Many don't even know what a mammal is) The wrong medication, blood thinner, bandage, lotion, shampoo, laundry detergent, and hospital prepared food could be life threatening for me.

PLEASE HELP get a more accurate understanding of how many people are affected by Alpha Gal in our state so we can get help, education and action.

Thank you!

I am 70 and was diagnosed 3 years ago. I live in Ballwin, MO-in an urban subdivision. It was not uncommon to get ticks in my front yard when planting, weeding, etc. I have now educated myself in tick prevention and treat my entire yard for ticks.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I want to support this bill. My daughter in law has alpha gal for 3 years. Her life is a living nightmare, unable to live like regular people do. No form of meat, no dairy no cologne, perfumes, shampoos, sunscreen, anything with fragrance triggers her symptoms. Most of these products are filtered with bone marrow, which she is do sensitive to. She has to carry a epipen if her symptoms become extreme. She has to limit her time in public, due to these reactions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBRA ALCORN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband and I are retired and on Social Security only. My husband was recently diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome. We have had to completely change the way we cook and eat. Finding food that is safe for him has been a real challenge. Our grocery bill has doubled because most healthy food is more expensive. Shopping trip times have tripled as everything we now purchase must be researched before we buy. Ingredients that I can't even pronounce must be investigated to find out how they are made. It takes 20 minutes to buy a loaf of bread because I must look up if all the ingredients are safe. Shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, supplements and all medications must be researched, ingredient by ingredient. It's difficult enough dealing with the allergic reaction and now we need to become professional investigators to just make sure that he is safe with every single product that he comes in contact with. Not all manufacturers are willing to tell you what's in their products but only what they are required to reveal. AGS is a growing concern across our state and country. A person with this disease could blindly consume something just because a manufacturer is not "legally obligated" to reveal what is in or how their products are made. My husband is 74. It's been a very dramatic and difficult change for him. Our concern is for the children that are now being diagnosed. Just as peanuts, dairy and vegan are required, so should mammal byproducts. There are enough people that have this that it should be required to list as an allergen on all products. As the cook and researcher of my home, I can only say it's been an extremely difficult job finding food, medicine and hygiene items to help my husband recover from severe hives that he has had for two months. I plead with you to pass this bill to help all that have AGS and all that will have it in the future.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE WOLFE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I and my oldest son both have been diagnosed with AGS. This changes everything you can or cannot eat drink or even medications we can take. The WORST ADVICE came from my doctor — to look on Facebook to see what & how others deal with AGS. My doctor told me he don't know anything about AGS. Then tried to prescribe me medication in a gel tab - gelatin is made of bone broth which causes issues. Most sugar is filtered thru bone char. Also, eating out is a scary thing so generally we just don't. Blood testing for AGS was not covered by my insurance so this cost was ALL OUT OF POCKET expense.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA CLARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have recently been diagnosed with Alpha gas syndrome and it has changed my life dramatically. I don't go out to eat anymore. I can enjoy a good steak. It is so expensive to buy all the special food and even then you don't know for sure if it's gonna be OK for you I spent a week in the hospital have been doing tests ever since I got out having to spend lots and lots of money for chest tests before they came up with this, which I can't afford I have appointments coming up to the G.I. doctor and the allergist and I've had many people tell me that acupuncture helps but there's no real proof of that in the medical industry, but I guarantee you I'm gonna try it. I would try anything to get rid of this horrible disease. I am a 77-year-old woman I live in Missouri and I just moved here three years ago from the state of California had no idea this could happen to me. I stay out of the woods. I don't hardly go outside and I think I got it off of one of my dogs so everyone be careful it's horrible.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA RILEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am 70 years old and was bitten by a Lone Star tick on May 26, 2025 that resulted in positive for alpha gal. When my doctor's office called me to give the results, the only advice I was given was to avoid all red meat or dairy. I discovered it was so much more than that to avoid in foods! It has been so life altering in more ways than you can imagine! By making alpha gal reportable, I pray it will bring awareness to all health care providers. It would also make a difference in the lives of those of us who have this life threatening allergy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As an Alpha Gal Syndrome sufferer I can tell you first hand how difficult life has been since my diagnosis. ERs and Drs Scare me. I have to constantly be asking is that Alpha Gal Safe? I have to do the research..Pharmacists don't want to support us. I had a recent ER visit and the Nurses and Drs knew what it was, but they had no idea if anything they gave me had mammal or byproducts in it. We need this reporting, we need to know how many of us suffer with AGS, once we know there can be funding for research, Medical Staff training, etc. Reporting would also help the H.R.1178 Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act. This Act will expand the definition of major food allergen to include galactose-alpha-1, 3-galactose(alpha-gal). The CDC can only estimate how many of us there really are. Arkansas was the first state to make AGS reportable back in 2023! Next to Arkansas we have an explosion of AGS cases. Our neighbors to the north Iowa and Nebraska have mandatory reporting, Remember the CDC has identified AGS as a "growing threat to clinical and public health" Remember the CDC has identified state-level surveillance of AGS as a "critical need". Please for those of us with AGS and our families that suffer with this on a day to day basis pass this bill! Thank you ! Diane Trevorrow Marquette



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DONALD STRAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:28 PM

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

My son has Alpha Gal. Doctors need to learn more about it and keep up with it to help inform inquiring parents/families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUG WOODWORTH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:16 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Anaphylaxis Alpha Gal. The mammal allergy. It is a life threatening disease. One bit of a mammal product in food or medicine can kill you. I have been taking to the emergency room several time for severe reactions. I recently had a surgery and nearly died from a reaction to the medicines that they used.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUGLAS BENNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I contracted Alpha-Gal Syndrome in 2010. I spent the next 8 years trying to find out what was wrong with me. I was miserable and no one had answers. Constant pain, GI symptoms and anaphylactic reactions were all part of daily life to name only a few. The wide range of symptoms and misery that accompany AGS are something I couldn't have imagined in my wildest dream, and all from a tick bite. The delay in finding a diagnosis made life even more difficult, with delayed reactions and no medical staff knowledge there was is still is no help. Now factor in the absolute battle of finding food, personal items and other daily use items that are safe and contain no mammal byproducts. The costs are high, availability of certain items is low and again, there is no cure. Avoidance. Products are not labeled completely or are misleading. Have I mentioned there is no cure and the only medical advice is "Don't eat red meat". Not eating meat is the easy part I suppose, except it's not just "red meat" it's all mammal meats and byproducts, tallow, magnesium stearate, dairy for many people, any and all mammal meats, most all medications, medical products, adhesives, leather, lotions, toothpastes and the list is nearly endless. I meet people on a regular basis that are newly afflicted with this condition, allergy, syndrome, disease or whatever you want to call it. It's life changing and none of it in a good way. This will continue to spread exponentially and no one is ready for this lifestyle. We need help and this needs to be on the forefront of everyone minds.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUGLAS COFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:52 PM

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

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome in July, 2025, but I suspect I may have had this for years, if not decades. Reporting g is necessary to learn more about this syndrome. We also need to gage how fast this epidemic is growing. Not just in Missouri, but nationally as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. CRYSTAL B PEAIRS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) three years ago following a tick bite. The diagnosis was life-altering and unexpected. AGS is not simply a red-meat allergy; it is a complex, systemic allergic condition that affects daily living, personal safety, and access to routine goods and medical care.

Since diagnosis, I have experienced persistent fear, anxiety, and significant lifestyle limitations. Ordinary activities—such as dining out, traveling, purchasing personal care products, or participating in outdoor recreation—require constant vigilance due to the risk of exposure to mammalian derivatives. Clothing materials (wool, cashmere, alpaca, leather), household goods, medications, and even fragrances may trigger reactions. Many commonly used soaps, shampoos, cosmetics, and over-the-counter products contain mammalian ingredients, making safe consumer choices difficult without clear labeling.

The financial burden has been substantial. I have incurred over \$30,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, largely because my ACA policy did not cover “out of network providers” & many of my medications must be specially compounded to exclude mammalian and dairy-derived fillers that are routinely included in standard pharmaceuticals and are often not covered by insurance. Prior to diagnosis, I was referred to numerous medical specialists in search of answers, reflecting the current gap in clinical awareness and standardized education regarding AGS. (Doctors I was advised to see - PCP, Allergist, Rheumatologist, gynecologist, ophthalmologist, chiropractor, acupuncturist, infectious disease specialist, mental health therapist, physical therapist, massage therapist and Lyme disease specialist)

A significant concern is the lack of provider training and inconsistent medical guidance. Many healthcare professionals have limited familiarity with AGS, which can lead to misinformation, delayed diagnosis, and potentially dangerous recommendations. Improved medical education and standardized protocols are critical to patient safety and timely identification of the condition.

Key legislative priorities to support individuals with AGS include:

Clear and enforceable labeling requirements for foods, medications, and personal care products identifying mammalian-derived ingredients.

Insurance coverage for compounded medications when medically necessary to avoid mammalian or dairy excipients.

Required continuing education for healthcare providers to ensure accurate diagnosis, treatment, and patient counseling.

Mandated reporting of AGS diagnoses to establish reliable public health data and track prevalence.

Measures to reduce medical errors and unsafe treatments, including clinical safeguards and disclosure standards to prevent the administration of mammalian-derived medications or materials that may trigger severe allergic reactions.

These measures would reduce preventable medical risk, lessen financial hardship, and improve quality of life for Missouri residents living with Alpha-gal Syndrome.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Dr. Crystal B Peairs

Saint Louis, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH DELABAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Living every day is like playing Russian Roulette. It is nearly impossible to know whether you are eating a food or taking a medication, including OTC and prescriptions, that contains an allergen. I am afraid to get vaccines as well. I spent 9 months completely covered in hives before diagnosed accurately. One accidental ingestion can send me to the ER. All of my doctors say I should carry an Epipen, however, I can't get my insurance company to cover them. Because mammalian products are hidden, you can't easily tell when they are in products.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:14 AM

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

Alpha Gal has critically impacted, not just my life, but the life of my family. My health has significantly been impacted with challenges in maintaining nutritional balance, energy, and focus. Our grocery bills have tripled in cost due to being unable to find easily available food that is not processed.

My relationships have also been impacted. My young boys struggle with me not being able to be involved in holiday meals with families, birthday parties, and other important events. I find it is often easier to isolate myself than to ask questions of what's in food and how it was prepared.

My employment as well has suffered. Communal lunch areas are not safe. Airborne sensitivity becomes a challenge. Trying to focus with going long amounts of time without food has been problematic.

The medical community has struggled to provide necessary, treatment, support, and education. This has only increased my challenges. Conflicting information eats away at my Faith for those we want to trust with our health.

We need to support these individuals and families better. Providing education, prevention, and accommodations for those with this condition are essential to keep our communities, strong and healthy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMMA J SCHRAG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal two weeks ago before finding out I was pregnant with my son. This disease impacted not only my diet, but what prenatal vitamins I could take, which glucose drink I could have at the lab, and even what creams and lotions I could use on my baby once he was born. This allergy is widespread and affects Missourians of ALL ages, right down to my newborn son. In order to receive the best medical care, numbers must be collected to show just how prevalent this allergy is. Many doctors are under the assumption that it is mild, and affects only specific dietary choices. This could not be further from the truth.

We need awareness, research, and clarity when it comes to Alpha Gal Syndrome, and we cannot hope to achieve those if we don't even know how many people are affected.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN BACKES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal is a real disease and it is a real problem and it affects more than just the person who has it. It affects the whole family. My husband has Alpha Gal and when I tell you it has affected every aspect of our lives I am not kidding. We have faught more because when you don't feel good you tend to take it out on others. We don't go out to eat because it's not worth the risk of getting sick from cross contamination or even just the smell of a beef burger or bacon in a restaurant. My husband dose react to fumes, we went camping one weekend in April of 2025 and the camper 2 up from us was frying bacon and the wind was coming our direction and made him sick. He was in the camper most of the weekend instead of enjoying our time camping. We have spent countless days over the past 3 years in the ER and the doctors think you're crazy saying you just have a bad case of acid reflux NO that's not what this is!! We have spent so much money on Dr bills and meds.

But the biggest challenge is your mental health, not only on the patient but their families. I worry every single day weather I am going to come home to my husband and he just wants to give up because he is tired of feeling like crap. It has taken a toll on our 3 kids because they can't have a beef steak or a hamburger anymore.

In our small town of Linn doesn't have dairy free much of anything so then you have to make a special trip to Jefferson City to buy groceries that are more expensive because dairy free isn't cheap at all!! And when you do find it you stock up on it because it's not easily accessible.

Thank you for your time



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN SHARP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:49 PM
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I have had Alpha-Gal unofficially for approximately 17 years and officially diagnosed for 4 years. Over the years my symptoms have changed. I eat pretty clean and almost never eat out. I have changed all of the non food products that bother me like lotions, laundry detergent, soaps and cosmetics. Yet, I still have reactions. I am highly reactive to the smell of skunk and recently started to see a new reaction to fumes from food. I work in education and luckily I have the ability to move to a different building if the fumes from the kitchen bother me.

Since this is considered an anytime not an every time allergy, it becomes extra tricky. You spend days trying to figure out why you had a reaction. Throw on top of everything that your reaction can be immediate, 2-3hrs later or even 6-8hrs later. You have to question your "safe foods". Did they change the ingredients in the sliced turkey? Is that water filtered through bone char? They said the sour cream is vegan but even vegan foods aren't always safe.

Your other allergies seem to be on steroids after you get Alpha-Gal. I've been stung by bees and wasps plenty of times but all of a sudden I was headed down the road of throat- closing anaphylaxis after a wasp sting. Living in rural Missouri with the nearest hospital 30 minutes away was terrifying.

I've learned how to manage my situation but its not easy. Everything is more expensive from food to health care. I don't often talk about my Alpha-Gal because people don't understand how complex it is and it is exhausting saying the same things over and over. "No, its not just red meat". "Pork is a mammal." "I understand the eggs are in the dairy section but they don't come from a cow. They come from a chicken so I can eat them. Well, I can eat them if the chickens are feed a mammal free diet. Yes, chickens eat mammal by products and that can be an issue." "Do you know the definition of mammal because it isn't only hooved animals that are mammals."

Talking to doctors can be exhausting as well. I always want to see the ingredient list on meds. And not just the active ingredients. You have to scan the inactive ingredients, too. Do you have any idea of all the words used to say a product has dairy in it? Its insane.

The more we can learn about Alpha-Gal the better it will be for everyone. Years of misdiagnosed condition and the shrugging of shoulders because they couldn't find anything is stressful. Let's help the newly diagnosed by tracking the syndrome and educating the doctors and the public.

Alpha-Gal the club no one wants to join!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GENEVIEVE WESEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:46 PM
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Testimony in Support of HB1855

My name is Genevieve Weseman, and I am writing in support of HB1855. Professionally, I am an epidemiologist and data analyst, and personally, I have lived with Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) since 2016, with a formal diagnosis in 2018. My daughter was diagnosed three years ago at the age of 15. This diagnosis has deeply affected my entire family—more than I can fully describe in this brief format. In addition to avoiding mammalian foods, medications, and topical products, I cannot be in the same room with cooked mammalian products, perfumes, or certain cleaning products. This week alone, I have used my EpiPen twice. AGS has made working in an office, participating in everyday activities, and accessing medical care incredibly challenging.

Adding Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) and Lyme disease to Missouri's list of mandatory reportable conditions will help public health officials better track, monitor, and respond to these growing tick-borne threats. Surveillance is a foundational public health tool—it enables us to understand disease burden, identify geographic hotspots, educate clinicians, and allocate resources effectively.

Data from a 2022 CDC MMWR report estimated more than 80,385 suspected AGS cases nationally between 2017 and 2021. Additionally, the CDC estimated there may be nearly half a million individuals currently living with AGS in the United States. A study published last year estimated that the overall incidence proportion rose by over 5,500%. These studies most likely underestimate the true number of people living with AGS, as there is currently no formal surveillance in place.

Emerging research has identified multiple tick species as potential AGS vectors in addition to the lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*), including the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), and the invasive longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). The longhorned tick has been implicated in AGS transmission in Asia and has recently been detected in new areas of Missouri, expanding concerns about its role in spreading AGS and other diseases in our state.

Additionally, a 2024 NIH study found that Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, ranked among the top three locations nationally—within the study population—for the highest rates of newly detected alpha-gal IgE sensitization among military recruits. Across the existing research, Missouri is often implicated as a hotspot for AGS cases.

The evidence is clear: AGS is an emerging and under-recognized public health concern with a growing footprint in Missouri. Without accurate case reporting and surveillance, we are missing critical opportunities to educate clinicians, support affected families, and develop prevention strategies. HB1855 is a necessary and timely step forward to ensure Missouri is prepared to meet this challenge with data-informed action.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I strongly encourage your support of HB1855, which will improve clinical awareness and public health surveillance for these life-altering conditions

and help translate data into action and prevention for the people of Missouri.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GIN HARNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:47 PM
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My name is Ginger Harne and I began having anaphylactic reactions in April of 2014. I experienced 12 anaphylactic reactions in nine months. My first few visits to the ER were taken quite seriously, I was treated with care and concern, and a few times I was kept in the ICU for two days due to biphasic reactions and an extremely elevated heart rate. Sadly, there were a couple times when it was dismissed as anxiety and appropriate care was not given. If I had not given myself an EpiPen injection it is possible that I would not be alive to share my story. I was transported to Columbia during a reaction with biphasic reactions by an ER doctor at Fort Leonardwood because he took the time to look at my history and thought there was more to my diagnosis than anxiety and what was labeled as idiopathic anaphylaxis. From there I was given a referral to an allergist at Barnes Jewish in St. Louis. She did bloodwork to rule out a new red meat allergy known as Alpha Gal. It was positive—that diagnosis changed my life in many ways. I follow a very strict diet, however, managing symptoms is more than just not eating red meat. Many foods have hidden mammal, body washes, shampoos, and lotions, cause reactions, and one of the biggest culprits for me has been the cross contamination from foods that are safe for me to eat being cooked alongside those that contain mammal. I am also highly fume reactive. When I have a reaction Taking a Benadryl and Zantac 360 will curb the symptoms if I take it when I notice the first symptom, which oddly enough is my ears becoming red and inflamed. When symptoms persist I use my EpiPen auto injector. Since being diagnosed with Alpha gal, I am on a daily regiment of antihistamines – I take to Zantac, to Claritin, a Benadryl, and his Zantac 360 daily. I also use Cromolyn sodium three times daily at meal time to keep me from having digestive reactions. sadly, some of these products are sold in forms that contain alpha gal and can actually cause me to have a reaction. Because the formulation is constantly changing and can differ from one pharmaceutical company to another, I must carefully check labels each time I buy an over-the-counter medication. I also must specifically ask for medications that do not contain mammal when filling prescriptions..When I do have a reaction, even after I have stopped the anaphylactic reaction, for 3 to 5 days I have rashes, Ringing, ears, bone pain, eye irritation, and sensitivity to high histamine foods. I know a lot of progress has been made in the testing and diagnosis of Alpha gal in the last 12 years. I've learned to manage it fairly well, and most of my reactions now are very mild compared to those I had in the beginning. I do wish there was more awareness on the diversity of this allergy as it affects people in different ways. Accurate food labels, more safe products and foods, as well as more education for doctors will be beneficial for the safety and well-being of patients with Alpha gal. My journey begin when Alpha gal was a little known phenomenon, and doctors were still very skeptical or lacked knowledge regarding it. My hope is that the journey will be easier for those who receive a new diagnosis of Alpha gal today and will continue to improve overtime.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GINNY YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:54 AM
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Alpha-gal syndrome is complicated and different from person to person. "Clear as mud" much like the food labeling. Natural flavors/flavoring are not clear food ingredients. Food manufacturers should be required to give a breakdown. I have called many food companies directly only to get a response of "the ingredients are proprietary".



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GLENDA M. MCILVAINE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:49 PM
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I have had alpha gal for almost 4 years and in November I became fume reactive to mammal meat cooking and go into anaphylactic shock when I smell it cooking. I can't even eat out or go into a store with a deli where they are cooking mammal meat. I also have to be aware of "hidden" mammal products in different items like shampoo, toilet tissue, sugar, marshmallows and many, many others. Many prescription drugs have beef or pork gelatin in the capsules and now many restaurants cook or season food with beef tallow. Even chicken or turkey hot dogs often have a pork casing. It is time consuming reading every label and then having to contact the manufacturer to see if there "natural flavors" contain beef or pork -- which usually does.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRACELYN CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:31 AM
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When I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome, my entire life changed. My grocery shopping, cooking, restaurant choices, and even cosmetic/hygiene products, ALL had to change and be swapped for alpha gal friendly products. It is very mentally taxing to eat and never be 100% sure I won't have a reaction. My mother and brother also suffer from this disease.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRACEN PULLUM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:11 AM
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Living with Alpha-Gal is a hard life. I've been diagnosed with it since November 2024 and although my reaction to red meat and dairy products is not as bad as some may have it's still been a hard way of living. Going out for a meal can be stressful, either get sick for hours after eating or explain the disease to restaurant staff then beg and pray that they don't have a mix up in the kitchen. Grocery shopping has become something i dread even more than I ever have due to cost and uncertainty. I'm in the isles longer reading labels and ingredients looking for anything that could trigger me. I react less severely than others but I react to a lot of things. It's different for everybody with it and to me it makes it much harder to find an easy answer on what's safe for me. I've found that trying different foods and crossing them off the list is the only way to find what I do or don't react to. Not only has it hurt my pockets in the store but also my mental health. Not having answers other than "red meat" has been hard on me. The uncertainty of if I'll be sick after eating something I know isn't safe is a scary feeling. I hope we get more research and answers and I will do anything I can to help make it possible. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GREG KEIMIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:50 PM

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this disease needs to be tracked so an immunization can be given to all



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HALEY STANFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:57 PM
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I was diagnosed with Alpha-gal December 6th, 2025 after an emergency visit to the ER. I was bitten by over 50 seed ticks while camping back in October 2025 and kept getting strange patches of hives randomly. Urgent care shrugged me off and said I was likely becoming allergic to detergent or something else. Despite me showing the over 50 bites I had, they still didn't think a tick-related illness was possible from seed ticks. December 6th, I had eaten a burger and roughly 4 hours later, I woke up in the middle of the night with my heart racing (120 bps per my watch). Despite trying to calm myself down, I got up and went to the restroom for water. I saw massive amounts of swelling and full body hives. A sense of doom and panic set in and I rushed to the ER. I was going into anaphylactic shock. Thankfully, they picked up on the symptoms and I was later diagnosed with Alpha-gal. This diagnosis has completely altered my quality of life. I am now allergic to all mammalian meats and byproducts. I can no longer eat my favorite food and am now restricted to fish and bird meat. I live in fear of having reactions and many restaurants and food companies are not aware of this allergy. For example, did you know turkey sausage typically contains "natural flavorings" which sometimes includes beef broth. The casings typically are derive from beef/pork as well. Medicines with gel caps are derived from mammalian products. So many hidden opportunities to send one into anaphylaxis. Many if us have to pay for a subscription in food scanning apps to help ensure our food is safe to eat and allergen-free. Please pass this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HALLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:45 AM
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For years, I couldn't understand why I was getting stomach pain after meals that had never bothered me before. I had unexplained joint pain, labs that showed inflammation, referrals to multiple specialist but never a cause until this past summer my PCP tested for Alpha Gal. It was positive, my PCP didn't have a lot of information so I started to research on my own. I cut out mammal meat and within a week my joint pain was better. I could walk without wincing at every step. I can play with my kids and sit in the floor again.

Despite the growing number of cases, Alpha-gal is not consistently tracked. Without making it a reportable condition, we lack accurate data on how many people are affected, where cases are concentrated, and how the illness is progressing over time. Public health officials cannot respond effectively to a condition that is not systematically measured.

Making Alpha-gal syndrome reportable would:

Provide accurate surveillance data

Help identify geographic trends and high-risk areas

Increase provider awareness and earlier diagnosis

Support research funding and public education

Improve patient safety

As someone living with this condition, I can say with certainty that greater awareness and research are desperately needed. Many individuals suffer for years without answers. Others face severe reactions without understanding the cause.

This legislation is not just about data, it is about protecting lives, improving public health response, and ensuring that those affected are seen and counted.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HENKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:47 PM

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my husband has been effective by alpha gal and also has Lyme disease in remission. its effected him in so many ways as he is a needy and chef that loves to cook and no longer can enjoy some of his favorite things.In life because of it. such as food.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER LAGARCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 1:43 AM
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I was diagnosed a year ago. Thank goodness my doctor tested me for alpha gal since I had no clue what it was. Cutting out the foods that I didn't realize till after were putting me in so much pain, having constant issues, and being told I'm just lazy. When I was actually having a reaction to food I didn't know was the issue. How would most of us, prior to diagnosis, would have known that the typical American cheeseburger would cause full body pains. That milk and cheese were causing me to go to the bathroom but I didn't have a typical lactose intolerance. That just smelling the fumes of pork being cooked can cause a migraine that puts me out for a day or two. I have to read every ingredient label, because picking up turkey dogs doesn't automatically mean I can eat that, since a lot of them use pork/beef casing that will spark a reaction. Things will say it's vegan or dairy-free but then it's still has some milk product in it. I have to email sugar brands to make sure they don't use cow bone char when they process the sugar because that's contaminates it and can cause a reaction. I had to quite a job because of this. I have to spend extra time every week during grocery shopping to make sure I know what the ingredients are and that they aren't using a new word for an animal byproduct. This completely changed not just my life but my families, to better support me and make sure I can live a fun filled pain free life with them.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER MARGARET RUNYAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:48 PM
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I was diagnosed with Alpha gal syndrome in 2021. It has changed my lifestyle dramatically. I can no longer eat at many restaurants. Job options are limited, as exposure to mammal cooking fumes can trigger a reaction. Medications, medical supplies, medical treatments have to be researched thoroughly before use. Cosmetics, toiletries, detergents, lotions also can cause reactions. I have met at least a dozen people in the two communities I have lived in that have AGS, and many more that have relatives or someone close that has it. Tracking this disease would surely help educate not only the general public, but also the medical community.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER MCRAE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:15 PM
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My name is Heather McRae, and I am writing in support of HB1855.

I have been living with Alpha-Gal Syndrome for over 10 years. My condition is severe and includes life-threatening anaphylactic reactions. Alpha-Gal is not simply a food sensitivity — it is a serious allergy to mammalian meat and mammal-derived products that can cause delayed but severe reactions, including throat swelling, difficulty breathing, and emergency medical intervention.

Because of this condition, I must constantly monitor food ingredients, medications, supplements, vaccines, and even personal care products for hidden mammalian derivatives. Ingredients such as gelatin, glycerin, magnesium stearate, and other animal-based additives are not always clearly labeled. This creates daily stress, medical risk, and fear of accidental exposure.

I carry emergency medication at all times. Even with vigilance, the risk remains high because labeling is inconsistent and awareness among healthcare providers, schools, and food establishments is limited.

My 16-year-old son has also been diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. Watching your child face the same life-threatening reactions is overwhelming. He must navigate school, social events, restaurants, and sports with constant caution. Teenagers should not have to live with fear that a mislabeled ingredient could send them into anaphylaxis.

Alpha-Gal is a growing public health concern in our state due to tick exposure. Families like mine need greater awareness, transparency, and protections.

HB1855 is important because it supports individuals living with Alpha-Gal Syndrome and helps reduce preventable medical emergencies. Clear labeling, education, and recognition of this condition can save lives.

I urge you to support HB1855 for the safety and well-being of families affected by Alpha-Gal Syndrome. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather McRae



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:05 AM
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I have Alpha Gal, and feel that this measure will help insure that people like me get better medical care and help meet nutritional and medical needs through mandatory allergen labeling on food, supplements, medicine and medical equipment and supplies. Mammal byproducts are hidden in a surprisingly large and inconvenient amount of places, making accidental exposures are common.

I was in a chronic flare up before being diagnosed, my health was in a downward spiral. I still have bad days after an exposure, some of those from cross contamination, that I can pinpoint, but some I cannot and I believe those reactions come from hidden mammalian ingredients that no one has to disclose, because this disease continues to go unrecognized as important.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 13 year old daughter suffers from Alpha Gal. What started out as a few aches and pains turned into hives and itching all over her body. This may not seem like much to some people, but imagine you're a kid on a class trip to the movies. You have to be careful what snacks you eat. Then after the movies they take the entire class to Taco Bell. Because of Alpha Gal, you can't eat there. Yeah they have chicken options, but they don't worry about cross contamination. So you get to either do without or wait until you get back to school and get a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. That's just one thing that has happened to my daughter. We can't fix anything with beef in the house. If she is in the same room as beef cooking, she breaks out in hives, starts having an itchy throat, and itching all over her body. She now carries an EpiPen because we've had too many close calls.

My daughter is old enough to understand that she has an illness and just can't have certain foods. Imagine a 5 year old that doesn't understand the situation and just wants to eat gummy worms that her best friend brought to school, guess what, she can't. Gummy worms have gelatin in them and that gelatin contains a beef byproduct that she can't have.

It's hard to really comprehend how upsetting, frustrating and even depressing that this illness brings to the individual who suffers from Alpha-Gal. I urge you to do some research and just try to understand what these individuals go through when it comes to eating.

My daughter has sat and cried all because she just wants a "normal" cheeseburger. Not a turkey burger, a beef burger. She just wants to be "normal" again. She tells me all the time she hates telling people "I'm sorry I can't have that" and then they start asking questions on why not?

We are fortunate that her alpha gal is not as serious as some others. She can have dairy from time to time.

I appreciate your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HILARY CONNOLLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please help all of us with Alpha gal, I have had Alpha Gal since November 2025, and it has affected everything in my life. This condition changes not only what and how you eat and cook your meals. It changed what I feed my dogs, and what I use for shampoo, soap, toothpaste, lotion etc. My medications also had to change because capsules have mammal products in them. Also, odors are a big deal; they can cause reactions. My car has leather seats and steering wheel cover, so I have covered them, and it's easier to drive now. Organic food is a must, and the cost is very high for all households. Thank you for your attention to this growing problem. Hilary Connolly, Mountain View. MO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAIMI LARSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My eldest daughter was a well adjusted teenager, a leader in her church youth group, a proficient piano player, a runner, and an avid learner in her home-school studies. She was active, healthy and vibrant. She became violently ill in July of 2021.

We went to the ER suspecting appendicitis. We were told she was constipated.

We sought the help of our PCP. She had no clue but also thought it might be appendicitis, gave us the name of a general surgeon, and told us to go to the ER if things got worse. But because of COVID, she advised that we NOT go to Springfield, MO

We had 4 more ER visits. 2 in West Plains, ST Louis, and eventually Springfield.

We were told it was not appendicitis, that it was a miscommunication between her brain and her abdomen. She was discharged in the same amount of pain as when we went in, even when an alarm was going off because her blood pressure was too low - 84/56.

We promptly followed up with every specialist referral I could get. I was even suspected/accused of abusing my daughter at a GI specialist appointment because I was running out of patience when doctors would tell me it was in her head. He subjected her to a colon clean out twice in 2 weeks, resulting in medically induced IBS, that she still suffered from.

She went to a cardiologist who told her she was too young to be sitting around and to get up and live her life. She would have if she could have! But he dismissed us.

We had CT scans, ultrasounds, a hida scan, blood draws, heart monitors, POTS testing, and more.

We went to a general surgeon. He LISTENED. While she did not present typically for Alpha Gal, he asked if she had been tested for "Alpha Gal." "No." He ordered the test and 2 days later we had an explanation!

Diagnosis: November 2021

We have a health share, not insurance. I was treated as a self pay customer and had to negotiate as best as I could, pay the bill, and then submit the bill and hope for some sort of reimbursement. My daughter's medical bills exceeded \$60k. We depleted our savings and then got on a payment plan. It nearly broke us. We eventually sold our house because expenses were so high.

The daily battle for answers was over. But her health was desperate.

She lived on the living room couch because the thought of walking to the bathroom was difficult enough; stairs were out of the question. She was very thin and remained ill for over a year. We did a LOT of self education and saw an allergist among other doctors. It was not until our 2nd or 3rd visit that the allergist gave us an extensive list of things to avoid. My daughter's Alpha Gal was SEVERE.

In June 2024, my son had a sudden onset of a severe headache. No other complaints/symptoms. We saw a couple of doctors and they did not help. He struggled, but lived with it the best he could. In May 2025, he had a severe abdominal pain, worse releasing than pushing - classic appendicitis. We went to the ER. The doctors did an ultrasound and a CT scan. They said it did not clearly look like appendicitis, but they did not rule it out. He was admitted to the hospital and another surgeon made the decision to operate based on my son's presentation and pain and guarding during a physical exam. In the post operation meeting with the surgeon I was informed that all the organs in his abdomen were inflamed. I asked if it could be Alpha Gal and he declined to problem solve and abruptly ended the meeting.

I refused to leave the hospital without having the Alpha Gal blood draw done.

Our health share now has a relationship with the medical facility/group we go to. However, the hospital is balance billing me. I am still currently disputing a bill for over \$43k.

My son was last bitten by a tick in May or June of 2024. He also presents atypically with reaction times of 12-24 hours.

Thankfully he is not as sensitive as my girls.

SAAT has worked wonders for him.

After my son's appendectomy, I asked that everyone in our family be tested at their next doctor's appointments.

We soon discovered that my youngest daughter has Alpha Gal. She is currently struggling medically. One doctor completely dismissed her symptoms. He lectured us about how very, very rare Alpha Gal is and how it is almost impossible to be as sensitive as we were describing the precautions we take to be needed. He arrogantly said she was depressed and put her on antidepressants that made things worse, not better. We have since learned she has another medical condition not related to, but exacerbated by Alpha Gal.

I will not allow my experience to be at the mercy of someone else's opinion.

I am extremely persistent and forever an advocate for each of my children.

Alpha Gal has been minimized and dismissed in my interactions with doctors.

I currently know SEVERAL people with Alpha Gal. Alpha Gal has become common in less than 5 short years in the Ava, MO area. My daughter was the first person I knew with Alpha Gal.

Please help doctors and medical professionals wake up to this epidemic by requiring that they report positive cases.

A \$32 test can save tens of thousands of dollars wasted in misdiagnosing so many. Or at the very least rule it out before beginning the expensive journey of testing.

I learned of the hearing only today, but I felt compelled to write.

Not only is this about reporting cases to medical professionals to increase awareness and diagnostics in the medical field. Alpha Gal is literally life altering. It is physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausting.

I am ever grateful for alternative practitioners taking Alpha Gal seriously and finding helpful solutions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES MANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 4:21 PM

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I was finally diagnosed with Alpha Gal in 2020 after several years of unexplained stomach issues and trips to the emergency room due to rashes and trouble breathing. I personally know of 5 other people who have Alpha Gal. It's spreading all over.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE LEA FRISBIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 5:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Alpha Gal Syndrome. It effects me daily. I have to read labels food, medicine and product labels every time I shop. I have to look up ingredients, contact manufacturers to verify ingredients, which many don't know where it was sourced at. This effects me daily. It makes it hard to find products that are safe for me. I am limited in what products I can buy, use, and consume. I spend 3 hours just doing a quick store run because every time I have to look up everything. We need labels to clearly state if they have mammal products included. This would help tremendously.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANIS A GENDRON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Having been diagnosed with AlphaGal in 2009 I have been eating 'fins and feathers' ever since. This is easy to control at home but eating out is scary. If my grilled chicken is cooked on grill next to a burger or pork chop, cross contamination, could send me to ER with hives and swollen throat affecting my breathing. The oil used for frying could do the same thing if mammal based. Questioning the waitress or cook can cause various reactions, but to me it could be life changing so I have to question. Legislation to increase general public knowledge would be appreciated for each of us who are living with AlphaGal.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON BACKES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm not able to attend. Alpha gal has severely affected my life and my family. I was diagnosed 2 years ago and was sick for at least a year before that. I'm very reactive (including fumes). My wife cooked bacon for my son's breakfast sandwiches for school outside last night because of the fumes. This is a life altering disease that very few know about including doctors and hospitals. Before diagnosed I would be sick for days at a time, would take 3-5 days off work after exposure to start feeling better. Different times I would be sick in bed for 4-5 days. You have to worry about everything. We had to find medication that didn't have mammal products in them and stop some that we could find an alternative. The last 2 winter I haven't taken a flu shot because my doctor and/or pharmacy couldn't find a vaccine that was safe. If you get sick and need antibiotics you have to have a doctor and they pharmacy willing to find something safe or do without.

Next. The cost. When shopping for food you have to look at ingredients on everything and hope if you find safe food it actually is or if you have found something safe that the manufacturer hasn't changed the process and it is no longer safe. Then the cost aspect most vegan, mammal free food is for people who want that life style and are willing to pay premium prices for said item. Also the next problem is finding stores that even care vegan/mammal free stuff. Small town grocery stores carry a very limited amount of mammal free stuff if any. Even in Jefferson City the amount of stuff you can find compared to larger cities. When you find meat alternatives like emu or ostrich it is very expensive. So the cost of food is very expensive. So when you have a family with 3 school aged kids and you can't cook any mammal products in the house and they have to just like you it is expensive. I would guess in since being diagnosed our grocery bill has double just to have safe foods. Also we have basically had to quite eating out because options are so limited and the risk of being sick for 3-5 days is not worth the risk.

Then the stress on the family. It has been very stressful on my relationship with my wife. The extra cost of groceries, being sick a lot, missing work with out pay, worrying about how you are going to pay the bills. Lowered income from missing work, higher grocery bills, medical bills and other expenses transportation finding help with your family when you can't do it when you are sick.

Then the mental part. When you go to the doctor, ER or whatever and they blow you off like you are crazy or it's in your head, when you know something is wrong but no one will listen. Some days you start to wonder if it is worth it. Also you worry about your family they even believe you. Then let's to about you carrier and every time you miss work for 3 days and wonder will this be the last time they want to keep you employed.

So you can see this is so much more than just an allergy to red meat. For some it is but others it is so much more. For me a lot of days it is almost a disabling disease but it is not recognized as such or even on a lot of peoples radar. Some days I almost wish I had cancer, ms, Parkinson's or something

that is recognized as a life alternating disease.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON GILLISPIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a disabled Navy Veteran who first got diagnosed with Alpha Gal back in march of 2018 after having symptoms that started in sept 2017 and multiple Dr's couldn't figure why I was having allergic reactions for 6 months and multiple trips to the ER and it wasn't until march of 2018 when I got sent to MU for testing and the DR there knew exactly what it was after hearing my symptoms and the blood work confirmed that I had alpha gal and that one tick bite brought out everything that had been underlying in me for years like vertigo anxiety and nerve damage and now I can't be on certain meds from that tick bite and there are still a lot of DR's that don't understand this terrible disease and it's hard not just for people like me but our family's as well for example can't eat out anymore especially on road trips and now we have to read every label at the grocery store and now it will be 8 years in march that i have been living with this with no signs of it improving



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAXX FRUGI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:35 PM

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

I have been diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) for nearly two years. I struggled at first with finding foods I could safely consume, products I could use safely, and being able to participate in family events. When I was first diagnosed, I was fine reactive and could not be around mammalian meats when they were being cooked. This syndrome caused me to become reclusive and socially avoidant. I am in full support of this bill, because being able to track this tick-borne illness is the first step to being able to work towards understanding and accommodation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE BOOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 4:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha gal awareness



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE KLEWEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Jeanette Klewein; born and raised in St. Peters, where I still reside, I am a wife married to my high school sweetheart, and mother of two beautiful little boys, 8 and 10 years old. I run a wedding photo and video company with my husband, where I get the pleasure of capturing people's happiest memories.

A year and a half ago I began waking up in the middle of the night in full Anaphylaxis. Unable to breathe, my body ejecting everything (through both ends), terrible burning hives like fire all over my body, a racing pulse and dimming vision, to the point of passing out, getting a concussion and suffering from a seizure. I was minutes from death.

The hospitals didn't know what was wrong, and were baffled that I hadn't eaten or drunk anything in hours. With no explanation of what it could be, and no way to prevent another outbreak, how could I stop this, if I didn't know what was causing it?

It took five months of middle of the night emergency room visits, and on nights I didn't wake up near death, I couldn't sleep for fear that this could be the night I didn't wake up in time to call 911.

After many doctors' visits, I found an allergist who knew how to correctly test for Alpha-Gal Syndrome. She said my signs and symptoms were textbook for this disease.

Since my diagnosis, my entire life has needed to change. I can no longer work weddings because even being around the fumes of cooking meat incapacitates me, which I found out at an event that served bacon hors d'oeuvres. We have needed to completely restructure our business, taking on so many more expenses to cover the work I used to be able to do.

My grocery bill has increased exponentially to cover the costs of more expensive "health" food and personal products that don't contain any irritants. I can't even safely drink bottled water, and using toilet paper out normally results in a week of uncomfortable itching.

My time is now taken up by fixing every single meal from scratch. I don't have the luxury of using anything pre-packaged, and I haven't eaten at a restaurant in a year. Leaving the house has become a scary adventure, and traveling is something I cannot even begin to fathom.

Unfortunately, Alpha-Gal syndrome doesn't come with a manual, and successfully navigating this complicated disease should come with an honorary degree considering how much learning needs to

be done just to simply exist on a day to day basis.

Right now, we need numbers. Tick borne illnesses, especially Alpha-Gal Syndrome, are growing at a frightening rate. But right now, we don't know how fast. We can only guess. My cousin is a physician at Wash U, and has seen a significant increase in Alpha-Gal. Enough to make the entire hospital take notice.

My personal GP has gone from never having heard of Alpha-Gal, to now having over 20 patients in the past 2 years.

The numbers are rising quickly. And if we don't start taking measures now, we're going to be blindsided.

I love this state. I was born and raised here, and I have been so proud of how Missouri has historically taken measures to protect the health and wellness of its citizens. We have the opportunity to do so again. Missouri is a hot spot for Alpha-Gal Syndrome, and we can take advantage of that by being on the cutting edge of documentation of the growth of tick borne illnesses.

This disease will spread. It's already on every continent across the globe with the exception of Antarctica. Let the world look to us for guidance and information. Let Missouri be the hub for healthcare for people suffering and research into how to help. But we cannot do that without numbers. Tacking equals numbers. Numbers equal funding and research.

It has been a year and a half for me. My family has been forced to watch me suffer with this, with no way of helping. My son, Leo, was 6 when he had to watch his "sleeping" mom being carried off in an ambulance. He didn't know if his Mommy would be there when he woke up in the morning. He has experienced more fear in the past year and a half than any child should ever have to experience. Now, he is 8 years old. And a month ago he was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. Please help us track this so that when Leo grows up, he doesn't have to live in fear like I do.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANNE G MUNTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

May I begin by saying thank you to the representatives who support this. It is wonderful for those of us with AGS to be heard! Alpha-gal has turned my life, and that of my family, upside down. I was diagnosed in November of 2021, just a few days before Thanksgiving. Ironically, I was on my way to pick up the beef we had just had butchered, when I got the call from my doctor, confirming the extreme changes coming for my future self. You see, we raise cattle on our farm. For years we have raised beef to feed our family and (maybe) yours. I knew when I picked up the processed beef that day that I would never be able to eat any of it.

Little did I know that my condition would become so bad that I can't even have that beef, or any mammalian food, cooked in my house. I can't be around it being cooked, or walk into a steak house restaurant. Fume reactions sound looney, I know. I would have been skeptical myself, but I have experienced just how very real and debilitating they are. My throat begins to close up, I cough very hard, and become light headed. I have to take rescue medications such as Benadryl, to get my body to settle down. I carry two EpiPens in case the Benadryl doesn't work. Typically, after a fume reaction, I will get shaky and cold, then I have to sleep off the Benadryl. I've lost hours and hours of my life sleeping off Benadryl.

Since we are on the subject of fume reactions, I would like to explain how they have progressed from bad to worse. I now react to chemical smells, as well. Cleaners, perfume, cologne, candles, plug-ins, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dog and cat dander, and the most unexpected of all, skunk spray! Right now it is skunk mating season in Missouri. They are all out and about on important missions, and being hit by cars on the road. That smell can send me into a reaction like I listed above. It can be rather dangerous while driving. The fear of fume reactions has kept me from many activities I used to enjoy.

As a result of a tick bite, I've had to change my diet and my lifestyle. Many of the products I need were not available in rural Missouri grocery stores. We have worked with local stores to encourage them to carry a small variety of products so that we can still shop locally. I still have to go to Springfield or Amazon for many items. I've become sensitive to gums used in foods such as salad dressings. I make most every meal from scratch. Single ingredients put together to make our food.

I am a retired school teacher. I retired early partly because of the difficulty of dealing with alpha-gal. It was frustrating, and honestly, embarrassing. While I was trying to figure out my new lifestyle, my body was still all over the place with reactions. My apologies for the TMI, but I frequently had unexpected, uncontrollable, explosive diarrhea. I experienced cramping and abdominal pain, bloating and gas. I had brain fog and extreme fatigue. Some people break out in hives. I had a few for a while, but not bad.

Mostly I had itchy, itchy skin that was very distracting and uncomfortable. It was very difficult to teach school with all these health issues going on. My coworkers were very supportive, but I didn't feel I could continue under the circumstances. I was close to retirement, so I chose to retire early. I've lost income because of that. If I had taught a couple more years, my retirement package would have been a little more.

Another difficulty I've encountered is medical care. Doctors do NOT have enough training or understanding of AGS. Doctors need support navigating this too. Also, mammalian byproducts are hidden in so many medications. Some of my biggest fears are having to go to the ER or have surgery.

In closing, I have tried to make the best of a bad situation. A friend and I have started a support group for local people with AGS because it is so rampant in Dade County. We come together to share resources and information. Connecting with others who have similar stories makes you feel a little less crazy. Please support these measures to track AGS diagnosis in Missouri, and thank you for your time and service to Missouri citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY KEFFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the Missouri Legislature,

My name is Jeff Keffer I am 46 years old, and I am a Missouri resident who has lived with Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) for nearly six years. AGS is a serious allergic condition caused by tick bites that can trigger severe and potentially life-threatening reactions to mammalian meat and certain products derived from mammals. I have been hospitalized due to these reactions and now must carry expensive EpiPens at all times to protect myself from anaphylaxis.

I take extensive precautions to manage my condition. I research tick activity, travel west each summer to avoid exposure where the Lone Star tick is absent, and carefully plan meals and medications to avoid triggers. The Lone Star tick's range has expanded dramatically over the past decade, moving further north and west into areas where it was previously uncommon. This trend increases the risk of AGS spreading in Missouri and neighboring states, making awareness and preparedness increasingly urgent.

HB1855 is an important opportunity to bring attention to Alpha-gal Syndrome. Greater awareness can lead to earlier diagnosis, better treatment options, and stronger public health guidance—helping protect residents from this serious and growing risk.

I urge you to consider the needs of Missourians like me who live with this condition every day. Supporting HB1855 would be a meaningful step toward safeguarding the health of Missourians and raising awareness of this under-recognized, yet increasingly common, syndrome.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Keffer II
Bridgeton Missouri , St. Louis County



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY LYNN DEWEESE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal is something nobody wants to get, I've had it 4 years now, the cost of foods, medicine, and daily products are very costly. In addition very few Dr.s are fully knowledgeable about it and no pharmacies are able to put in alpa gal as a allergy, costing me at time 2 fills of the same scripts because you get home with the meds before you are aware its in a gelatin capsule or contains mammal products and you find out with a reaction. Plus foods are not clearly labeled and being in a rural community we have to drive 80 plus miles to be able to by a lot of foods and products that are safe.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNA R. OLCOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you today to request that our local government takes a proactive stance on a rapidly growing public health concern: Alpha-gal Syndrome. As you know, AGS is a serious, often life-altering allergic reaction to mammal meat and by products. It took me almost 2 years and 4 different doctors before I was finally diagnosed. Because it is not officially tracked, many people, including medical professionals, are undereducated, which leads to delayed diagnoses and many times unneeded medical treatment, and additional cost. For example a surgeon suggested I have my gallbladder removed because it would, as he said “probably help”. At one point my family doctor said that, “none of my symptoms made any sense together.” A simple office visit for something like poison ivy, turns into a long question and answer session about my allergy.

Being diagnosed with Alpha-Gal ended up being far more life changing than what I ever would have imagined in the beginning. The amount of time and effort spent on researching food labels for mammal products and hidden ingredients is insane. But this is far more than just a food allergy. For those of us who work with animals or live on a farm, Alpha-gal poses a serious health risk, sometimes making it impossible to work with farm animals. Things such as Amniotic fluid and manure causes me to have a reaction and limits my ability to help on our small family farm. This has had a significant impact on my daily life, and my family's as well.

There are already at least 11 other states that require Alpha-gal to be reported. Reporting does accomplish something, it shows that it is an ACTUAL problem affecting many people in our state. Being able to accurately show the amount of people affected by Alpha-gal is crucial for achieving larger goals, like requiring Alpha-gal to be listed as a major allergen on food labels, secure funding for research and educating providers so they actually understand it and can properly diagnose it.

Supporting this bill is a necessary step to address this emerging health issue in our state, not just for myself and those currently navigating this health issue, but for any Missourian who will find themselves dealing with this in the future.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to our community's health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER FREDERICKSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 2:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

For nearly ten years, I struggled with severe gastrointestinal issues. I saw close to ten physicians, was prescribed multiple medications, underwent scopes, and even had unnecessary surgery. I was told I swallowed too much air when I talked. All of it could have been avoided with a simple blood test. It wasn't until I moved across three states and, out of frustration, sought care from an allergist that I was finally tested for Alpha-gal Syndrome. That single blood test came back positive and changed my life overnight.

Today, Alpha-gal Syndrome affects every part of my daily life. I cannot safely consume mammal-derived foods without risking excruciating, painful bloating that can last for hours. The episodes were so severe I would look seven or eight months pregnant and remain in pain well into the night, especially difficult while working night shifts. Finding safe food is a constant stressor. Eating out requires careful strategy, and my family has had to adjust to cooking multiple meals to accommodate my condition. The mental and financial toll is real. No one chooses this. We need better data collection, research, and reporting so patients can be diagnosed earlier, treated appropriately, and spared years of unnecessary procedures and suffering.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA GALLYOUN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My oldest daughter was diagnosed with alpha gal 6 years ago. She was struggling with what seemed like random allergic reactions and we were struggling to get concrete answers. After reading about alpha gal and realizing that her symptoms matched up, she went on a vegan diet and the allergic reactions stopped. I told her pediatrician what I thought it was and why, and the doctor said it sounded made up. Thankfully she sent us to an allergist who had just taken some continuing education on the topic. He was able to order the correct tests and give us the diagnosis. It has been a hard journey trying to figure out what is and isn't ok, and we have found there are so many hidden dangers. The people we count on to keep her safe don't always have the right information or answers. One specific incident is when she had step throat and was given an antibiotic in a gelatin capsule. The pharmacist said it was no problem to just open the capsule and put the contents on some applesauce to take it. She ended up having an anaphylactic reaction to the medication. We believe it is because the medicine rolling around in the capsule worked like a rock tumbler, slightly eroding the inside and adding the gelatin into the antibiotics. We spend an enormous amount of time reading labels, participating in online groups, and even calling manufacturers trying to get the information we need to keep her safe. Then about 6 months ago my youngest started exhibiting symptoms. The allergist we originally worked with had left the practice, but I felt like we knew what to ask for to confirm the issue. Instead, the new allergist told us he would not order the test until we had "severe issues" due to the potential for false positive results. I found out a parent cannot order a test for a child even though I can order it for myself. We found a different allergist who would order the test and confirmed that my youngest also had alpha gal syndrome. Navigating this condition is hard, but it is made so much more difficult without the awareness, research, and resources we so badly need. When my oldest was diagnosed, we had to explain what her condition was because no one had heard of or experienced it. When my youngest was diagnosed, most people we run into now know someone with the condition. Please support this bill in a step towards educating and maybe one day eliminating the dangers so many face with this diagnosis.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA LEE OVERCAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:31 AM

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I support this bbill the data collection is highly important and Alpha Gal are highly important.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA MASTROIANNI MASTROIANNI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Jessica Mastroianni , and I live in Fordland, Missouri. I am the mother of two children with alpha-gal syndrome, a tick-borne allergy that causes delayed, sometimes life-threatening reactions to mammalian products like red meat as well as dairy. I am writing in support of HB 1855, relating to noncommunicable disease surveillance, and specifically the inclusion of alpha-gal syndrome as a reportable condition. In our family, alpha-gal is not an abstract diagnosis it shapes every part of our daily life. Both of my children have experienced reactions that were frightening and confusing before we finally had answers. Their symptoms do not always appear immediately after eating, instead, they often wake up in the middle of the night with severe hives, stomach issues, difficulty breathing and diarrhea. We have had emergency visits where clinicians were unsure what was happening, and it took time, persistence, and specific testing for alpha-gal IgE before we received a clear diagnosis. I had to argue with the doctor when my second child started having reactions. Our doctor refused to do a simple blood draw. I have had enough of this! My children have been suffering for years and there needs to be a change! Even after diagnosis, we have encountered significant gaps in awareness. Many healthcare providers, school staff, restaurants and even some emergency personnel are unfamiliar with alpha-gal syndrome or do not understand that it can be triggered by hidden mammalian ingredients in foods, drinks, medications, and medical products. As a parent, I am constantly educating others like teachers, nurses, cafeteria staff, and clinicians. Just so my children can be safe at school, at activities, and in medical settings. One of the biggest challenges is that there is no reliable state-level data on how many Missourians are living with alpha-gal, where they are located, or how quickly cases are increasing. Without mandatory reporting, alpha-gal remains largely invisible in our public health system. That invisibility translates into delayed diagnoses, major lack of provider education, and inadequate planning for the supports families like mine really need. HB 1855 begins to address this problem by requiring the Department of Health and Senior Services to include alpha-gal syndrome in its list of reportable noncommunicable diseases and to establish surveillance protocols. This is not about creating burdens for families it is about ensuring that positive laboratory confirmed cases are counted so the state can fully understand the true prevalence and geographic distribution of alpha-gal in Missouri. Identify trends and potential clusters related to tick exposures. To justify and target education for healthcare providers, schools, and emergency services. Plan for the long-term needs of children and adults who must navigate this condition every single day. As a parent, I am asking you to recognize that behind every data point is a child like mine, who cannot safely eat what their peers eat, who may wake up in the night struggling to breathe, covered in hives, have diarrhea at school and whose safety depends on whether the adults around them have even heard of alpha-gal syndrome. Surveillance and reporting are foundational steps toward better care, better education, and better outcomes. I respectfully urge you to support HB 1855 and to maintain strong, clear language that includes alpha-gal syndrome as a reportable condition. Thank you for considering the real families and

children whose lives will be directly affected by your decision.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA MCCOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I've been living with Alpha Gal for the last 3 years now. It has impacted many areas of my life: emotional, physical, and mental health. It has impacted my family life: divorce due to the fact that my ex-spouse used my AGS status as a weapon to use passive aggressively toward me...acting like I was making up the severity of it and telling others I was 'okay' or 'doing better' without listening to how I really was. Facing doctors and pharmacists who didn't understand or have answers is another complex and depressing thing about this condition. Patients who have this disease have to be their own advocate and educate themselves, because it is still at the stage where it is new to everyone. Food, drug, and product labels are unclear and it is very difficult, and sometimes nearly impossible to figure out what mammal byproducts are in an item. These things make it very challenging to live with. I'm thankful that my case is minor. I stay away from mammal meat, but am at the point now where I seem to tolerate byproducts and dairy. I know this is not the case for most people with Alpha Gal. Still, I avoid outdoor activities I enjoy, or have to take extra precautions because if I get another tick bite, my condition could worsen. That is terrifying. I'm also scared to get a bee/wasp sting because those can apparently be worse for people with Alpha Gal, and I already know I react.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA OVERCAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSIE CLARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha-gal started for me in 2012. I was sick with a variety of gi issues, had random problems with swallowing and feeling pressure in my throat, intense itching, the list goes on. I went to the doctor and emergency room multiple times the first few years and was diagnosed and treated for things I apparently not have. I gave up and lived through it until I finally got diagnosed in 2023 through an independent testing facility (anylab now) and confirmed I had alpha-gal through bloodwork. After cutting out all meat and dairy I tried acupuncture out of desperation, Two weeks later I started having reactions to meat and other mammal fumes. Lots of people are trying this and getting the same results as me after this "treatment". I have anaphylaxis reactions, hives and weird narcolepsy type reactions to skunks, fertilizer, paint, drywall dust, ect. I quit eating out two years ago. I can't go into grocery stores that have food cooking. I can't go into Lowes (paint, chemicals) or garden centers (fertilizer) without a mask and even then I still have problems and avoid going unless I absolutely have to. Sometimes I have to because I'm a landscaper, because I have to do things just to get along in life regardless of this stuff, but I pay for it every time. The fumes are everywhere, in town settings I keep windows up circulating air on. My world has gotten very small because it's not worth the risk of being sick to risk going most places. One of my reactions to fumes is my heart rate goes high, over 200 bpm, and then I fall asleep, against my will. Sometimes I get violently ill and throw up so hard and fast I can't catch a breath. Then recovery is days sometimes, feeling like I'm 41 battling the worst flu in the body of an 80 year old riddled with arthritis. I consider myself a tough person, but this is a nightmare that I feel like I'll never wake up from. This is just a small snapshot of how my world has changed, alpha-gal has touched every aspect of everything of my life all day everyday.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL SLOAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 6:01 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I've had alpha gal for 10 yrs from a visit to Missouri while living in another state. I didn't get diagnosed until I moved to missouri where doctor understood my symptoms. Compared to other states health departments, food services in MO are severely lacking in respect and understanding their liability. Awareness and education are desperately needed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN GIBERTI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Please pass this in support of alpha gal.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOLENA ROTHWEIL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Lifelong Missourian who was diagnosed with alpha gal November of 2023, from a tick bite that likely happened ten years prior based on when symptoms started. At that time doctors didn't know about alpha gal and considered removing my gallbladder but could not verify it was the issue with diagnostic testing. So my symptoms remained a mystery until I took a blood test in august 2023 and got the final results a few months later.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOLYNE DUNN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was finally diagnosed with alpha gal two years ago. I went through a period of at least six years before doctors finally figured out what was causing my illness. I can no longer go out to eat without fear of a reaction to every day food. Fear is constantly on my mind. I can no longer go to any benefit dinners, fish fries, chili suppers, senior center lunches, etc. All mammal and dairy has been cut out of my life. The cost of "special" food is very expensive. Medications are a nightmare and could kill me. The majority of physicians know nothing about alpha gal. Alpha gal is NOT just an allergy to red meat (if only it were that simple). It affect all levels of our lives. Adding alpha gal to the approved list of allergies would help to simplify the basic act of just eating safely. How would each of you vote if this affected a member of your family?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSHUA HUEY		PHONE NUMBER: 816-872-5582	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: IN A PINCH DRYWALL		TITLE: IN A PINCH DEYWALL	
ADDRESS: 22 SKYLINE DR			
CITY: ADRIAN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64720
EMAIL: joshuahuey@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:03 AM	

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

I have had Alpha gal for almost 15 years now. Living in pain for the last 14 newly diagnosed in the last year and a half.

My doctor misdiagnosed me for over five years treating me for everything except to tick bite disease. This has debilitated in my life. I cannot breathe. My budget on my food is more than doubled. I've had three employees quit because I cannot provide work form because I do not know when I am gonna feel good for morning the morning, it is a consistent battle. Either my stomach is completely on fire like I have an extreme stomach flu or my back from tailbone to neck is Charlie horse. The pain is absolutely excruciating. The medications that we can take are very very limited because everything has mammal in it.

This diseases were in so many people's lives homes businesses. The shortage of knowledge with doctors is completely unacceptable. I go to a chiropractor to get my treatments that barely work. I took the \$7000 drug xolair It did not work on me, but it works on others.

I've known three people in my area that has blown their heads off because of this disease and I completely understand Josh Huey with In A Pinch Drywall out of Adrian, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE BRENNECKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter has Alpha-Gal syndrome and is struggling to survive. Her doctor was clueless about the allergy. She has to read all food and medicine labels to see if they are safe to eat. She has lost much weight and is anemic due to her inability to eat iron rich foods. Our family tries to support her suffering. Please..this condition needs more research, education, and a cure. It's so difficult to see a young wife and mother, who was so full of life, suffer from this condition. She cries from the pain of a reaction to the sugar molecule she is allergic to. Please help..we are desperate for comfort. Thank you!



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUANITA THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was bitten by a tick in July, 2020. Diagnosed w RMS Fever & Alpha Gal by Oct 2020. My symptoms include hives and digestive issues. It is very difficult to determine which food i can eat and which to avoid. I support the efforts to bring attention to Alpha Gal



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDY WHEELER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Alpha-gal.. it's been over 2 years since my diagnosis, but I've lived with it for at least 15. I just didn't know what I was fighting or how to fight. My doctors had no clue what was causing my seemingly random red, itchy rashes, severe abdominal pain, gastrointestinal issues, reactions to scents, and hives that not only pitched, but felt like I had a chemical burn. I reacted to most medicines and vaccines so adversely that I could no longer take them, even such simple things as Tylenol. Once I had a solid diagnosis, it was only the beginning of figuring out what to avoid to keep from having reactions. Alpha-gal has radically changed not only my life, but my husband's. There are only a few places that I know are "safe" for me to eat out, I can no longer do any processed food or easy take out because I need to know exactly what is in my food. It's like being a detective to even buy groceries because mammal is in so many things you can't even imagine, & can be hidden in such things as "natural flavorings." I've had to change out all my toiletries including toilet paper which has glycerin in it. I no longer feel safe to enjoy hiking or even being outside because the Lone star ticks that carry AGS are aggressive. They aren't opportunists who may grab onto you as you walk by, there's evil suckers can smell you quite a ways away & they run to get on you & feed! So many people have a worst case than I do, but I can be just one more bite away from being so dilapidated that I can rarely leave my home. We need help! More research needs to be done, it needs to be reportable to the health department in each state so there will be real, indisputable numbers of how many of us are actually suffering with this. Maybe then the medical community would actually care enough to research and learn about this themselves. The allergist I went to was worthless to me, & just kept telling me he learned from his patients. Well, something is wrong with that picture! Please, please pass this bill in Missouri & show us that you "see" us and care enough to start helping us! Thank you so much. Judy Wheeler



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA GRANEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for hearing from the people of your state. I would like to tell you a little about my story with alpha gal syndrome. I was diagnosed with alpha gal last spring; I had honestly never heard of it before. But since then, I have learned it is pervasive in Southeast Missouri. One tick bite, and you can no longer eat beef, pork, dairy, including butter, most drinks, snacks, anything with gelatin ... But it doesn't stop there, our food supply is filled with „mammalian“ products, which contain the alpha gal molecule. Try seeing how many items have „natural flavors“ — these could go either way, so you cant be sure if it's safe. Or the preservative carrageenan used as a preservative on otherwise safe for us items, like chicken & turkey. Some sugar is strained with animal bone char. I'm a spontaneous person, but now I have to plan for any outing. I pretty much bring my food & snacks & water everywhere I go ... First I'm never sure what will be available & if I can't see the label, I can't completely trust it (except for fruit, raw veggies). This also becomes kind of socially isolating, as eating what everyone else is eating, there's a certain bond there ... For some people these ingredients cause an anaphylactic reaction & can trigger a life-threatening situation, just because they accidentally ate the wrong thing or misinterpreted an ingredient label ... and imagine kids, who can no longer eat their favorite foods ... and parents scrounging for something their child can eat AND will like. Additionally, allergic reactions weaken your immune system, which makes it harder for those who may be fighting other tick borne issues or other illnesses. It's also not limited to foods, some people react to fumes, ingredients in medications, some can't get the cancer treatment they need, because of ingredients, it affects, for some, hygiene products, toilet paper, soap. For me, I had to switch to plant-based laundry detergent and toothpaste ... The medications are really one of the bigger issues. I often use an organization called pill clarity to help me find substitutes for what I need, even simple things like tylenol or otc meds. It gets easier with time & I've found my go-to things I can eat. But it would go a long way in helping many people by making the alpha gal allergen mandatory on labels, and could save lives for some and a lot of distress. Adding a label would also raise awareness and force companies to instead stay away from these mammalian ingredients when they're not necessary.

Like I said before, these aren't isolated cases, it's rampant. Since I've had alpha gal, I can't go anywhere without running into someone who has it. I don't advertise it, but when it comes up in conversation naturally, practically 10/10, someone says “oh, my mom has that, my aunt has that, my step-dad has it.” For me, the neighbor across the street has it, the phlebotomist where I get my labs has it, my mom's friend, my colleague ... There are restaurants and meat shops that cater to it; like I said, it's rampant in Southeast Missouri & the Poplar Bluff area, as well as other parts of Missouri & something needs to be done about it to relieve the suffering of many in our state —allergen labels, for one, and then bringing down the tick population.

Thank you for your time, your listening ear & we respectfully urge you to take action on this matter —
Thank you,
Julia Graney



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE MARSHALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:20 AM
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I was diagnosed in 2020. I was sick fpr many years beforehand. I spent thousands of dollars on medical tests before they finally figured out what I had. It effected my nervous system to the point I had ro use a cane to walk. When I finally got diagnosed I am now walking without assistance. When I do consume mammal products, I am sick for days. I have issues eating out. It is like playing Russian roulette with my health. I can't guarantee that my food is free from all mammal ingredients nor free from cross contamination. I also had tons switch all my soaps, lotions, toothpaste, toilet paper to vegan products. If I use products that aren't vegan, I break out. The cost of this lifestyle is outrageous. This has been a life changing ordeal for me and others living with this disease. My family is fortunate to not have AGS. They however, have to be cautious around me. They can't cook mammal around me without me getting sick. They have to be constantly aware of what is in our home.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE SHEA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:36 PM
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The short story here is, “we”, people with AGS, are fighting for our life and mental health. This needs to be a reportable medical syndrome so medical community (Docs/nurses, PharmD, pharmaceutical manufacturers, etc.), food industry and restaurants (labeling, food safety/preparation details) know we are a population with specific needs and medical risks. With diagnostic data comes research, funding and support for every one of us. AGS has profoundly effected my life, mental and physical health...especially while working full time and caring for a family. It is equally important to educate our farmers, military, outdoorsmen (and women), long term care facilities, employers, families. I’m asking the legislature to please research AGS and support this bill. It literally is life altering.

My “story” follows if time or interest permits.

I was diagnosed with AGS in 2021, after 7 years of horrendous GI issues. I had many tests (all normal) and tried many diets (nothing helped) during those 7 years. I asked my pcp at least 3 times in a year to test me for AGS...“it’s so unlikely”, he said. My GI nurse, who had never heard of AGS, believed me and ran the test. I cried happy tears to finally have an answer.

The happy tears quickly turned to frustration when I was looking at every food label and calling manufacturers to check my medications. I basically now live in fear and anxiety.

Upon diagnosis I was taking a medication in a vegetable gel capsule that I had researched with manufacture. Some time around 2024 my GI issues got worse and I couldn’t figure out why. I changed my dogs food to mammal free, no scented products in the house, everything certified vegan, fresh water fish, chicken with vegetable diet. Lightbulb moment when I called the manufacturer of my medication again. Unfortunately they had switched to a gelatin capsule because it’s cheaper.

My pcp and pharmacy both have Alpha Gal allergy noted in my chart. Now they have listed Gelatin as an allergy too, hoping it will flag future unsafe medications or changes from the manufacturers.

The alternative medicine was an oral suspension. Brief issue with insurance that denied it because I don’t have a “swallowing problem”. The doctor told them it was necessary due to allergy. Finally able to get the oral suspension...until my deductible this year said it would be \$2,300 to get the alternative. So I had to research and switch to a safe medication.

Most recently I shared a research article about cardiac issues and AGS with my new pcp. She thanked

me for letting her know as she was unaware.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN BRUMBLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:20 PM

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I have been diagnosed with alpha gal for almost a year. It has changed my life as far as what i can and can not eat. I believe there needs to be more research and awareness as this is a permanent life altering status. My diet has changed tremendously in the last year and taken 2 medications daily now.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN GISH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 16 year old son has recently been diagnosed with AGS (Alpha-Gal Syndrome). It has affected our lives tremendously. He has had to miss school due to illnesses and doctor appointments. I have had to take time off of work to tend to his needs. He has to have a special diet consisting of no mammalian products such as beef, pork, lamb, dairy products or anything that contains milk, and no gelatin. This is very costly, I spend on average \$200 per week on healthy food options for him alone. He is unable to eat school lunches due to his allergies and has to pack his lunch everyday. As a family we like to spend time outdoors playing sports, hiking, fishing, and camping. We have to take extra precautions to avoid any more tick bites because if he gets even one more bite his existing allergy conditions may worsen, become more frequent, or persist longer due to a boost in IgE antibody levels. This has been a complete adjustment and adaptation to our daily lives.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN J MUTRUX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:49 AM
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I have had AGS for 1 year. I'm 80 yrs old and otherwise healthy. AGS changes your life. If I eat the wrong thing I get anaphylactic shock, trip to ER. I'm hesitant to travel, eat in a restaurant or food at a party. It's more dangerous than people think. It changes your life. Please help those like me.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAITLIN WILLHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:24 PM
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My 5 year old daughter was recently diagnosed with Alpha Gal. Looking back She's had all the signs and symptoms for over a year. (Rash, itchy skin daily, random hives on face and neck, mood swings, stomach aches, fatigue, bags under eyes, sneezing) when she was diagnosed her symptoms were severe diarrhea, vomiting & severe abdominal cramps EVERYDAY for 1.5 months. I thought it was the stomach bug, but it just kept getting worse. I took her to get blood drawn. Her results were positive for alpha gal. Moderate to high level. We need more education on diet. We need more access to AGS friendly foods in our rural areas so our children can eat without symptoms, hoping it doesnt lead to anaphylaxis shock. Some dont have access to transportation to get the proper food they need. This is a serious condition many people are having to live with and we need to spread awareness.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KANDIS NEUMEIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:50 PM
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In Support of Missouri Alpha-Gal Protections
Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kandis Neumeier, and I am a Missouri resident living in SWMO. I am here because Alpha-Gal Syndrome is already affecting Missourians in serious, life-altering ways and our medical system, food labeling laws, and regulatory protections have not kept up.

My mother was sick for nearly two years with severe abdominal pain. She underwent extensive testing. At one point, a hospital in Springfield removed her gallbladder because physicians could not determine the cause of her symptoms. The surgery did not help.

In early 2024, I encountered sixteen different individuals in one week all with completely different medical stories who were ultimately diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. I urged my mother to get tested. She was positive.

I then contacted my own physician. I have Crohn's disease and assumed my abdominal pain was from that. I tested positive for Alpha-Gal as well. Once I eliminated mammalian products from my diet and medications, something extraordinary happened: my symptoms improved so significantly that I no longer require biologic therapy for Crohn's disease.

That is not a minor outcome. That is life-changing.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome is not just a food allergy. It is a tick-borne condition that can cause delayed anaphylaxis, severe gastrointestinal pain, bowel inflammation, and potentially fatal reactions. It can also be mentally and emotionally overwhelming. When I was first diagnosed, I would walk into grocery stores, become so overwhelmed by unclear labeling, and leave without food. Many people with Alpha-Gal lose dangerous amounts of weight simply because navigating what is safe to eat is nearly impossible.

The problem in Missouri is threefold:

1. Lack of Medical Awareness

Patients are undergoing unnecessary procedures because Alpha-Gal is not being considered. Many physicians do not understand mammalian-derived ingredients in medications. I have personally spent nearly 17 hours contacting pharmacies and drug manufacturers to determine whether a prescribed biologic medication was safe. I was told by a manufacturer representative that "there is no way to know" whether their own product contained mammalian derivatives.

That is unacceptable.

Heparin, certain vaccines, gelatin capsules, surgical products, and numerous medications may contain mammalian ingredients. Even licensed pharmacists sometimes do not have clear labeling access.

Patients are left to investigate their own medical safety.

2. Inadequate Labeling

Mammalian-derived ingredients are not required to be clearly labeled on food or medications in a way

that is accessible to consumers. I am asking Missouri to advocate for Alpha-Gal to be recognized alongside the major allergens requiring transparent labeling.

For individuals with severe reactions, this is not convenience... it is survival.

3. Restaurant & Public Education Gaps

Some local Springfield restaurants understand Alpha-Gal better than medical professionals. Yet many establishments across the state have no training and do not understand cross-contamination or even what constitutes a mammal. Basic education requirements would dramatically improve safety.

Legislative Requests

I respectfully urge Missouri lawmakers to:

Mandate continuing education for healthcare providers regarding Alpha-Gal Syndrome.

Require clearer disclosure of mammalian-derived ingredients in medications dispensed within the state.

Implement restaurant allergen education that includes Alpha-Gal considerations.

Advocate at the federal level for Alpha-Gal to be added to major allergen labeling requirements.

Encourage public health data tracking to understand prevalence in Missouri.

Explore public-private funding partnerships including agricultural stakeholders to support research and prevention.

Missouri is a tick-dense state. This condition is not rare here.

No Missourian should undergo unnecessary surgery, risk anaphylaxis in a hospital, or starve in confusion at a grocery store because our systems have failed to recognize a known and growing medical condition.

This is not about ideology. It is about patient safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN LYNN PRATER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:00 PM
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I have had alpha gal for 2 1/2 years.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARLA EHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:32 AM
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In 2018, my husband had three seizures at home and almost died. He was diagnosed with AGS and was told no red meat. Around 2021, our teenage son started having hives several hours after eating beef. He tested positive for AGS. In 2023, my son was accidentally fed beef at college and ended up in the ER. A week later, my husband had his 2nd anaphylactic episode at home and was taken to the ER by ambulance. Two weeks later, my husband was seen by a different allergist who did further testing by skin pricks. 2 hours after leaving their office, my husband had his 3rd anaphylactic reaction in Sams Club. Due to the lack of knowledge by the 1st ER Dr and not being put on specific medications to lower his histamine levels, the allergy testing put his body into over drive causing Mast Cell Activation Syndrome. My husband became fume reactive and could also no longer tolerate dairy. Within one month, we had bills for 2 ambulance rides and 3 ER visits. This does not include the allergist bill and multiple follow-up appointments including an unnecessary MRI because the ER Dr put epilepsy on the discharge paperwork which affected my husband's job. I was a stay at home mother that was homeschooling our children, so our only income was from my husband. For the next year, my husband was extremely ill. He was only able to eat a handful of foods which I grew from our garden. I had to throw away anything that had Natural Flavorings, Magnesium Stearate, glycerin, gelatin, dairy, etc including body care, candles, clothing (wool), supplement, medications, and foods. Working became extremely difficult for my husband. Going to church, friends homes, movies, restaurants, became next to impossible due to perfumes, candles, pork cooking in kitchens, etc. Driving past fast food restaurants was enough to set off a reaction. I had to educate myself on how to care for my husband and became his advocate at appointments. Drs were very little help and in many cases, I was educating them. We spent many hours sitting in the parking lot of the ER just in case we needed further help waiting for his medications to kick in while having a reaction. Fall of 2023, I recognized the symptoms in myself and tested positive. Three in the family now. In 2024 or early 2025, our daughter tested positive. Four out of five in our family now suffer from this. This is more than a financial burden. Friendships have been lost because they were afraid they'd make my husband sick, travel became extremely difficult as meals always have to be brought with us, hotel stays for a time weren't possible due to laundry detergents, etc. AGS has turned our lives upside down.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAYLA WIEDAU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 1:39 PM
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I work for the US Forest Service and many of my coworkers have alpha gal. This is a constant risk in our line of work and I fear one day most of the office will have it. It seems that there is little to do about alpha gal and that it's not a well understood disease. I think that needs to change. This disease makes some of my coworkers sick enough that they miss days to weeks of work at a time and are suffering greatly the entire time they are off. One of my coworkers only eats meals at home now, skipping breakfast and lunch some times, just in an effort to try to make it through the day feeling okay. We need to track this disease, get people more help, and try to find a way to prevent more people from getting alpha gal.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAYLEE STORMENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:55 PM
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Our three-year-old son, Elijah, lives with Alpha-gal syndrome, a rare and potentially life-threatening allergy that developed after a tick bite. Because of Alpha-gal syndrome, we carefully monitor everything Elijah eats, read every ingredient label, and remain constantly vigilant about hidden exposures. Simple childhood moments—birthday parties, school snacks, family gatherings, and community events—require detailed planning to keep him safe. Even certain medications and personal care products must be reviewed to prevent a reaction.

Despite these challenges, Elijah is joyful, brave, and full of life. He deserves the same carefree childhood as any other child, and we work every day to ensure he can safely experience it.

We are asking our state leaders and community members to help raise awareness about Alpha-gal syndrome and provide greater support for families living with this condition. Increased education for healthcare providers, schools, childcare centers, and food service establishments can make a life-saving difference. With better awareness, resources, and advocacy, children like Elijah can grow up safer, healthier, and fully included in the communities they call home.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY C JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:22 AM
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Please provide more Alpha Gal research and feedback. This truly is an epidemic from the worst side effects of anaphylaxis to nausea to itching, the list is endless. This affects every aspect of my life all day, every day. You never think what you might find actual beef products in.. lotion, soap, shampoo, conditioner.. in addition to food. Eating out is also a challenge for food prep.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KLOAE BARLETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:11 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:19 AM

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I have alpha gal. I was diagnosed finally in 2011. I have had symptoms since at least 1995. I've had a up U-turn twice, with no relief.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIE CALLAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:01 PM
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Kristie Callaway
9904 Route BB
Eugene, MO 65032
(573) 645-9229
kristiecallaway4@gmail.com

17th February 2026

Hearing Committee on HB 1855
Missouri House of Representatives
201 W. Capitol Ave
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Committee,

Twelve ticks. That was the most I pulled off of me in one day. My husband and I had found our dream property in Camdenton, MO and it was my job to help clear the land in preparation for the builder. My name is Kristie Callaway. I have spent most of my life in mid-Missouri and fell in love with Lake the Ozarks when I was young. It's been a dream of mine to share the beauty and nature of the lake with the rest of the world. Finding this property allowed my dream to come true. My husband and I decided this was the perfect place to expand our rental property portfolio and build a short-term rental. One day in the middle of clearing I thought, I wonder how many bugs I am pulling off each day. So the next day I decided to count them. BIG MISTAKE. I pulled off twelve ticks. In one day. I had been working in the brush everyday for three months. Twelve ticks times ninety days...that's when I decided to make the doctor's appointment.

The blood work came back quickly and the doctor's office called. The nurse practitioner told me over the phone, "You have tested positive for Alpha-gal so fins and feathers, no hooves." To this day, that is the maximum amount of understandable information I have received from a medical professional. Fins and feathers, no hooves.

That was my new diet, fish and birds. There was little urgency put on this diagnosis. In fact, I had to ask the nurse practitioner about an epi pen because it was never suggested that I immediately get one. But this all took place during the summer of 2024 and so little was known about alpha-gal at that time. So why am I here speaking with you today? It's because of all that has occurred since that summer. For the first two years, my symptoms were largely kept to a minimum with a slightly changed diet. Then in July of last year, just when it seemed I was getting over the allergy, I was bitten again. The

symptoms went from almost gone to severe. Shortness of breath, GI upset, depression, the list went on and on.

Once again I had to rid my diet of any mammalian meat but this time I had to give up all dairy and all processed food. I am down to fruits and vegetables and only eat chicken and turkey my family cooks at home. Eating out at restaurants is tricky as there are very few items on the menu I can safely eat and cross contamination is always a concern.

I used to look at food as fuel for my body. Now I look at it and wonder how much this item will hurt to eat. Is this the food that will cause me to go into shock in front of my family?

This is not even the scariest part. This past year my husband and my oldest son, only twelve years old, have both been diagnosed with alpha-gal. Having the school nurse run through the halls to find my child before he went through the lunch line the day we got his diagnosis was terrifying for everyone. Since his diagnosis, I have met with the nurse and cafeteria staff three times as they continue to try and find nutritious and safe options for his lunch. A task made even harder by my son's accompanying nut allergy. Yes, he has both but only one of these allergies requires reporting.

To finish the year both my seventy-two year old mother and my eighty-four year old father have been diagnosed with alpha-gal. Our family friends are getting it. It's spreading like wildfire.

We need information. I went to do some research at the Missouri River Regional Library and check a few books out on the syndrome. It surprised me to find the library does not have any books on alpha-gal or the lone star tick. The syndrome and topic is simply too new.

I worry about alpha-gal for my health as a forty-nine year old woman. I worry about this as a wife, mother, daughter, and member of my school community. But I worry more and more each day as a Missourian.

As the granddaughter of a Black Angus farmer I am well aware of the role the cattle industry plays in Missouri's success. As a former employee of the Jefferson City Convention and Visitor's Bureau I am also aware of the role tourism and hospitality play in Missouri's prosperity as well. I am concerned that alpha-gal might become the most impactful element in the continued success of all these industries should we not take the opportunity before us now to collect information. We will need all the data we can get our hands on to make safe, beneficial plans to handle the problems on the horizon.

Sincerely,

Kristie Callaway



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTINA ATKESON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband has had alpha-gal for 15 years. His is anaphylactic to mammalian meat with heightened sensitivity to dairy. It sounds simple on the surface; just don't eat a steak, but it expands far beyond a steak or burger. It's cross contamination, hidden "natural flavors", refined sugar (processed with bone char) and even fumes. I spend hours in the grocery store reading labels, and even then miss hidden ingredients. I pay for an app to help me navigate the grocery store, we eat out at our own risk, and I pour through support sites and literature, which has only started coming out over the past few years. There are newly diagnosed people joining our local (Nixa, Ozark, Springfield) sites daily. They are scared to death. Their food is causing a serious reaction for them and/or their family. But beyond food, AGS causes an inflammation and reactive process in the body. It may appear as hives, nausea, or worse swelling of the throat, but internally it is much more. The organs that fight these reactions (pancreas and liver) are also impacted. My husband now has pancreatitis and is at a 10x greater risk of developing pancreatic cancer. He is on a 6 month schedule for testing on both his pancreas and liver. His life is, without question, shortened. Now imagine sending your kids out to school, sporting events, or get togethers that children attend and where you have limited control or oversight. If your family has not been impacted by this, you're fortunate, but just give it time. You are in the hotbed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAKIN BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am speaking on behalf of my five-year-old son, who was diagnosed within the last year after an incredibly long and difficult medical journey. As his mother, I knew something was wrong long before we had a diagnosis, yet it took years of persistence to be heard. Over the course of three years, I brought him to countless doctors and specialists, repeatedly expressing my concerns. Unfortunately, those concerns were often dismissed, and he was repeatedly misdiagnosed. During that time, my son suffered daily while I was made to feel as though I was overreacting or imagining the severity of his symptoms.

The emotional toll of that experience was overwhelming. There were many moments where I felt defeated and helpless, questioning myself as a parent while watching my child remain miserable with no answers. Despite advocating relentlessly, I felt I was failing him simply because no one was willing to truly listen.

Eventually, I took matters into my own hands and began contacting specialists on my own, asking if anyone would be willing to see us. Our first appointment was with Jackson Allergy and Asthma Clinic. From the very first visit, the physician recognized what others had missed. Even prior to testing, he suspected the correct diagnosis. Proper testing was completed to confirm it, and when the results came back, I felt an unexpected sense of relief—finally, we had answers.

Since then, our entire family has worked tirelessly to transition to an AG-safe lifestyle. This change has been significant, both emotionally and financially, as AG-safe products and accommodations are costly and not always easily accessible. Most difficult of all was explaining to a five-year-old that he could no longer eat many of the foods he loved. Despite the enormity of that change, he handled it with incredible resilience and strength.

Today, we remain constantly vigilant. Every meal, every environment, and every interaction requires careful consideration. We must repeatedly educate and advocate—whether with waitstaff, teachers, friends, or family—to ensure his safety. While the diagnosis brought clarity, it also introduced a lifelong responsibility to protect him in a world that is often unaware of how serious this condition is.

Our journey has reinforced the importance of listening to parents, taking concerns seriously, and advocating for children who cannot advocate for themselves. No family should have to fight this hard to be heard, and no child should endure years of suffering before receiving the care they deserve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY D. MERCHANT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I've suffered Alpha Gal Tick Disease for 14 years as a consequence of raising beef cattle South of Warrensburg. My wife has also contracted it, as well as many neighbors. A.G. Tick Disease can cause me delayed anaphylaxis from even a single gel cap~! We need formal tracking to both inform the public and to get U.S. CDC to pay attention.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LASANDRA QUINT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a 71-year-old woman diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome in 2021, after repeated experiences of anaphylaxis following the consumption of red meat and dairy.

Living with AGS affects my daily life in many ways. When I go outside I must spray repellents (which leads to worries of other potential health hazards). When I visit a restaurant, I literally give the server a copy of my Food Allergy Alert form and request that they check with the kitchen to see if there is even a safe option on the menu (and still make sure that I have an EpiPen close by for fear of cross-contamination). When I buy groceries and pick up prescriptions, I have the monetary expense of "Alpha-Gal Friendly" products and the time spent reading every listed ingredient.

When I was first diagnosed with AGS, it was not unusual for me to have to explain it; many people had never heard of it. Now, just a few years later, most people I encounter know someone who is diagnosed with it.

I believe that any shared knowledge, additional labeling, and public awareness will be a benefit to everyone in the state. My sincere thanks for addressing this serious and life-threatening condition.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA EVANS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello. My name is Laura Evans. I am a Missouri resident, residing in Buchanan County in Northwest Missouri. I am 42 years old. I am a mom of three daughters, a wife, and an active community member.

For the past 17 years, I have been a patient of numerous medical specialists. Each one gave me an “approved bill of health,” yet none could explain what my body was going through. I was told my labs were normal. I was told to reduce stress. I was told it was probably nothing. Meanwhile, my symptoms worsened.

One year ago, an allergist finally ran the test and recognized the warning signs my body had been sounding for years. After thousands of dollars in medical bills that pushed my family into debt, we finally had an answer: Alpha-Gal Syndrome. One simple blood test. One answer.

Today, unfortunately, I cannot report that I am fully better. My body is exhausted and bears the damage of years without proper diagnosis or treatment. Early detection matters. Awareness matters. Education matters.

Missouri HB 1855 can help change stories like mine. By increasing awareness and education among healthcare professionals about tick-borne illnesses such as Alpha-Gal Syndrome, this legislation would encourage earlier recognition, testing, and diagnosis. It would help ensure that providers consider Alpha-Gal when patients present with unexplained gastrointestinal, allergic, or systemic symptoms. Earlier diagnosis means fewer unnecessary specialist visits, fewer invasive procedures, less financial strain, and less long-term damage to patients’ bodies.

HB 1855 offers hope — hope that other Missouri families will not spend 17 years searching for answers. Hope that a simple blood test can come sooner. Hope that patients will be heard the first time they speak.

Thank you for considering the real people and families impacted by delayed diagnosis. I am one of them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURAP WEFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I live in Oklahoma, I have been tested positive with alph gal, and it is a awful thing, you just never know what will put you in a shock, it can be a simple wrong spoon.Nobody wants to put your family through a bad reaction.Some people have reactions to just the smell.Its a very bad thing. It does control your life!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEANNE HUFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:47 AM

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

I have alpha gal for 3 years diagnosed April of 2025 it has been a nightmare trying to figure out what was and still is causing my reactions please pass this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LELAH SHIKLES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:54 PM

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

my future mother in law and future grandmother have been very much affected. they can't eat any type of dairy, if it's cooked in the oil that everything else is which can cause cross contamination, and even when something other than chicken and fish is cooked on a stove top and there chicken hits that they can get very very sick from it. the grandmother had heart attack like symptoms from someone cooking it in the wrong oil. i never heard of this disease until i met my boyfriend. i just want peace for the people who deal with this disease. this needs more awareness



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESA URBAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Alpha-Gal! June 1st 2024, I started to go on a hike with my dog at Trail of Tears State Park 15mins in the Mosquitoes were so bad I turned around, normally im on a trail anywhere from 2 to 4 hours. Got home showered & pulled off 5 male lone star ticks, then 3 days later pulled off a female lone star, I can't imagine how many would have been on me if we would have stayed on the trail for 2 or 4 hours. A friend of mine said better be careful lone star ticks carry Alpha Gal (had no idea what that was) looked it up, called my doctor requested an allergy blood test. Two weeks later he called me & told me it came back positive, beef 3, pork 2 & lamb 1. Then 7/11/24 at 7pm (not thinking) drank a protein shake and ran out the door and by 9:30 I was scratching like I fell in a chigger farm! Ran to the bathroom lifted the back of my shirt..my back was fire engine red & bumps everywhere!! Now I have to be careful every time I go out to eat I have to make sure that they don't cook anything I order in butter, milk, cheese, lard...ANYTHING that's a mammal product or byproduct...Or grilled on the same grill as they cooked beef or pork!

January of 2025, I had to have a cardiac cath test... thank god my Doctor believed me (most doctors dont) because he told me I couldn't have the cath go in my rist because I would need heparin and heparin is derived from pork. So he had to go in the groin, well people that dont have Alpha-Gal get to the lay on the table for 4 hours and not move but due to Alpha-Gal lucky me got to lay on the table for 6 hours! Because due to me having Alpha-Gal I could not receive the collagen (bovine) block that they put in the vein after the procedure.

Medicine is gel caps (cant have because it's bovine) can't have protein powders or protein drinks or protein bars, All bovine.

Gastric surgery patients have to have tons of protein...doctor orders are 3 protein drinks along with the 3 meals with protein a day!! That is VERY hard to do! Then lucky Alpha-Gal gastric surgery people have to drink vegan protein drinks...and another kicker..there are very few vegan options of protein drinks, and on top of that they're not very good.

Sure every restaurant has chicken fish or turkey.... but you have to be completely aware of how it's cooked, so it really is no fun to go out to eat with friends or family Anymore. Think about that for your life... How would that affect you?

Due to Alpha-Gal I have had the following allergic reactions: severe GI upset many times hives, itching and coughing after accidentally eating some form of mammal meat or byproduct.

PLEASE PASS HB1855

Thank you!

Lesa Urban

636-633-6444



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE WYMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with AGS in October 2025, after a week of hives, rashes and two hospital visits. In my case, I also react to xantgan gum and am now affected by fumes so badly that I can no longer go in stores alone, as I have neatly passed out when in the toiletry and cleaning sections.

What many people don't realize is that AGS is not just a food allergy, but it also affects us in many other ways, such as the above-mentioned fume reactions. I have had to replace most of my toiletries and medicines because mammalian products and byproducts are added to these items. One of the scariest aspects of this is that despite how careful you are, all it takes is one bite of an undisclosed ingredient, one mystery fume, one ingredient applied to your body can cause a reaction, even death.

We desperately need AGS to be reported to the health departments. We need ingredient labels to identify if the contents are safe, and to have AGS studied so that medical personnel will begin to learn more about treating this dreadful illness. Please support this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA COLLINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:20 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I started showing symptoms in March 2023. I had severe GI issues, causing swelling on one side of my face mouth, lips, tongue. The worst was the exhaustion, weakness & brain fog. This had gone on for weeks. My brother had called & told him what was going on. He said it sounded like alpha-gal. A friend of his wife, had recently been diagnosed. After calling my doctor's office, they said I should go to ER. I did & told the doctor my symptoms & thought I should be tested for alpha-gal. I knew I knew when I was bitten back in February by a tick, noticing the white spot, finding it odd. It took about 6 weeks for it to get better. The ER doctor said he'd run a tick-Bourne panel, "but wasn't going to run THAT test." He decided it was my Lisenopril medication & told me to never take that again. The symptoms continued & got worse. In August, I woke up with hives covering my whole trunk & swelling in my face & throat. I sucked on ice chips to help me to swallow. Additionally, symptoms of having asthma symptoms & coughing happened. I called my doctor's office & she told me to come in immediately. The swelling in my throat had gone down & my breathing was easier before I arrived. She knew what the ER doctor had said months before & told me she was going to run the alpha-gal test anyway as well as an allergy panel. She prescribed me a steroid & told me what diet I needed to follow until she got the results back. Five days later, she called me about 20:30 & told me it was positive. Initially, my allergy panel required me to not only eliminate mammal, but nuts, soy, gluten, shellfish, sugar, any "gums" preservatives, seaweed, or products containing any bovine, goat's milk, etc. Slowly, I've been able to add some of those things to my diet. Reading labels before purchasing anything is key. It took months to get any energy back. In March 2024, I retired feeling as though I needed to retire from my job as I was still having memory issues & didn't think I was able to do my job effectively. Reactions still occur if I've eaten someplace where cross-contamination occurs in food preparation. Nothing as severe as in the beginning, but still causing GI issues & exhaustion. It usually takes about 24-48 hours to recover, requiring me to sleep. My diet has eased up a bit where I can eat limited dairy. However, my doctor's office ran a new alpha-gal panel recently & my numbers have actually increased. Grocery costs have gone up. Options of ostrich & emu allow me to have beef-like tastes, but are extremely expensive (around \$35 per pound. Duck bacon is about \$24 per pound). Those are luxury items. I carry around two epi pens along with an inhaler & Benadryl in case of a severe reaction. I've never had to use them. More restaurants are becoming more alpha-gal friendly & aware, offering better options. If they cook mammal & my chicken with the same tools, or in the same spot on the grill, a reaction can occur with 12 hours. We purchased a separate grill to use at home to avoid mammal being prepared on it. It's been debilitating for me as well as causing depression & some anxiety when eating away from home. The months not being undiagnosed correctly causes concern towards medical personnel, dismissing me basically. I'm always on guard. Thank goodness the physician assistant at my doctor's office who was determined to find the cause for my problems. At least, now, people don't look at you weirdly when you tell them of your food restrictions. Education & knowledge has been key.

It does make you think twice about where you go on walks, hikes; making sure you check for ticks when returning.

My allergies to this are not as severe as other people I've come in contact with who suffer from alpha-gal - However, some days, you just want to scream.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA HAFLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with alpha gal in August of last year.
It took two years of pain and inflammation in my stomach before I was tested for food allergies.
It has affected my life in some ways as to what I can or cannot eat.
The foods we eat have so many additives to preserve them but are not good for our bodies.
I'm not sure why producers are allowed to put junk in our foods therefore destroying our digestive system.
I have not taken acupuncture but I have changed my way of eating and what I eat.
In reality producers are putting junk and harmful things in the foods we buy everyday.
We need to stand up and try to make a difference before it's too late.
Think about this. We are feeding our children with junk too and that could be why they are not healthy either.
Fast foods are not the answer to healthy.
God bless all who have been affected and trust in him to be right there with us in Thursday.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA NEUMANN, RN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is an IgE-mediated allergic response to galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose. It develops after a bite from a lone star tick, which transfers the alpha-gal sugar molecule into the bloodstream. The allergic response can be triggered by consuming meat such as beef, pork, lamb, venison, rabbit, or other meat from mammals and other products made from mammals. The following numbers are only the tip of the iceberg. Surveillance and prevention efforts are paramount. Currently, we do not know how pervasive Lyme Disease and Alpha-Gal are in MO. We do know that there are currently 1,631 MO school students with Alpha-Gal. Source: MO Dept. of Health & Senior Services - Adolescent & School Health Report - STUDENTS WITH DISEASE AND CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MISSOURI 2025-2026 school year. With 545 of 558 public schools reporting, representing 99% of all students.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LIRE'AEL WESEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good afternoon. My name is Lire'ael Weseman, and I am writing in support of House Bill 1855.

I have lived with Alpha-Gal Syndrome for three years. I was diagnosed at fifteen years old after experiencing allergic reactions very similar to what my mother had gone through two years earlier. Both of us have severe forms of this condition.

Going through AGS at such a young age was incredibly difficult. While most teenagers were focused on school, sports, and spending time with friends, I was trying to understand why my body was reacting in ways that did not make sense and trying to mitigate reactions. Smelling foods like hot dogs made me feel sick. Drinking milk left me nauseous, itchy, and painfully bloated. Then meat started to taste terrible and made me feel even worse. Overtime the reactions increased. My reactions were also often delayed, sometimes waking me up in the middle of the night feeling ill or covered in hives. We were told it could be anxiety, hormones, lactose intolerance, or something else entirely, but even lactose intolerance pills made me feel worse.

There was hesitation to call it Alpha-Gal Syndrome, almost as if giving it that name was too serious and as if it was too rare. However, avoiding the label did not stop the reactions. It only prolonged the fear and uncertainty.

I was both lucky and unlucky that my mom already had Alpha-Gal. It was hard watching how much it changed her life and then experiencing those same changes in my own. At the same time, I was fortunate because she believed me. She recognized the signs and became my advocate when I needed one. Not every young person has that kind of support. Many are left searching for answers on their own.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome affects far more people than most realize, yet awareness remains low because it is not widely tracked or reported. If more people understood AGS and if it were a reportable condition, families could receive answers faster. Schools, colleges, and healthcare providers could create safety plans sooner. Young people like me would not have to spend months living in confusion, fear, and discomfort before getting help.

Now, as a resident college student in Missouri, managing AGS requires constant vigilance. Dining halls typically only communicate the nine major allergens, and Alpha-Gal is not one of them. I must advocate for myself every day simply to stay safe.

House Bill 1855 would bring greater visibility to this condition. Recognition leads to awareness. Awareness leads to earlier diagnosis, better planning, and safer environments for students and families.

I respectfully ask you to support House Bill 1855 so that no young person (or any person for that matter) has to navigate this condition without answers or support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYDIA STEINKOETTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this bill because it will Improve Public Health Surveillance. By requiring systematic reporting of noncommunicable diseases such as Lyme disease and alpha-gal syndrome, the state could gain a clearer picture of how prevalent these conditions are, which can inform better prevention, treatment, and resource allocation.

It also promotes early detection and public health response. Faster reporting could help public health officials identify outbreaks or increases in certain diseases sooner, allowing for quicker responses and awareness campaigns where needed.

By standardizing reporting and submitting annual summaries to the CDC, Missouri could contribute to broader national data collection and help shape national research and policy priorities for emerging health issues.

It helps track under recognized conditions. Some diseases (like alpha-gal syndrome) are underreported or poorly tracked. Requiring lab reporting helps fill gaps in surveillance and could lead to better medical understanding and care practices in the state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYLA N. OVERCAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYLA OVERCAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hi. My name is Lyla Overcast. You may remember me from last time.

Sometimes people think the hardest part of having Alpha-Gal is giving up certain foods. For me, the hardest part is learning how to exist in places where people don't always understand what it's like to live with it.

I have Alpha-Gal, and so do two of my siblings. Now my mom and my aunt have it too. At home, we've learned how to protect each other. We plan our meals carefully and double-check everything we eat. My dad even stopped cooking beef in the house because the smell can make us physically sick. But school has been harder.

Lunch is a daily reminder that I'm different. Most days, the only option I'm offered is a plain, dry salad. While other kids get choices and hot meals, I get the same thing over and over. After a while, it doesn't just get boring — it makes you feel invisible. And it definitely doesn't provide the nutrition growing kids need.

That's why I started packing my own lunch. It wasn't something I wanted to do. It was something I had to do just to feel safe. I'm fortunate to have parents who are informed and able to help me do that. Not every child with Alpha-Gal is that lucky, especially families with limited income who may not have the same options.

My mom manages this allergy for four people in our house, and I see how much work that takes.

Watching her handle it with patience has taught me resilience. When things feel unfair, I remind myself that challenges don't last forever — but the strength you build from them does.

Some days have been more than frustrating. One day at lunch, kids slammed milk cartons onto my table to get a reaction, and milk splashed onto my skin. In that moment, I felt embarrassed and small.

No one wants to feel like a target just for trying to stay safe and healthy. But that experience taught me something important: other people's actions don't define who I am. I get to choose how I respond. I don't hate them — I just wish they understood.

Living with Alpha-Gal has taught me responsibility, empathy, and independence earlier than most kids my age. It has brought my family closer and shown me how strong we can be together. This condition is part of my story, but it doesn't define my future. What defines me is how I face it — with strength, patience, and the support of the people who stand beside me.

I'm so proud of my dad for being relentless in advocating for me, my family, and all the families across our state who share this struggle. Thank you committee members Representatives Kelly and Peters, and Representatives Loy, Seitz, Veit, Sassmann, Verneti, Violet, and Black for co-sponsoring this legislation.

Please help my dad get this done this session. It's one of the most important things you will work on this year.

Thank you for your time and support on this bill. I'm happy to try to answer any questions you may

have.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNDSAY METZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello my name is Lyndsay Metz Im a 33 year old mother of 4 who was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in 2023.

It took me 3 years, many unexplained health episodes, thousands of wasted dollars on tests, specialist visits, and even an unnecessary gallbladder removal to finally find out what was wrong with me.

Since being diagnosed with Alpha-Gal, mine and my families daily lives have changed in ways most people cannot see or even comprehend.

This condition affects far more than what I eat. It has changed my entire world and robbed me of so much we all take for granted.

I react to cooking meat and dairy fumes, medications, body care items and everyday products that you'd never even guess would contain mammal.

This has put large amounts of stress on me and my family, financially and mentally.

Simple joys like going on a walk or to the park are a lot of time ended abruptly or completely avoided in fear of someone barbecuing outside which would cause me to have an allergic reaction.

We no longer dine out, travel, go to family gatherings, or even most school functions because the environments are too hard to verify are completely safe and mammal free.

Our grocery bill has doubled if not more just trying to buy specialty safe foods for us to make meals at home.

The costs for insurance, medical care and specialty medications are astronomical. Not to mention the hundreds of dollars wasted on prescription medications I've been prescribed and unable to take due to them containing mammal and finding out after the fact.

This condition affects everything in our lives and we are not the only ones. This is how it is across the board for people and families struggling to deal and survive with Alpha Gal with little to no help.

HB 1855 would be a huge win and first step in helping Missouri families get the help we need. Making Alpha Gal a reportable disease is a necessary and much needed move in our community. Please help support us by supporting this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNN OVERTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 6:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I hope by enacting this House Bill, Alpha-gal Syndrome is recognized as a valid and true condition. I was unable to attend as I was accompanying my grandson to treatment uncovered by insurance to hopefully help his Alpha-gal symptoms and learn what I need to do for mine. This disease has been laughed about as untrue and I. Our minds, but our physical symptoms are real. Once recognized, hopefully treatments will also be covered by insurance.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY BACKES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

AlphaGal has been a life altering crisis for my family. From being treated by uninformed medical providers in the ER, having to drive 20+ miles to purchase non-dairy products, carrying an EpiPen at all times, no longer eating out as most restaurants are not safe, to the staggering prices of AGS foods & hygiene items, and the time spent trying to read every ingredient labe in "fine print" these are just a few of the issues for an AlphaGal victim.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY LYNN CADY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome in 2011, after a tick bite in my own back yard. It has changed my life. Socially, emotionally, economically, and medically, all for the worse. I can no longer go out to eat with friends easily. No potlucks, no work celebrations, no parties, no going through a drive through when things are rushed, no parking near a meat smoker in front of a grocery store, and the list goes on. Groceries cost more. Grocery shopping involves reading fine print of ingredients on every single package, even if you've bought it before, because they could have changed an ingredient. Playing roulette with "natural flavors" : do they include mammal??? Who knows? Sometimes the manufacturer doesn't even know, but even if they do, you are lucky if they will actually respond to an inquiry, let alone disclose it! People get impatient if they end up behind me in the aisles of the grocery store. Reading every ingredient, trying to figure out if there is some strange mammal byproduct hidden amongst all the other ingredients, or carrageenan. So many things to watch for. And then there are medical challenges. Every new Doctor or medical personnel means educating them on Alpha-gal. Some take it seriously, and some look at me like I am crazy, and they dismiss my concerns and tell me to just take Benadryl. Medications are another challenge. Gel caps. So many medicines are in gel caps. Gelatin is MAMMAL. Compounding medicines is hard to get done, get insurance to cover, and still no guarantee there is no mammal byproduct hidden in it. Magnesium stearate and other fillers in medicines can be animal or plant sourced. Do they have to tell you? Of course not! Whichever is the cheapest source for that lot, is what is used, so they don't even know! Epi pens are expensive. Antihistamines... can't leave home without them. And heaven forbid (my worst nightmare) is that I end up in an emergency situation like a car accident, cannot speak up for myself, and I am given "life saving medicines" that could ultimately kill me because they contain Alpha-gal. Medical personnel MUST be educated, hospitals MUST be equipped to deal with Alpha-Gal, labelling MUST be required of mammalian products and byproducts, and reporting of Alpha-gal MUST be instituted! This is a growing concern in Missouri. Ticks are horrible here. Missouri is a hot bed for Alpha-gal Syndrome. It's time to act!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN KAYS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband has had AGS for 2 1/2 years. It has completely changed our lives. We have had to navigate the healthcare system alone, finding that there was little knowledge about this within that profession. We only purchase groceries that have clear (and honestly, sometimes you can't always trust U.S.) labels to confirm the absence of any mammal, and very seldom eat out at any restaurant. Traveling is limited to only venues where we have total control over our foods and easy access to emergency healthcare should an accidental mammal trigger an anaphylactic reaction. AlphaGal is a complete life changer for our household.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREENI KLEEKAMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha-Gal Syndrome is debilitating. My daughter's life along with ours have been dramatically effected. For 4 years she has dealt with fume and bodily reactions ranging from hives, low oxygen, low blood pressure, severe digestive issues and asphyxiation. Doctors have not been much help and have told her they don't know how to treat Alpha-Gal. It was just recently that Barnes hospital created Alpha-Gal policies. My daughter has to check with every medical staff member to verify that each product is Alpha-Gal safe. Staff has had to contact the pharmaceutical companies to check ingredients of medications which causes long wait times. My family has to take extra steps to create a safe environment for my daughter.. This safety includes NO mammalian foods or by-products such as air freshners, candles, or clothes with scented fabric softners, perfume, aftershave, or hair sprays along with no food containing mammalian meats or appetizers along with sugary desserts. Even bottled water and sugars are filtered with bone char. Mammalian tissue is in many products, and it is hard to find out if companies have mammalian substances in their products because they don't list it. It should be a requirement for companies to list all the ingredients in their products and to list Alpha-gal allergy on their labels To be safe, we make everything from scratch and use the least amount of ingredients. My daughter can't attend events or eat at restaurants. There are too many fragrances along with the threat of cross contamination. She can only go to a vegan restaurants. Alpha-Gal has created much fear in our lives. We are uncomfortable even going in our own back yards. There are so many deer roaming through subdivisions, let alone woods. Ticks are everywhere and are active in 40° weather. Please pass HB1855. We need Missouri to become a more safe place to live, work, and visit. Alpha-Gal affects Missouri's commerce, livelihoods, and tourism. Please help by passing HB1855. We need your support in passing this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MECHELL SHAVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My face ended up being numb for three days after eating a half a hamburger that I have always been able to eat. Now I am literally learning all the food I am not allowed to eat. Everything on the market has been filtered bone char or some kind of mammal product and with labels not being clear enough such as natural flavors and sugar ect limits the amount of food I can even eat. I have been living on chicken plain chip and 100% organic ketchup since my diagnosis because i'm to scared to eat... I now carry a Epi pen everywhere because you never know how food can be contaminated and smells even make me sick. We need clear labels... food, drinks, meds, all kids of soap...



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN HAMMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In the summer of 2023, my husband, a vibrant and healthy nearly 40-year-old, began experiencing alarming respiratory issues that upended our family's life. Initially dismissed as anxiety or panic attacks by multiple ER physicians, we faced a prolonged period of confusion and distress. We spent months trying to figure out what was causing his breathing issue. After extensive testing, including our own request for a tick panel, we were devastated to learn that he tested positive for Alpha Gal. As a man who grew up immersed in farming and raising beef, this diagnosis meant he had to avoid red meat entirely—a daunting reality that only scratched the surface of our struggles. Over the next six months, he developed extreme sensitivities, reacting even to the mere smell of beef, which forced us to overhaul our shopping habits and daily routines. Grocery trips turned into anxiety-inducing challenges as we navigated the complexities of finding mammal-free products. We could no longer feed our kids their favorite foods, go grocery shopping because they were cooking mammal meat in the deli, or go to friends' or family's houses. We thought vegan products were safe but were told that's not the case. We tried to use the FIG app, but it wasn't 100% accurate. Sugars can be processed through bone char, so we called manufacturers to find out how the sugar, BBQ sauce, ketchup, etc., was processed. Every piece of fabric in our house had to be rewashed in mammal-free laundry soap. The emotional toll was immense; depression set in as our family's lifestyle shifted dramatically. There were many ER visits because we thought something was safe, and it wasn't. Then, recovering from a reaction took time as well. I took on the burden of managing all household responsibilities and our farm work, all while striving to maintain a semblance of normalcy for our children amid the chaos of uncharted territory. Then his intestines shut down due to Alpha Gal, and we had to navigate staying in the hospital with Alpha Gal. Navigating the complexities of managing Alpha Gal while in the hospital is a challenge that few understand. Despite the perception that a hospital setting is the safest environment for someone with this condition, our experience proved otherwise. We found ourselves in the position of educating not only the medical team but also the kitchen staff about the specifics of Alpha Gal. Every medication prescribed had to undergo meticulous scrutiny, as the tubes and gels used during procedures needed to be synthetic, which the hospital could not provide a synthetic gel so they were unable to use it. Unfortunately, the hospital kitchen's offerings, such as beef broth, underscored their lack of awareness or understanding, prompting us to take control of his diet. I began preparing all his meals at home. We discovered that even seemingly simple items like chicken breast required careful label reading due to potential additives. The convenience of fast food is compromised by hidden ingredients like dairy in fries and beef tallow in fried items. Alpha Gal also significantly impacted our budget outside of medical visits by doubling our grocery expenses as we sought out specialized products like dairy-free sour cream, almond milk, and mammal-free chicken, ensuring that each meal aligned with the strict requirements of managing Alpha Gal.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2025, an ATV ride took an unexpected turn when I discovered a tick securely attached between my shoulder blades, which I now refer to as the tick from hell. While I did my best to remain calm for my husband's sake, the dread of what could follow loomed large. With a month-long waiting period before signs of Alpha Gal would manifest, all I could do was hope the tick hadn't introduced any harmful disease into my system. A few weeks later, hives emerged, resembling a rash similar to poison ivy. After consulting my doctor and undergoing blood work, the results confirmed my fears. Despite this daunting diagnosis, I aimed to maintain a positive outlook, assuming that many would eventually share in this experience. My situation required careful monitoring of my soaps, makeup, hair products, and a strict avoidance of dairy, beef, and pork. With a small goat farm to manage and two new puppies adding to the chaos, I constantly find myself on high alert, as even minor scrapes can trigger hives. Family gatherings, particularly during the holidays, have become complicated logistics, requiring pre-planned meals to ensure our safety. The notion that acupuncture might provide relief has proven futile for my husband, who has tried it multiple times without success. The journey with Alpha Gal is far from easy, and the Alpha Gal community deserves better than this ongoing struggle. Our story serves as a testament to the profound impact of hidden health threats and the challenges many families face in similar circumstances.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN LACHANCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have alpha-gal and have been diagnosed with this since March of 2023. I then was bitten by another tick and became anaphylactic with smells of mammal, especially pork. I had went to the hospital so many times because I wasn't sure when I was around it till a couple hours later realizing my throat was closing up when I thought it was just allergies. I received the acupuncture but it has come back again to the point of not being around the smells again. I want people to be aware and make companies share if mammal byproducts are in our food. I am highly reactive to xantham gum, carrageenan, and mall dextrin. I have spent money I do not have on natural food or had to give food away only because I realized it did not say it had mammal in it when it did. Wearing masks around town during outings or in Walmart. People should know about this because for a year I was so miserable and spent so much money on my health going to get scans and blood tests trying to find out what is going on. My worst reaction is my blood pressure dropping being around pork that is being cooked.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN SPILKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 4:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We have to do better on labeling with the actual ingredients in our food. I have had alpha-gal for 6 years and have had countless reactions to food that absolutely does not list any type of meat products on the label.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA BRUNNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son was diagnosed in August 2025. He is 18. Prior to getting a diagnosis he went from 210lbs to 150lbs in 3 months. He was so sick, and doctors had no idea. Once diagnosed we were faced with the overwhelming task of completing changing the way we eat. Six months later he is feeling better. Our family has felt the impact because we now have to purchase special food and some of which we drive almost an hour to get because local stores do not carry the products. We are no longer able to go to restaurants because of AlphaGal.

On a daily basis I talk to at least 3 new people who have it or know someone that does.

We need support. We need our doctors, dentist and food prep facilities to know about and how to work with this.

We need this bill to pass. I urge you to help us. Please



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA MASSMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Where to start, Alpha Gal is life changing, not only for me but for my entire family, friends and basically anyone I want to be around. I have to read every label, question every food if we want to go out (what's it bribed in, what's it battered in, what's it cooked in, is anything else cooked in the same fryer, etc), sometimes its just easier to stay home and know that what I am eating is safe because I cooked it. Fumes, that's a whole new level of the food game (as I call it...have to try to have fun with it or it becomes depressing really quick), sometimes they are okay sometimes they aren't you just never know. Dairy, yep can't do that either, but can't have just any plant based non-dairy because I also have nut allergies so I have to read all those labels carefully too. I carry my bag of tricks everywhere I go, which includes a safe protein shake & a bottle of juice (because my blood sugar has decided to become unstable with this also), a bottle of liquid benadryl, and my epi pens so that I hopefully have everything I need for when I have a reaction....sometimes they come on fast, sometimes it takes multiple hours again you never know. When I first started with symptoms my reactions were mainly GI type reactions, now I usually have difficulty breathing. I received my diagnosis about 2 1/2 years ago, for about 2 months I was sick nightly (I'd wake up every night between 2 & 2:30 and be extremely sick for at least 2 hours), after multiple dr visits and being told I had weird symptoms and being given anti nausea meds I was finally tested...after getting the results and changing my diet to only chicken and fresh fruits & veggies I finally started to start feeling better. Several of us in my family now have this, so family functions are easier depending on who all is invited, but I still end up questioning lots of things or only eating what I brought. Church functions, weddings, work meals, I take my own food most of the time unless I have talked to who is doing the cooking and trust what they are doing and that they understand how severe my allergies are. In the end, I wish it was something that none of us had to deal with but its to late for that, so now we need all the support that we can get to help us navigate the unknown (because it varies from person to person).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MERRIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 11:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The growing numbers of people, especially children in Missouri contracting alpha gal will greatly impact operations which are in place such as school lunches and breakfasts. School districts, vendors and local farmers need to be prepared to address the potentially massive changes needed to safely feed students. To a lesser degree, I feel hospitals, nursing homes and other large scale cafeteria entities will also be impacted. I support this bill because the data collected should help with awareness and drive necessary changes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICAELA PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal during my sophomore year of college in 2014-2015. I have anaphylactic responses to beef, which I am prescribed an Epi pen. I also am allergic to gelatin and have issues with dairy. This impacts me as I grocery shop since bovine products are in a lot of foods/ingredients, even ones you don't expect. When I eat out, I have to have my food made in a frying pan so that it doesn't touch the grill. In doing research, I believe I have a minor case of Alpha Gal however, it is still inconvenient and life threatening.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WOJICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 1:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I a resident of ST Louis County contracted Alpha Gal in Aug of 2021 in Fredrick town. I had a severe anaphylaxis reaction almost death transported by ambulance. Unsure of issue. A second episode happened two months later used an epipen went to er. Then found out the next month by blood test from an allergist. I had alpha gal. The tick bite left a purple rash and ring on my thigh for 3 months. I can now not eat mammals. Although last sept my protein liver enzymes were better for beef and lamb. This has caused me a great deal of struggles trying to eat things not contacted with mammals



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE BRIDGEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with alpha gal a year ago. As a wife of a cattle farmer, mother, and a Registered nurse. This has affected every minute of my life. Simple tasks such as grocery shopping, making meals, socializing with family-friends-coworkers-church family, working my job, and helping on the farm has become a dreadful task. Reading every food label not once but twice and sometimes three times. Making my food separate from my family. Fear of eating at a restaurant or church dinner. Getting a workplace accommodation for a mammal free hand sanitizer. I can no longer enjoy our cats or feed our bottle calves. Even just using a bandaid created an allergic reaction. The increase cost of foods and products to avoid potential reactions is astronomical.

First of all this disease needs tracking. Then food labels for alpha gal safety. Our healthcare providers need required education. The list goes on and on.

Missouri support your residents and make the first step in mandating reporting!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE HILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I found out I Have AGS last April.. 2025. I have had many reactions trying to figure out what I can and cant eat, wear, use, or touch. My doctor and I had to sit and look it up on his phone to figure it out. It's heartbreaking to know that even doctors don't know enough to even help. It's scary knowing that a smell or taste can trigger you into full blown anaphalaxis and that it can happen at anytime. We need more study on this ao that those of us who habe can be taken seriously and not be called " an attention getter".



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE L PROCTOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had AGS for 6 years. I was only diagnosed 2 years ago. I was driven near insane because I was so sick for no reason. Doctors do not understand this disease. Pharmacies are only just becoming aware of the impact in medications. I personally was putting a handful of alpha gal in my mouth via medication every night and waking up at 4:00 a.m. deathly ill. If this disease was simply about avoiding meat it would not be so critical. But Alpha Gal is in nearly every product we ingest. They inject carrageenan into turkey and chicken, and use beef and pork collagen casings on turkey and chicken sausage, making it toxic to a person with Alpha gal. Carrageenan must be listed as an allergen. Alpha Gal must be listed as an allergen . We need reporting. We need safe labeling. We need training for doctors. Missouri is a hotspot. Please help us. I suspect the number is beyond comprehension.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISTI NOAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had Alpha Gal Syndrome for 6 years now! I am allergic to mammal and by mammal products. If exposed, I have anaphylactic reactions. This is a life style change! I am constantly researching ingredients on every food, medical labels, topical items (such as lotion or shampoo) The very broad label of "Natural Ingredients" is just that, very broad. While it makes it easier for product packers, it can be life threatening for some of us! I rarely will eat out as it causes to much anxiety about cross contamination or if a restaurant fully understands my limited diet. I have had multiple occasions where doctors, dentist or pharmacy are not even aware of what I can or can't receive. We need to educate better! We need better, more clearly identified ingredients!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISTY WHITEHEAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have lost a large amount of colon and almost had a permanent colostomy due to alpha gal. Not knowing I was eating food I was allergic too had bad effects on my GI system. The cost of a regular bag of cheese can cost as low as \$1.50 for people with alpha gal it is \$4.65 and up. Everything is so much more expensive. The trace amount of mammalian by products in food can have ever lasting effects of our health. I am a mail carrier and a cattle farmer. Having a GI episode while driving for 6 hours is the ultimate battle when there are no bathrooms available. Each reaction can last days. We can't call in sick those days. So we work while brain fog, tired, sick, and GI upset is raging. I can not eat in a restaurant or anywhere other than home. I can't trust what other people cook I maybe sick for days. Then to have a spouse who doesn't have alpha gal he can't cook for me because he's to afraid he will make me sick. But we also have a toddler who has alpha gal. She can't eat what all the other kids at school get to eat. She can't eat at friends house. My spouse and everyone around her has to call constantly to ask what is safe? School didn't even know what red meat was when we sent in the dr note stating the toddler can't have it. Having to have a masters degree in food biology and chemistry is crazy to just live healthy. Please for the love of all people who suffer with this. Make all products that contain any mammalian products have an allergy label. I don't want to die. And I don't want my child to die. It's not just food. We have to watch soap, toothpaste, shampoo, everything that touches or goes in our bodies.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY K. MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

For 17 years, I have lived with Alpha-Gal syndrome. Eating out is almost nonexistent for me. I am highly allergic to all red meats. I have experienced cross contamination reactions, nearly dieing once. I was diagnosed at the University of Missouri in 2008 with a follow up diagnosis in 2023 at Quincy Medical Group. This is a lifetime issue. I will not get better. I have learned to adjust my eating to poultry, fish, veggies, fruits and grains. Grocers need to know that more folks are getting Alpha-Gal, and that we need more poultry and fish products available. I have a grill and cooking utensils that are dedicated to cooking only what I can eat. I have several friends that have contracted Alpha-Gal Syndrome. It is important to let folks know that you do not get over this!! It's in your body for the rest of your life!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATALIE HELLING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is absolutely terrifying eating out anywhere because people are not aware of this disease. It is extremely expensive to be able to afford the only types of meat that I can actually eat. I just want to figure out what exactly causes this. I want to figure out the why and an affordable way for a cure. Acupuncture apparently works but it's over 500\$ per visit and insurance doesn't even cover it. It's sickening that this isn't even covered for with insurance and it's possibly the ONLY cure. I'm so tired of living with this every single day of my life and I can't even afford the only "cure". It's also not even 100% effective for anyone.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATASHA HAWKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal 01/08/2026. The pain from the inflammation in my body was very significant. I have had to deal with hives and swelling in my airway. It has been very expensive to change over all of my personal care products, getting safe vitamins and supplements that will not trigger this allergy, and the cost of buying mammalian free foods. There's so many mammalian byproducts in the things we purchase on a regular basis at the store. There is still a significant lack of education in the medical community. I have been a Registered Nurse for 18yrs and am learning new information on how to navigate this every day. I feel very fortunate that I have been able to have access to many resources given where I live at in the state. Many of our Missourians live in rural areas where safe foods and products are not as readily accessible. Acknowledgement of this in our state and promotion of education about this tick borne illness will benefit many in our great state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATASHA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:42 AM
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Alpha Gal has changed so much of my life. It's not just a "red meat allergy". It's reviewing ingredients in every single product consumed and used. Not only did I change my entire diet in an attempt to avoid an allergic reaction (GI issues, skin sensitivity and chronic hives, constant itching, brain fog, trouble breathing, anaphylaxis) but I had to change my soaps, my skincare, my makeup, my clothing. Due to cross contamination, eating out and enjoying meals with others is challenging. My medications had to be changed to veggie capsules and my insurance doesn't cover it, so I pay out of pocket the hundreds of dollars for it to be made and delivered from a specialty pharmacy.

On December 14, 2025 I took a Benadryl to help relieve symptoms of an ongoing allergic reaction (that started because my toddler ate pizza and touched my face), not realizing the Benadryl had gelatin in it. Within 30 minutes of taking the Benadryl I couldn't breathe and my husband had to administer my EpiPen and take me to the hospital. That was traumatic for my household as my children were also present. It's so frustrating to have once been able to consume and be around these things that were once safe, and now they do me harm.

When I was in the hospital, I had to explain what Alpha Gal was to a few employees there. How are they to take care of me if they don't know that any product made from a mammal can cause a reaction. More awareness and information needs to be shared, medical facilities should be educated, and monitoring should be required.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATASHA KAISER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:42 AM
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I have spent years, literal years, being told my flu like symptoms were a virus. I suffered through weight loss, nausea, abdominal pain, dizziness and heart rate elevation to the point of feeling like maybe it was a heart attack. I had been to the clinics, the ER, had a multitude of tests and been brushed off with a virus, or worse, anxiety diagnosis and no relief. I never ran a fever, my family wasn't getting sick, and my labs kept coming back normal. It took a lot of advocating and persistence, pushing my provider to "look outside the box" to finally get a diagnosis of Alpha Gal Syndrome, an allergy that could have killed me, and felt like it was going to. The diagnosis was a massive relief to have an answer as to why I kept getting so sick, but overwhelming to try to manage. It's not as simple as don't eat red meat or dairy, there are an overwhelming amount of by-products you need to avoid. I have one prescription medication, my pharmacist has contacted the manufacturer, and it's been over a week and without a response, a week wondering if I am safe to take my prescribed medication. I also had a mild allergic reaction and needed over the counter allergy meds, and it took calling three different pharmacies to find one that would be alpha gal "friendly". Labels for food are unclear, listing things like "natural flavors", or listing ingredients that could be plant or animal based, but don't specify. It has been an overwhelming nightmare to navigate trying to stay safe from an allergy that can cause anaphylaxis and possibly kill me. I am a registered nurse of 17 years and familiar with educating myself on a disease process, but in this case I am a patient and have had little to no help from the provider, except here is an epi-pen, follow this "diet", and look up this website. I can't imagine the struggle for people who don't have a medical background. It is essential, and a basic human right, to have clear and concise labeling on food and medication. This syndrome is dangerous, it's not going away, and more and more people are being affected. We need more education for providers, to promote earlier diagnosis and education being provided to patients. We need to be able to go to the store, and the pharmacy and know exactly what ingredients, source if they can be plant or animal derived, for our health and safety. We need research, we need education and resources, we need help! Thank you for taking time to listen to my testimony and I pray today is the day that change starts taking place!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NEWTON EMMANUEL HUFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Living as a farmer in southern Missouri, my life has been profoundly affected by Alpha-Gal Syndrome, a condition linked to tick bites that has become alarmingly common in my community. Growing up, my childhood was filled with carefree days spent playing in the woods, where getting tick bites was simply part of our outdoor adventures. We never thought twice about it; we were more concerned with the joys of nature.

However, things have changed dramatically. Today, I find myself navigating the challenges of Alpha-Gal Syndrome, a condition that restricts my diet and alters my daily life. The frustration of this situation is compounded by the lack of understanding surrounding the sudden spread of syndrome. It's alarming to see that a lot of the people I know in my area now also suffer from this condition, and it raises many questions about why this is happening.

There appears to be a noticeable increase in the tick population compared to my childhood, leading me to wonder why we weren't more informed about the risks associated with these bites.

As a farmer, my work is deeply intertwined with the land and the environment, making it all the more frustrating to see the very thing I love becoming a source of harm. I hope to raise awareness about Alpha-Gal Syndrome and advocate for more research into its causes and effects, not just for myself but for all those in my community who are grappling with the same challenges. Understanding the risks and finding solutions is crucial for our health and the future of agriculture in our region.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NIKANDRA LOMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I got Rocky Mountain in 2017, diagnosed with AGS in 2019! This has not only affected mine and my kids lives, it has really played a toll on my mental health! I constantly have brain fog, loss of memory, joint swelling/pain and just overall don't feel good 8/10 days! It has also affected my eye sight, I had 20/20 vision and now I'm constantly going to the eye doctor and getting a stronger prescription! I do know AGS affects everyone differently, some way worse than others! Hard to believe one little tick can cause so many issues!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ODED POLLAK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:25 PM
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Unfortunately, I can only submit my testimony at this time. I will try to keep it short, as I assume you receive many.

Last year, both my 11-year-old son and I developed alpha-gal without knowing what we had. For three months or so, we went back and forth to urgent care, were prescribed different antibiotics, dealt with random vomiting without knowing why, poor sleep, horrible headaches, stomach pain, and missed work, just to name a few symptoms.

My son had it worse than me, but in a different way. He mainly had severe reactions whenever he ate any meat, though less frequently. I had reactions to both meat and dairy. Mine were less severe, but happened more regularly.

After we finally had allergy testing done, we found out that we both have alpha-gal. Life has not been the same since. We cannot eat out anymore, because almost everywhere and most products contain some form of dairy or gelatin. That includes candy for my son and even gelatin in medications like Advil. Vitamins, supplements, and everyday products, literally everything changed.

We were told that acupuncture treatment has helped many people. We tried it. It helped me quite a bit, but my son still cannot eat any meat in any form.

I wish there were more recognition, research, and support for those of us living with this condition.

Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA J. KRAFT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 3:26 PM
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To whom it may concern. My husband was diagnosed with Alpha Gal. He had intestinal problems but no knowing it was alpha gal he got a flu shot which is made with mammalian ingredients. From Sept. To Dec he suffered from full body hives and severe migraines. After a trip to a local doctor, And two trips to walk in clinics 40 miles from us we drove to the VA clinic 1½ away. We finally got the diagnosis of alpha gal. The challenge of medical care and hospitals in the rural towns only add to our fears. So life changing and so stressful for them and the family. He is 98% allergic to beef, 46% allergic to pork, milk, cheese, gelatin, and so much more. We have had to change medications due to additives, shampoos, soaps, lotions, toothpaste, and much more. We have to travel miles to specialty stores for many foods which cost more than most foods and if shopping the local store many times I have to call a manufacturer during my shopping trip to see if "natural flavors" will sicken my husband for days. To add to the mix he is a farmer and also has Angus cattle. He can no longer be at the farm because of his fumes reactions. Please pass this bill so that we can get a real look at how many families are effected and get the food companies on board. I feel for his health and his life if this continues to get worse. Thank you for listening. Sincerely Patrick's Kraft



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA PITMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:49 PM
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I have alpha gal and many health care providers do not know that gelcaps often are from pork/beef and frequently prescribe those meds.

I am a nurse practitioner and it is challenging on the daily!

Missouri is one of the highest states.

We need prescribed burns to help clean up leaf litter for control

RFK is not helping to MAHA when he advocates for restaurants to use beef tallow. Restaurants don't have to state what their fry oil is made of or if they have cross contamination of grills and cook tops.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA STEPHENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Confirmed diagnosis of AGS in Oct 2025. As an 81 yr old to have to relearn everything about her diet & bodily care products in order to stay symptom free is a very daunting thing. The only way to make it possible for residents in Mo to become aware of this possible awful condition is by a mandatory reporting system. The children who play outside & the elderly like myself who love to garden as a hobby & also a way to stay active are the most vulnerable not to mention agricultural workers, landscapers/lawn care workers, hunters, campers,etc, etc,etc. Our medical staff across the state need to be more aware of symptoms so a diagnosis can be made sooner rather than later. Reported numbers will require the medical personnel to learn as much as they can so that AGS will be the first thing they check rather than the last especially when a patient has unexplained hives like me. When both topical & oral meds did not work I eventually leaned on the internet & ask questions about gardening organically which eventually led me to suspect that a tick bite was at the root of my problem. Requested the blood test from my family Dr. which confirmed a very high level of AGal. That was in Sept 2025. Began a regiment of elimination—lost almost 30 lbs in a very short time. Appointments to the other 3 specialists they wanted me to see could not be until December, February & March. Check for other tick borne diseases negative, for Parkinson's negative, other autoimmune disease negative. Appointment with allergist moved up to February. Checked for environmental allergies as that could be done with blood test & praise the Lord those came back negative. Testing for an allergic reaction to food items has not been done yet because I would have to be off the antihistamine for 1 week & at this time I can not do that. This is a “learn as you go” situation as every Alpha Gal individual is different. Still eating a very restrictive diet, staying in as I have a high sensitivity to odors in perfumes used in personal bodily & clothing care products, wearing 100% cotton (& loose) clothing because I am still having issues with hives. Would never have imagined toilet paper would be a problem! And “NO CURE”. Reported numbers should lead to more research & then to a viable solution to eliminate symptoms if not an eventual cure.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK ESSER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Subject: Urgent Need for Improved Labeling and Safer Medications for Alpha-Gal Patients

Dear Honorable Representatives of our fine state, Missouri,

I am writing to ask for your attention and support regarding a serious but often overlooked medical condition known as Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS).

Alpha-gal syndrome is a tick-induced allergy to a sugar molecule found in mammalian products. Since developing this condition, I have had to completely change my diet and daily life. I can no longer safely consume beef, pork, lamb, dairy, gelatin, or other mammal-derived ingredients. Eating out has become extremely difficult and risky due to cross-contamination and limited ingredient knowledge among food service staff. Even trace exposure can trigger serious allergic reactions.

Beyond food, mammal-derived ingredients are commonly used in prescription medications and supplements. Excipients such as magnesium stearate, gelatin capsules, and other inactive ingredients are often derived from mammalian sources. For patients like me, these ingredients can pose real health risks. In many cases, safer plant-based or synthetic alternatives already exist, and the cost difference is minimal. Small regulatory adjustments and clearer sourcing standards could significantly reduce preventable allergic reactions.

I respectfully urge Congress to consider:

Requiring clearer labeling of mammal-derived ingredients in food products, including gelatin, natural flavors, and other hidden sources.

Mandating transparent disclosure of animal-derived excipients in prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Encouraging or incentivizing the use of non-mammalian alternatives in pharmaceuticals when feasible.

Supporting research and public education about Alpha-gal syndrome.

Adding mammal-derived sources to allergen labeling requirements would dramatically improve safety and quality of life for those living with this condition. What may seem like a minor ingredient decision can mean the difference between safety and a medical emergency for people like me.

Alpha-gal syndrome is increasing across the United States as tick populations expand. Patients deserve basic transparency and reasonable protections.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I would greatly appreciate your support in advancing policies that improve safety and accessibility for those affected by Alpha-gal syndrome.

**Sincerely,
Patrick Esser
1204 Stoneybrooke Dr
Warrensburg, Mo 64093
660.624.4399**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATTI LINDSAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alha-Gal two years ago, but suffered without a diagnosis for 8 years. Medical professionals need more training in the diagnosis and treatment of AG. This bill is vital for awareness and management assistance. It's vital that food labels reflect the inclusion of all mammalian ingredients. I've had severe reactions from foods I thought were safe, as well as from medications. Physicians need to be aware of potential allergens in the drugs and OTC medications they recommend. Consumers need to purchase products they know are safe. I've had reactions to items I thought were safe based on their ingredient list. Please stop useless descriptions like "natural ingredients" or "spices." With grocery prices up, the additional cost of the dairy-free items and meat substitutions I require to survive means cutting back everywhere else. Those of us who suffer need your help!



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATTI SCHLICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had Alpha Gal Syndrome for nearly two years. It is extremely difficult to find foods to eat because of hidden ingredients (i.e. sugar processed with bone char; ingredients injected into fresh chicken that contain mammal; natural flavorings that cover unknown ingredients). It would be so helpful if ALL ingredients were listed on every package.

It has been life changing. I don't feel I can travel to visit family or friends because it is impossible for most restaurants to understand or have the ability to make sure every surface and every utensil has been thoroughly cleaned to prepare a meal to avoid cross-contamination. Add to that the complication for them to know exactly what is in the food they have purchased. Friends and family are willing to prepare meals for me but they would spend an immense amount of time researching everything.

It is more expensive to eat foods that are Alpha Gal friendly even when preparing all my own meals. Again, it goes back to ingredients and preparation. Starting with the basics of vegan food is the best but can cost more. It's hard to eat enough protein because, if you'd rather not eat chicken every day, then you must go to more exotic meats such as Emu or Ostrich. That's expensive!

The medical field has not caught up with this condition yet. Prescription drugs, such as antibiotics, do not have tablets or capsules that do not contain a mammal ingredient. Most over-the-counter medication, such as vitamins, also have the same problem. I personally went without an antibiotic for an infection because the only way I could get it was through an I.V.

I am so glad someone is interested in this condition. The numbers are increasing exponentially. Thank you.

Patti Schlick



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PEARL FORREST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Since becoming a person with alpha gal I am not only reactive to red meat I am highly dairy reactive I have stress when I eat I am reactive to alot of stuff that is in foods I dont know most of the ingredients I have 2 pages of environmental allergies I have leisons coming up on my body they hurt they itch sometimes they clear up move scar my clothes bother them I have to eat plant based vegan and organic foods my food amount has tripled in cost Ive had to start using natural health supplements I have to see a allergist a dermatologist I hardly ever went to the doctor before now its constant and stress of doctors not knowing much about alpha gal I have a brain fog now I am taking allergy shots ive completely changed my diet around I carry a epi pen at all times I have to use a nasal spray for allergies daily I take an allergy pill daily when I eat I have to watch and wait for any reactions its a very stressful and unpleasant syndrome im nervous to take anything ive changed shower products laundry products cooking arrangements and pans cooking utensils personal hygiene items oral care seems like everytime I eat I react to something I have a constant nasal congestion



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PEGGY SEILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:14 AM

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

I have had Alpha Gal since November 2024. It has changed my life in a negative way. Always worrying about what I eat, what products I can use and any medications I take. The simple joy of eating out with friends and family is now a great fear of being sick the next day. Please bring more awareness of Alpha Gal to all residents of Missouri.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PENNI CAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good Morning,

My name is Penni Cain and I have had Alpha Gal syndrome; disease; condition for approximately 6 years. It was very difficult in the beginning to get medical professionals to take me seriously when I had an attack. The basic blood test from primary care is insufficient to diagnose Alpha Gal. Doctors started to treat me as if I had psychological issues, rather than physical and were politely dismissive. I was finally able to convince my primary to send me to an allergist for specific tests for Alpha Gal. It was with mixed relief to show positive results and stopped being treated as if this was "all in my head" Fast forward, today all my family and friends know my situation. I try to not have them change things around for me and usually bring my own food. Eating out is close to impossible. A reaction is horrible and puts me out of normal routine for 2- 3 days. I carry a small emergency kit in my backpack with benedryl and epi-pens if exposure occurs. So many still have no clue about the " red meat disease" I pray for broader recognition and treatments in the future
Thank you for your time.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PRISCILLA BASS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:24 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal on Valentines Day in 2023, I had symptoms for at least 8 years before that. It's been 3-years since I have knowingly eaten any meat from animals with hooves or any of their by-products. No beef, pork, lamb and no milk, cheese, butter, or bacon.

I had symptoms of nausea which gradually became hives. The hives threatened my life when my tongue swelled. I rarely go out to eat for fear of eating something containing dried milk or is fried in beef tallow or the server automatically puts cheese on the salad. Have you ever eaten a cheese-less pizza? I have and I tell you a pizza with cheese is MUCH a better. I even have to monitor what type of bottled water I drink because the purified kind is often purified by funning it through beef bones. I needed a dental procedure that included building up the jawbone with a bone graft. I asked if they would use a graft from me or a cadaver. They said they had grafts they kept for these procedures. After some conversation I found out these grafts were from cows and pigs.

The cost of some of my medications has doubled or tripled because they have to be formulated so the do not contain any animal by-products. Even the capsules can contain animal gelatin. Besides the medicine, I had to find new personal care items that are vegan. Body lotions, shampoo, conditioners, moisturizers, makeup, etc. I have found that reading the labels of these products does not always tell the whole story. Some list 'natural ingredients' that can include animal by-products. Doing all of these things and changing my diet has helped, but it is expensive.

My numbers show improvement, but I am not through this process.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHAEL BAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Alpha Gal Syndrome. Until I was finally diagnosed, I suffered from many symptoms like vertigo, lack of energy, and night sweats to name a few. After being diagnosed comes the challenge of finding food, medications, and many other essential needs that do not contain mammalian products. It's also hard to navigate through any healthcare due to so little being known about Alpha Gal Syndrome. Thank you for taking the time to read this.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL ROTH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please pass this so Alpha-gal is a reportable condition! We need our Healthcare workers to be informed! This is a LIFE threatening and LIFE changing disease for so many of us! Me and my daughter both have it. It's scary just going to a doctor's appointment let alone going out eat, which we don't attempt. They do not know enough about it and most will dismiss it, like it's not real! They also prescribe meds that contain the allergen, because they aren't educated. Please change this, for us living with this awful disease.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RATA REEVES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:27 PM

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I was diagnosed with alpha gal about a year and a half ago. It's very difficult living with it. I have had anaphylaxis.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA D HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 5:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a person affected by alpha gal syndrome I would like to submit my testimony in support of tracking numbers of those affected. AGS has affected every facet of my daily life. I am one of the few who are fume reactive. When I smell mammal cooking it does a histamine dump into my cardiovascular system causing heart palpitations and rapid pulse-tachycardia. It is very frightening. I can no longer safely go into restaurants, attend church or wedding receptions, or go into grocery stores with delis. Initially when I had those reactions I went to the ER because I did not know what else to do or where to go for help. At the ER I was treated with great skepticism due to the doctors never having seen AGS fume reactions before. I was told I was having the beginnings of heart issues. Visits to the cardiologist have proven that to be untrue. It has been overwhelming how AGS has affected everything about my daily life; from medications, vitamins, personal hygiene products, toilet paper, even clothing. Alpha gal syndrome is rapidly spreading in Missouri; at least 8-10 people have been diagnosed in my small church in the past 5 years, 4 of us in just the past year. I believe it is imperative that we track how many people are affected by it so the medical professionals will recognize its impact and see the need to educate themselves fully as to how to treat it.

Thank you.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA VOSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 91-year-old mother and I were both diagnosed with AGS in 2023 - the gastrointestinal version of AGS. I suffered for eight months before I was diagnosed in February. I recognized the symptoms in my mother and asked her doctor to test her in August. I've eliminated dairy, gelatin, and carrageenan, as well as mammalian meat. After three years, I have learned to cope with this illness, but it has resulted in significant changes in our lives. We must shop multiple grocery stores since the local stores do not carry all the poultry and dairy-free products that I consume. The special food items are more expensive and usually a smaller size than the "normal" item, such as dairy-free chocolate chips and cream cheese, turkey ham, etc. My husband does not have AGS, but the fumes from mammalian meat causes me to have brain fog, flushing, and an increased heart rate. He must cook pork or beef outside on the grill. We no longer eat out as much since there are only a few places that are safe for me. The current push to beef tallow in restaurants is eliminating more and more restaurants. I must bring my own food to family gatherings. I have added a large number of vitamins and other supplements to maintain my health. I have had additional tick bites each year since my diagnosis, resulting in increased sensitivity. I have restricted my time outside and must spray myself down with tick repellent if I do go outside since I live in a rural area. I have been hospitalized three times since 2023 and must constantly advocate for myself with the doctors and nurses to make sure that they are eliminating mammal from my food, medication, sutures, etc. The impact on my mother has been greater. She lost a significant amount of weight - down to a low of 93 lbs., making her weak and resulting in multiple falls and hospitalizations. She only had one tick bite from a tick that rode in on her dog and transferred to her. I think reporting and tracking is important as this illness spreads throughout the rural areas. It is my greatest hope that ultimately a treatment is developed as I want to live a normal life without fear.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA WILLIFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In August 2025, my life was fundamentally altered when I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. While many understand this as an allergy to red meat, my condition is classified as high-risk anaphylaxis. My immune system does not just react to the ingestion of mammalian products; I am fume and airborne reactive. For me, the danger is invisible and omnipresent. I suffer anaphylactic reactions from:

?Ingestion: Any food or medication containing mammal-derived ingredients (gelatin, magnesium stearate, etc.).

?Inhalation: The fumes from someone cooking meat, the scent of mammal-derived waxes in candles, or the chemical residues in common household cleaners.

?Because of this, my world has shrunk to the confines of my own home.

The "normal" activities that define a human life are now life-threatening risks for me:

?Public Spaces: I can no longer step foot in a grocery store or walk near a restaurant. The airborne molecules from a grill or a deli counter are enough to trigger a systemic shutdown.

?Workplace: I have been forced out of the traditional office environment. I cannot control the lunches my colleagues heat up or the scents they use, making a communal workspace a site of constant medical trauma.

?Social Connection: I am isolated from friends and family. Because mammalian proteins linger, I cannot visit a home where meat has been cooked within the last 48–72 hours.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBEL WOODY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Today, I write to you as a supporter of loved ones who have been diagnosed with Alpha-gal syndrome. My husband went through 6 years of not knowing what was going wrong. Every morning he'd wake up and be sick. We had no idea why. After we got married, I started to look at getting him into doctor after doctor which we had no insurance and starting our lives, no money to pay for all the tests. Fast forward. Got insurance. Had his blood test, came back positive for AGS. Changed all of our lives. We don't eat out anymore, we don't go to family/friends houses for dinner without having to bring basically our whole fridge just to feed him. So he has decided eating at home is less of a burden. He is in the less than 10% category of also having a reaction to dairy. Therefore he requires Plant-based butter, Lactose free Milk, etc. More stores need better, affordable options. We need AGS safe packaging and labels. It takes over 2 hours most days in grocery stores, and sometimes more than one to be able to get what he needs. We can't get rid of an entire tick species but we can implement changes to help the current and future diagnoses.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RHONDA CATES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had Alpha Gal for over 29 years. There are so many issues I've had to deal with it would be like writing a book. I've had 2 serious times of anaphylactic shock a many time from fumes especially pork. I have organ damage from the fumes if pulled pork being cooked in a government courthouse I worked at and came very close to dieing. I still have to deal daily with issues including financial from all the different medications or homeopathic treatments just to be able to get up and move around. It started when I was about 35 and raising horses, dogs, chickens ect and working at a ranch with 20 horses. The ticks were horrible and everyday I would have to get them off my legs or wherever they crawled into . Even with sprays they still attached. The ranch I worked on was for girls scouts so trying to make sure they also understood how important it was to check themselves daily was a challenge. I wonder after the 5 years and all the girls that came through there just how many of them are affected also. I know these ticks were planted as a bioweapon against the US but do not have the funds for attorneys to prove it and when you fight against the government it's a never ending nightmare. Please pass the bill to at least start making an effort to improve the education and warnings for public places so they can put warnings out fir the millions of us suffering everyday while trying to live without being sick and having to shelter into our own space for safety. I can't tell you how many times I've had to explain the dangers of so many things in the hospital that can cause a reaction. Education is very important to make improvements.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RITA WILLIAMS-HARRISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:03 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is my hope that with the passage of HB 1855, the data might encourage the food, healthcare, and pharmaceutical industries to increase their products that are safe for people with Alpha-Gal Syndrome. I hope these industries will recognize that there are a lot of people affected by the ingredients in their products. There is need for improvement with their labeling. For example, the listing of natural flavoring is vague, and very possibly unsafe, for AGS people.

The pharmaceutical companies are often using gelatin from mammals for capsules instead of ingredients safer for people with AGS. While mammal ingredients may be cheaper, it is not safe for the growing population of people with AGS

The same problem exists in healthcare products. It is difficult to find toothpaste, lotions, shampoo, soap, and cosmetics that don't contain mammalian ingredients.

If data is collected that informs these companies of the growing population of AGS patients, then they won't be able to claim ignorance of the situation. My goal is to promote a safer situation for all AGS people.

I am a retired art teacher who operates a cattle ranch in central Missouri. This summer I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome after a wellness check up. I have read that Alpha-Gal Syndrome has affected a number of farmers and ranchers.

After being tested by Dr. Wes Stricker, an allergist in Jefferson City, I learned that I would need to stop eating all red meat and dairy from mammals. Dr. Stricker indicated that he has been seeing a large increase of patients with Alpha-Gal since 2022. I now carry an EPI-Pen everywhere I go.

However, I also tested positive for turkey and some fresh water and ocean fish. The only meat I am eating now is chicken. It was determined that I am now also allergic to coconut. Coconut oil and coconut milk are commonly used in plant-based dairy products. Plant-based milk is easy to locate, but it is very difficult to locate other dairy products that I can eat. What I do find is quite expensive.

In addition, mammal ingredients are in a huge amount of supplements, medicines, and healthcare products. Gelatin is a common ingredient that causes a reaction for people with AGS. I had to do research to find a suitable flu shot that was appropriate for my age and did not contain gelatin.

I have switched my supplements and meds to vegan. I purchase them from Amazon since they are not

sold locally. They are more expensive to purchase.

Since being diagnosed, I have become aware of two Alpha-Gal support groups in Eldon. I joined a Facebook support group called Alpha-Gal Kitchen to get cooking information and to identify products that are safe to eat. They are also identifying restaurants that know how, and are willing to prepare food for people with AGS. It is a learning experience.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome is a challenging illness. We need help with informing the public about AGS. I truly hope HB 1855 is passed. It potentially would improve our situation.

Thank you for your consideration.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT C. COX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 10:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have alpha GAL and it makes it difficult to eat out or to buy prepared meals at the grocery store due to cross contamination at restaurants and certain ingredients We need to educate restaurants and grocers to advertise what goes into their food and what the food comes into contact with. We also need to have alpha-GAL friendly labels in stores and restaurants. Many times restaurants will use lard or tallow fro frying and that information is not readily available.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBIN MARLIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 2:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom It May Concern:

We all know how Covid disrupted our lives. Places were closed, events were canceled, and families/friends were unable to visit each other. This hurt us mentally, physically, and financially. Well, Alpha Gal Syndrome just continued this for my daughter, Amber. Just as her world should have been opening back up for her Junior year of high school...getting her license, prom, graduation, joining the work force, etc....she was diagnosed with Alpha Gal. She missed all of those right of passage type events due to being sick or the fear of getting sick.

We had never heard of this before. I went online and did as much research as I possibly could. As with everything online, there is a lot of false information. I did find more people in my area who had it that I could learn from their experiences. They helped with what to look for (reactions-vertigo, hives, severe cramps, anaphylaxis, etc), what ingredients to avoid, and so much that isn't on the ingredients list but should be.

Examples-

Some sugar is filtered through bone char...not on the list.

Some bottles of water are filtered through bone char...not on the list.

Some apple and grape juice are filtered through gelatin....again not on the list.

I would LOVE to be in contact with anyone on the Federal level who could help us get this corrected. I have visited with Missouri Farm Bureau about it and they agree. Knowledge is power. We need to know what is in our food or what is used to process the food to keep our loved ones safe. Many doctors are lost in what to tell their patients. Pharmacists are struggling to get the doctors to understand why they can't prescribe a medicine for their patient. The news keep calling it a "Red Meat" allergy when it is ANYTHING mammal that can cause someone to react.

My daughter, Amber, has one of the worst cases. She can't eat it, touch it, or smell it. This closed her world back down after Covid. She was at the age to get her license and her first job. Those jobs are normally at fast food places or stores like Walmart or grocery stores. Amber would not be able to work at any of these places due to being fume sensitive. She has reactions to cooked or cooking food, candles, perfumes, aftershaves, and other strong smells. If she was a cashier, she might touch a package of meat that is leaking and have a reaction.

In the last 4 years, Amber could barely go into a fast food place to order 'safe' food or walk through Walmart so there was absolutely no way she could have ever worked at any of these places. At the age of 19, she finally decided to get her license. Her truck she bought when she was 15 had been sitting parked in the shed all that time. She had chosen not to get it sooner because she had no where to go...Covid and alpha gal saw to that. This 'syndrome' is a disability for some including her.

We live on a farm and she wasn't able to help much with our animals due to her reactions. She did help when I needed her the most but she suffered for it. We have had 4 freezers full of mammal due to raising our own hogs and beef as well as my husband hunting deer. She was unable to eat any of it. We have to special order emu, ostrich, duck, chicken, or turkey. (Some chicken and turkey have additives injected into them during processing....again not specified on the list.)

We have tried everything to help keep her safe. We have bought special food, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry soap, dryer balls, etc. We have 2 kitchens due to our business so she uses the house kitchen and we use the office kitchen to try and keep her space mammal free. We have covered the leather couch with a blanket and she wears her boots with her jeans tucked in to keep from having reactions. These are just a few of the things that have changed in our lives to protect her on a daily basis.

We have tried 3 rounds of accupuncture hoping that it would help. The doctor said she was 'cured' after the 3rd round and could eat a rice size piece of meat. When we got home, Amber petted the cat on the way in the door and had a reaction before she could get to the bathroom. She decided then that she wouldn't try eating that small piece of mammal.

We went to an allergist after a doctor tried to give her some medication with dairy in it. The allergist tested her to see what her levels for Alpha Gal were after 4 years. Even though her levels showed "HIGH", the allergist wanted her to drink some milk while being observed in her office for 6-8 hours. Amber refused as she knows her body and knows that she is still reacting no matter what her numbers might be. Those in the medical field need to know more about this 'syndrome' and learn to listen to their patients who are living with it.

Most medication is made with milk or gelatin. When Amber had surgery, the anesthesiologist argued with me about a pill that had milk in it because 'his daughter who has alpha gal was fine with it'. Amber ended up throwing up due to that pill which was what it was suppose to stop her from doing. After the surgery, the surgeon and the pharmacist went several rounds over what pain meds to give her. We were fortunate to have a pharmacist who fought for Amber to get something safe. They ended up giving her liquid morphine. This has been a huge learning experience for us all especially for Amber. We found two local fast food places who were 'safe' for her to order chicken sandwiches and french fries from...Hardees in Lebanon and Wendy's in Marshfield. Unfortunately, Hardees has closed most if not all of their stores including the Lebanon store. We found out last week that the Wendy's in Marshfield is being forced from above to change their buns which will now have milk included on the ingredients. If places keep changing their menu items to things that include milk or mammal, she will no longer be able to eat at town. (When we checked in with Sonic about their chicken/fries, the person came back out to tell us the manager said it would be better to go somewhere else to be safe.)

So to finish, I would LOVE for this to NOT be called a "Red Meat" allergy. I would like to see the ingredient lists include the mammal that is used to process the product. I would like this to be tracked by the CDC and more information put out to everyone in the medical field. I would like this syndrome to be considered a disability for some as it has truly affected their whole life.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Amber. We would love to help get the word out to help others who are in the same boat with us. We need you to help us help everyone who is affected by this...those diagnosed, their family members, their co-workers, their doctors, their pharmacists, restaurants, etc. This is truly a life changing syndrome and not in a good way.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROXANN KELLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:52 AM
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I was diagnosed in October 2023 after being sick for about a year and many tests. The hardest part of this syndrome for me is cross contamination and hidden ingredients in processed food and medications. Plus I have to take my own food to family gatherings while watching the rest eat. Even though I eat as clean as possible I still have reactions, which are always in the middle of the night, leaving me exhausted for at least a day with brain fog. It's difficult to get daily chores done feeling like this. My grocery bill has increased because of the changes in food I have to purchase plus the extra money I spend on getting safe OTC medications has taken a toll on my budget. Please pass this bill. Would love to see what the number of cases really are and for scientists/doctors to start research. It would be interesting to see how many people have had to change jobs or quit and go on disability because of AG.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RYAN DEBOEF		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6944	
REPRESENTING: ALPHA-GAL ALLIANCE ACTION FUND		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 100 E. HIGH STREET, FLOOR 2			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ryan@hahndeboef.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:53 PM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:34 PM
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I have AGS. It's has drastically changed my life and the lives of my pets and life partner. I can now only eat chicken turkey and fish products. I have learned to read all labels now because mammal products can be in anything. From lotion to hair care products. Even medication can have mammal products in them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA DEMERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 6:59 AM

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My 8 year old was diagnosed with Alpha Gal Syndrome this past summer.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA JEANNE RUNDLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 5:12 AM
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I have Alpha Gal. I am now allergic to beef, pork, lamb, goat, dairy of any kind, and gelatin. Alpha Gal APPEARS to be a "spectrum" with a whole lot of difference between victims. Clear labeling on products, more training for medical professionals AND food service individuals would be very helpful. Even eating ONE French fry in cross contaminated oil sends my gut into overdrive. Please help!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH GIBERTI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:40 PM

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Please consider passing this to monitor AlphaGal syndrome.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH KIRCHHOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:10 PM
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I have AGS, although I have tested negative, & have had anaphylactic response due to eating beef products. This HB could save lives and will absolutely assist those with AGS navigate the dietary restrictions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH RONNBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 6:23 AM
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I had suffered from Alpha Gal syndrome more than three years before getting properly testing and being diagnosed. The number of doctors I've had to see who were unaware of recognizing my symptoms was discouraging and potentially endangering my life. Due to the lack of acknowledgement of this disease, I essentially had to narrow it down myself and ask for specific testing.

I was waking up several times a week with my face swollen and trouble breathing, crippling full body pain and histamine reactions to more than just mammalian foods. This disease has made my life incredibly hard and despite vigilantly taking precautions and avoiding these new allergens, I am daily having to deal with the repercussions of this disease because of lack of public awareness. Regardless of what I eat and don't eat, I am fume reactive to foods and chemical ingredients in the air that contain mammal derived ingredients. This has seriously affected my ability to work or even leave the house. It is incredibly important that further research and education is done on this disease and that those suffering can be better supported.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOT D WHEELER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:17 PM

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Alpha gal syndrome should be a reputable disease.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER: 417-986-0371	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WEBSTER COUNTY HEALTH UNIT		TITLE: ADMINISTRATOR/HEALTH OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 233 E. WASHINGTON STREET			
CITY: MARSHFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65706
EMAIL: sallen@webstercountymohealth.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Regarding: Support for House Bill 1855 – Reporting of Alpha-Gal Syndrome and Lyme Disease

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 1855. My name is Scott Allen, and I serve as the Administrator/Health Officer of the Webster County Health Unit, a local public health agency serving a predominantly rural population in southwest Missouri. On behalf of our agency and the residents we serve, I strongly support this legislation, which will enable more accurate and timely collection of data regarding alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease across our state.

House Bill 1855 represents an important step forward in strengthening Missouri's public health surveillance system. By requiring the reporting of alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease as noncommunicable diseases of public health concern, the bill empowers the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to more effectively determine disease prevalence and guide prevention strategies. For rural counties like ours, where tick exposure is common due to occupational and recreational outdoor activity, improved data collection is critically needed.

In recent years, our residents in Webster County have reported increasing concern regarding alpha-gal syndrome, a serious allergy associated with tick bites. However, the true prevalence of this condition in our community remains unknown. Because alpha-gal syndrome is not currently a consistently reportable condition, local health departments lack the data necessary to understand trends, identify high-risk populations, and develop targeted educational interventions. House Bill 1855 would close this gap by requiring laboratory-based electronic reporting of confirmed cases, ensuring more reliable and standardized data.

The bill's requirement that laboratories report positive alpha-gal immunoglobulin E test results within seven days is particularly valuable. Laboratory reporting will improve completeness and reduce the reporting burden on individual providers while ensuring that cases are captured consistently across jurisdictions. This approach aligns with modern public health surveillance practices and will enhance the state's ability to track emerging patterns in rural and urban areas alike.

Additionally, the provision directing the department to apply appropriate random sampling methods to confirm cases using the most current surveillance definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention demonstrates a thoughtful and scientifically grounded approach. This will help ensure data accuracy while supporting alignment with national surveillance standards.

For Webster County specifically, improved surveillance of alpha-gal syndrome will:

- Provide insight into the true burden of disease in a rural, tick-endemic region
- Inform local prevention messaging about tick bite avoidance and early symptom recognition
- Assist healthcare providers in understanding the scope of the condition in their patient populations
- Support data-driven planning for community education and public health interventions

As a rural health department with limited resources, we rely heavily on state-level data to guide local priorities. Without consistent reporting, alpha-gal syndrome remains an under-recognized and under-measured condition despite its significant impact on quality of life, nutrition, and healthcare utilization. Establishing a clear reporting framework will allow both state and local agencies to better protect the health of Missourians.

In summary, House Bill 1855 is a prudent, evidence-informed measure that will strengthen disease surveillance, improve understanding of alpha-gal syndrome prevalence, and support targeted public health action—especially in rural communities like ours. I respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to improving the health of all Missourians.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Allen
Administrator/Health Officer
Webster County Health Unit
sallen@webstercountymohealth.gov



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATTLEMEN's ASSOC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON FORSYTH		PHONE NUMBER: 202-253-5878	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALPHA-GAL ALLIANCE ACTION FUND		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 5614 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW #114			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20015
EMAIL: sharon@alphagalaction.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Honorable Melanie Stinnett, Chair
House Health and Mental Health Committee
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 203-C
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Chair Stinnett, Vice Chair Haden, Ranking Member Appelbaum, and members of the Health and Mental Health Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 1855. I serve as Executive Director of the Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund, a nonprofit that advances policy solutions to improve the lives of people with alpha-gal syndrome. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1855, which would add alpha-gal syndrome to Missouri's existing list of reportable tick-borne diseases.

Alpha-gal syndrome disproportionately impacts Missouri—one of the nation's most impacted states—where lone star ticks are endemic and thousands of residents are likely living with the condition, underscoring the urgent need for tracking cases.

Background

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is an emerging tick-borne disease that causes an IgE-mediated allergy to the sugar galactose- α -1,3-galactose (alpha-gal), which is found in all mammals except some primates.¹ In the U.S., most cases are caused by lone star tick bites.^{2,3}

People with AGS react to products made from mammals. This includes foods such as beef, pork, lamb, venison, dairy products, and gelatin.³⁻⁵ It also includes drugs and medical products, such as monoclonal antibodies, heparin, bioprosthetic heart valves, some vaccines, antivenom, medication in gelatin capsules, and many other medical products.³⁻⁵ Over 75% of people with AGS report reacting to a medication, and about 50% report that they have experienced an anaphylactic reaction to a health product.⁶ Many people with AGS also react to personal care and household products with mammal-derived ingredients, and farmers and ranchers can have life-threatening reactions to livestock exposures.^{3,46}

Alpha-gal reactions are often severe and can be fatal.^{3,4,7} 60-75% of people with AGS experience anaphylactic reactions—a higher rate than is seen even with peanut allergy.^{8,9,45} In areas of high

prevalence, reactions to alpha-gal can be the number one cause of anaphylaxis in adults and adolescents, accounting for a third of all cases, more than all other food allergies combined.¹⁰ Studies suggest that in high-prevalence areas, AGS may also be responsible for up to 25% of IBS-like symptoms and a significant cause of rheumatological issues.^{11,12} Concerningly, preliminary research in both the U.S. and Australia found that people who are sensitized to alpha-gal, even if they do not develop allergic reactions, may be at increased risk of cardiovascular disease.^{13,14} The NIH is currently funding a follow-up study of this issue.²⁸

Due to growing lone star tick populations, the number of AGS cases is increasing at an alarming rate.^{15,16} In a July 2023 report, the CDC recognized AGS as a growing clinical and public health concern.¹⁶ They reported that between 2010 and 2022, more than 110,000 suspected cases of AGS were identified and estimated that up to 450,000 Americans may be affected, making AGS the 10th most common food allergy.^{16,17} Yet alarmingly, 78% of physicians know little to nothing about AGS, and only 5% feel very confident in diagnosing and managing it.¹⁸

Missouri: an alpha-gal syndrome hotspot

Alpha-gal syndrome cases are not distributed evenly throughout the U.S. They are concentrated in areas where lone star ticks are found.¹⁶ Both CDC data and blood test results from a study of military recruits suggests that Missouri is one the top three most impacted states in the nation.^{16,19} The latter study suggests that almost 30% of Missourians may have the allergic antibody to alpha-gal—and up to 47% of the population in some areas.

We don't know how many Missourians have AGS, which is why we need surveillance. However, we do know that about 5-10% of people with the allergic antibody will develop full-blown allergy to alpha-gal, meaning that thousands of Missourians may have alpha-gal syndrome.

A call to action

In a July 2023 report, the CDC recognized AGS as a growing clinical and public health concern.¹⁶ Due to the current lack of surveillance, they stated, the true prevalence of AGS is largely unknown.¹⁶ The CDC identified a “critical need” for state and local health authorities to initiate surveillance and encourages them to do so.^{16,32} The CDC recently laid the groundwork for states to make AGS reporting mandatory, publishing a National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System case definition for alpha-gal syndrome (AGS)³³ and creating an Alpha-gal Syndrome Case Report Form.³⁴ In September 2023, Arkansas became the first state to make AGS a mandatory, reportable health condition.³⁵ Since then, ten other states have followed suit: Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Given the unknown and likely significant impact of AGS on Missourians with AGS, their families, and state healthcare systems, the rapid implementation of improved AGS surveillance should be a top priority for the state.

I respectfully request that you support House Bill 1855.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sharon Forsyth
Executive Director
Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund

References:

1. Commins SP, Satinover SM, Hosen J, et al. Delayed anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticaria after consumption of red meat in patients with IgE antibodies specific for galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2009;123(2):426-433.
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAYLYN SWEET		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 1:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha-gal has completely changed my life. It started last year, when I was hospitalized after my health unexpectedly took a turn for the worst. I was bed ridden, unable to eat, unable to move most days, miserable. A year later, and I'm still miserable. It's impossible to find food that isn't flagged unsafe. My diet is in the trash, with little to no appetite most days. Alpha-gal didn't just destroy my ability to eat meat and dairy, it took my ability to eat all of these things, plus now having to avoid gluten and high histamine foods, as well. I was already a picky eater. Most days I rather starve because the amount of work it takes is so overwhelming. I didn't just lose my appetite, I've lost family, friends, my job, my will to be who I used to be. Family and friends don't come around because I can't eat this, I can't eat that, I can't stand the fumes of this, or that. Going out to eat, celebrating, working, it all feels impossible. It's been so taxing on my health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHEA MCFARLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to let you know how Alpha Gal has impacted my life. I am constantly in fear of being exposed to a product that contains mammal. I have to carefully read the ingredients of everything, even shampoo, lotion, and literally everything. But sometimes that isn't even enough. Did you know that some bottled water is filtered using bone char? One of the worst reactions I have ever had was after drinking a bottle of water. My minor reactions include stomach cramps, diarrhea, burning eyes, and just an overall feeling of being sick. A bad reaction includes all of those just listed along with swelling of the mouth and throat. I have to have my epi pen at all times. Because of so much hidden mammal in products I live in constant fear. Reactions can take two hours to hit, so some nights I am afraid to sleep for fear of my throat swelling up in my sleep. Even walking into a room where a ham is cooking will make me sick. I could go on and on. Thank you for reading.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELBY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

For over a decade I was so sick. They never could figure out what was wrong. I was told I probably needed my gallbladder removed on 2 separate occasions due to side pain. I had gone to the er/dr/urgent care multiple times with pain, nausea/vomiting, shortness of breath, light headedness. I had horrible muscle and joint pain.They thought i was having a heart attack, then was told I probably have asthma. I have alphagal so bad its fume reactive and I cant even be around the fumes without having anaphylactic symptoms. It has completely terrorized my life. None of the jobs ive gone to school or worked towards for years are obtainable anymore because there's food involved. I cant even walk outside without reacting if someone is cooking nearby. I was on medication that helped with the symptoms, but causes brain fog to the point it made it unbearable and I had to stop. Alphagal is not just a red meat allergy it is in everything from personal care, body soaps, lotions, hair care, medications, etc. Alphagal has also caused additional food allergies which makes even dairy free substitutes unsafe. It has been an uphill battle both mentally and physically. Alphagal is life changing and foods arent easy to come by. Navigating safe foods, medication, and personal care items is time consuming and exhausting. I whole heartedly believe alphagla needs more awareness and hopefully, a cure.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY SHORT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with alpha gal 3 months ago. It explains a lot of unknown GI issues I've had in the past. After trying to read everything I can about this, I have discovered that every person and every reaction is different. I have also found that it is impossible to find ingredients that I may react to on packaging. It ends up being, "I guess we will wait and see." Fortunately I'm not super reactive as some, but it is not fun at all. I don't even try to eat in restaurants any longer. Food has become a chore and not a joy. Please have clearer ingredient labels that point out mammal ingredients.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLY DODD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been diagnosed with alpha gal for about 18 months but had been ill since 2020 and finally had to quit my job in 2023 because of symptoms. I had never heard of alpha gal until I was in a conversation with a friend of my mine about my symptoms of nausea and weight-loss. She suggested to get tested. I was glad to have a diagnosis because this allergy is dangerous and scary but my medical dr doesnt know much about alpha gal. Medically there are so many symptoms and mine change or evolve frequently. The medical field knows very little about alpha gal and can do more harm than good with prescriptions, ER visits or our general welfare with lack of knowledge. For me, what started out with mainly gi issues and pain and inflammation, I now have gained anxiety, brain fog and have become fume reactive and much more. My husband has to take care of me when I'm having a fume reaction and have worried him multiple times. He helps administer meds to me. I have to tell anyone i'm with that my epi pen and rescue meds are in my purse and on me at all times. Alpha gal affects every aspect of my life and my family's. Going to a family event usually consists of me away from food fumes and that usually means away from them also. My grandchildren attend school and play sports and it's difficult to attend events and be safe. I am not comfortable going places alone anymore for fear of a reaction. While I'm very careful about products I buy there are so many hidden ingredients in food and personal products that we can have reactions and don't know what caused them. Product labeling is unsafe for us. I make as much of my own personal products and food as I can but the expense of safe products, ingredients and foods are tremendous. Whether it's natural, organic or plant based the cost of what I have to purchase for me to be safe is much more expensive. I pray that this bill passes and there is an account of the amount of people suffering from alpha gal and we can get funding for research and awareness. Thank you for your concern!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLY PRANGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Due to alpha gal tick bite I can no longer eat out, take medications without fear. Pharmacies and physicians do not know when mammal is in meds. They usually tell us we need to contact the manufacturer ourselves and that takes days to weeks when we need meds now. Manufacturers are not required to report it. We just have to try a med we need desperately and hope we don't end up anaphylaxis. 90% of my meds are compounded and not covered by insurance. It's unaffordable. Buying food at the grocery store is next to impossible because of that one "natural" ingredient that could be anything. No FDA enforcement of all ingredients. I can no longer eat out with friends or coworkers. Have a safe place at work due to carry-ins or sprays, candles, plugins that I'm allergic to. I'm frowned upon for saying anything even though company policy says no scented anything. But the medication having mammal is the worst part of navigating life. Hospitals don't care and don't know what is in anything!! We are terrified to go to the ER or hospital because they don't check meds nor do they give you a meal without mammal even though you tell everyone multiple times. Skin grafts and stints and other things are put inside our bodies that contain pork and our bodies reject it. I pray and pray I don't have to go to the hospital or need a surgery. To worry about the gel they use on me for scans and imaging. They lack of concern by techs, nurses and physicians about products used on me. Then being gaslight and annoyed at me the whole time. Could you imagine treating a person with a peanut allergy this way. We need reporting so we can be taken seriously, taken care of and not killed. We have life threatening allergies just like others but are treated so poorly and differently. These ticks are damaging our organs, heart and causing anxiety, heart palpitations, depression and isolation. When I have mammal, hours later I can be awoken and can't breath, heart pounds out of my chest. My stomach hurts for hours and I cry on the toilet because I'm hurting so badly. Stabbing pains. I got down to 103 pounds before being diagnosed because I was so sick from eating mammal and not knowing it. I thought I was going to die and surely would have at the rate I was going. Begged and begged for doctors help. The infectious disease physician dismissed me after telling them I had a tick bite and in my chart saying nope, no tick borne illnesses here in Missouri. Asked why I thought I had it. I said because my bloodwork shows it. He double downed and said nah, Not here. It was in my bloodwork!! Cast me out of the room after 3 minutes and told me now to go to any tick borne specialists in my area that were not him because they did not know what they were talking about. Mind you I saw 7 doctors back then who all ignored and still continue to ignore my tick borne illness. Trust me, you don't want to get bit because nobody will treat you or help you in the medica, pharmaceutical, FDA world. No one. If we don't get better at reporting no one will take this life threatening disease seriously and we will keep getting injured. Choosing between bills and compounded medication costs. It's not a life worth living and I truly hope none of you have to personally experience any of this but at this rate you probably will or even know someone in your family or friends group that does. Friends and coworkers never used to know what this was but now everyone knows a family member or friend that has it! My chart at my

hospital 10 years later still doesn't list me as having alpha gal. So dangerous! And I had it several years prior to diagnosis but no one knew what it was.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE YONKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:27 PM

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

Alpha gal is horrible, do something about it to help people



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER VERHOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:07 PM

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

My husband has alpha gal. It's impossible to eat out or buy basic groceries because of the labeling on packages.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN THIBEAULT LINTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had Alpha Gal since 2020 but it took 2 years to diagnose & wasn't until I went into anaphylactic shock that this was confirmed. I used to get welts all over my body from 4"-18in & couldn't figure out why. I am extremely careful where I eat because of ways food is cooked. Not all restaurants are willing to take the time to clean a grill or use a separate pan & certainly the new fry option using beef tallow is deadly for me. Apparently there is no cure so we need to find better ways to support public eating for the rapidly increasing number of us with this allergy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN ZALLAR, RN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter-in-law (39), who lives with me, was recently <1 year ago diagnosed with Alpha Gal. Dealing with this syndrome has been life-changing for my entire family.

Prior to diagnosis, she went through invasive surgery and a multitude of tests and treatments, none of which helped. Our family truly thought we were going to lose her to a fatal, undiagnosed disease. She was unable to function at all, and spent most of her time in bed, in severe pain, and unable to function. Once we got a diagnosis, we have faced an uphill battle. Medical professionals are woefully uneducated about AGS, and many give detrimental advice.

We have had to very quickly educate ourselves about the myriad ways mammal products are incorporated into our lives. From food, to fumes, to cleaning products, soaps, fabrics, and medications, every ingredient must be examined and researched. Some manufacturers tell us that they just don't know if a medication has mammal products.

We fear her having to be hospitalized, due to the severe lack of education about AGS in the medical community. From sutures in the OR, to medications, to food, AGS patients are at the mercy of people who very often do not see the potential for severe, even deadly reactions.

Currently my DIL is doing everything "right:" We do not cook mammal in the house, no dairy, all soaps, medications, etc. researched. But it still takes her several hours in the morning before her body pain is reduced so that she can get out of bed. It is a devastating disease, with minimal support and guidance from the medical community, and it needs to change. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 1855 is critically important because Alpha-gal cases are rising in Missouri. Years ago, few people had heard of this illness. Now it is appearing across our state — yet we are not systematically tracking it.

I have lived with Alpha-gal for four years. I am fume-reactive and anaphylactic. For me, the simple act of sitting next to someone eating sausage or bacon — or even driving past a restaurant during lunch hour — can be life-threatening. It is not just food. Fragrances in lotions, perfumes, fabric softeners, and even medications made with mammalian ingredients can trigger immediate chest tightness and breathing difficulties.

Accessing medical care has been extremely difficult. Many providers have never heard of Alpha-gal. I have had to hire doctors outside my insurance network to receive appropriate care. Since my diagnosis, my medical expenses have averaged \$18,000 per year — including ER visits, bloodwork, medications, supplements, therapy, and supportive treatments.

Even routine prescriptions cost significantly more. My thyroid medication used to cost \$38 per month. Last month, I paid \$150 for the same supply because the generic option contains mammalian fillers and is not safe for me.

The financial strain extends beyond medical bills. Grocery prices nationwide have risen nearly 30%, but safe foods with cleaner ingredients often cost 10–40% more — sometimes double. Even basic household items are affected. The only toilet paper I can safely use costs three times more because common brands contain lotions derived from animal ingredients.

There have also been unexpected expenses: replacing cookware and kitchen appliances due to cross-contamination, new skincare and household products, new furniture after breaking out in hives from my sofa, and replacing clothing because I can no longer wear wool or leather. I was fortunate to have savings to absorb these costs. Many Missourians do not.

Beyond the financial impact, this illness brings fear, isolation, strain on relationships, and loss of livelihood. I have not been able to work, travel, or dine out safely.

Making Alpha-gal a mandatory reportable condition will allow Missouri to identify hotspots, understand prevalence, educate medical providers, and plan for prevention. Other states — including Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware — have

already taken this step. Five border Missouri.

HB 1855 is a critical first step toward awareness, accountability, and better care for Missourians living with this disease. By making Alpha-gal a mandatory reportable condition, Missouri can finally begin to track this disease, protect patients, guide providers, and plan for the future — because we cannot fix what we do not measure.”

I respectfully ask you to vote yes on HB 1855.

Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAUNYA FULLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was raised in Michigan and in 1983 my parents relocated us to Missouri.

I first started having symptoms including Anaphalaxis in 1985. In 1993 I was diagnosed with allergies to Beef, Lamb, Dairy, and egg whites.

In 1998-2000 I was again diagnosed with allergies to Beef, Pork, Lamb and dairy.

In 2016, my strange red meat allergy finally had a name. I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal syndrome. I was recently tested again in Jan. 2026. And again, I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal syndrome. I've lived with this mystery now for 41 years.

All the Allergist's told me in 1993 and early 2000's as well as my primary care doctor who diagnosed me with AGS at my request in 2016, was not to eat those specific meats or dairy.

I have suffered in ways no one who hasn't had this would understand. Continuing to eat animal by-products, getting cross contamination at restaurants, medications, personal care and hygiene products, even toilet paper has mammal in it! I continued using and eating all of that over the years because it wasn't those meats or dairy I was told not to consume. Period.

I was just finally told this by a Nutritionist that I again, requested my PCP to refer me to due to my 40 years of stomach problems that no Gastrointestinal, PCP, Allergist, ENT or any other doctors i have been to due to stomach and respiratory issues, have been able to accurately diagnose and advise a proper route of treatment for me, in 40 years! In October 2025 I met with the Nutritionist I was referred to by my PCP and within 10 minutes, he told me what my stomach problems were due to. Consuming and using mammal products and foods.

He gave me the resources, information, websites, meal plans, etc...to start living mammal free and see if that made a difference.

I cant begin to tell you the difference it has made. Ive been mammal and dairy free completely now for 4 months and havent felt this good since 1985. The real sad thing is my United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan would NOT pay for a Nutritionist! I had to self-pay. And it was better than any advise or treatment ive received by Medical doctors and specialists that my insurance did pay for over 40 years.

The medical problems caused by my AGS over 41 yrs now, has given me IBS-C, Collegenous Colitis, GERD, LPR, in addition I carried extra weight for years from puffiness which I believe now was due to the allergens i was consuming.

I developed a sleep disorder the same year of my first Anaphalaxis episode in 1985. I fully believe 100% it was caused by the same tick that gave me AGS in 1985. But again, no doctors will listen to me.

Since my change in diet, my stomach problems have decreased significantly and ive lost a lot of weight. I live in a rural area and our local grocery store or Walmart does not carry but a handful of AGS safe foods. I can no longer eat out except at Coltons in Springfield, Mo. They have an AGS menu and separate grill and fryer for AGS menu foods.

So yeah, I dont get a lot to eat but even so, I feel better.

Im still currently being treated by a Gastro doctor who is currently running more tests. I have told several doctors I would be an excellent case study in the AGS world. But again, they dont show interest bc its not on their "checklist" insurance will pay for to actually listen to the patient. Instead, mis-diagnose, prescribe a bunch of unnecessary pills and get patient out in 15 min or less. But that's a whole other problem.

Ive suffered due to being prescribed pill after pill over the years. First my issue has been red meat allergy (Aka: Alpha-Gal syndrome) all along but bc none of the doctors ever warned or informed me about consuming mammal by-products and avoidance of all the other things containing mammal, including the pills they were prescribing me! The doctors were mis-diagnosing the reason for my stomach problems and to add insult to injury, they were prescribing me medications with mammal in them.

It took a Nutritionist to tell me i shouldn't be taking almost half of the medications I was on due to mammal hidden in the ingredients! Prescribed medications as of Oct 2025. My medical record clearly shows AGS and Anaphalaxis since 2016 yet my doctors continued prescribing me unsafe medications. Its no wonder I have the extreme stomach issues I do. The damage done over that many years has created a life that, since 2020 and my diagnoses of Collegenous Colitis, my entire days have and continues to revolve around my bathroom activity for the day. Even when I think im safe and venture out, many times i have to return home due to stomach and bathroom issues that strike again. It impacts my daily routine, schedule, plans, my husband's plans, activities I can do with my 5 yo grandson bc I have to constantly stop and run to the bathroom. The pills they prescribe for this have AGS ingredients in them.

I already have to pay out of pocket every month for Vegan Vit D3 and vegan multivitamin due to Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis, and DDD. Prescription has mammal.

Same with my HRT menopause therapy. I have to pay out of pocket for my Progesterone bc prescription has mammal in it. And insurance won't pay a compounded pharmacy.

I have so much more to say but I think you get the picture.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Taunya Fuller

Mtn. Grove, Mo.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIA CHEW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:40 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Although unable to attend the hearing in person due to an urgent family matter out of state, I would very much like to express my strong support for HB 1855.

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS) only a few months ago, but the condition has had an even more dramatic impact on my life than a debilitating disability I acquired from a pharmaceutical injury over 30 years ago. I never would have thought it possible to have my life completely turned upside down by something that people have never heard of, or if they do, it's merely considered a "red meat allergy." In fact, it is FAR more than that, and it affects every aspect of daily life. I have been forced to make drastic changes not only to my own diet but also to the diets of those living with me. I also changed self-care products, household cleaners, clothing materials, prescription medications, over-the-counter painkillers and antihistamines. My husband is forced to make most of these changes with me, as is our dog and our adult kids when they visit. I need to be mindful about such seemingly innocuous items as lip balm (possible lanolin or vitamin E), hand sanitizer (often with glycerin), and even bottled water (can be purified through mammalian bone char). I ask myself if it's safe for me to hold a tennis ball to play fetch with my dog, then realize it isn't because the outside of the ball contains wool and my dog's saliva contains alpha-gal. From the time I rise from bed to the time I go to sleep, I'm grappling with questions of safety all the time. How can I feel safe if I've changed out all of the products we use in our household yet I still have symptoms? What am I reacting to? Are the hives/headaches/digestive distress/nervous system issues from something I ate today or from something I touched or inhaled? Or was I exposed to something yesterday? It often doesn't feel safe to leave the house for fear of another insect bite. Then again, it's not safe at home either since I can still be symptomatic without leaving home. Quite simply, I have become afraid of everything.

This condition requires constant vigilance. It's exhausting! I must be alert to some of the more obvious ingredients such as lanolin, collagen, glycerin, tallow and whey. If this were all, I could manage it, but there are also ingredients such as carrageenan and various gums that are used widely, along with mono- and di-glycerides, rosemary extract, and still others with obscure names like anthropodeoxycholic acid and glyceryl tristearate, not to mention a host of yet other potentially dangerous ingredients that cannot even be found on any master list of "things to avoid." In fact, there is no "master list," and even if there were, manufacturers do not list every single ingredient that could pose a threat to those of us with AGS. So it appears there's truly no way to actually be safe. Who knew that sugar and purified waters could be passed through mammalian bone char? Or that some mushrooms can cause severe reactions because they're grown on animal media? Or that seaweeds can be a danger although they are clearly not mammalian? The list seems neverending.

Cost of living has increased since my diagnosis, since the "safe" foods and products are simply much more expensive, as I need to seek out organic, wild-caught, and certified vegan labels. Since these products are often not available in my area, I must buy them online which can also result in increased costs due to shipping alone. I have also needed to spend more on health in the form of antihistamines, mammal-free painkillers, medications like epinephrine, and significantly more medical tests and visits to doctors/specialists. Even with all of my efforts to manage AGS, I remain symptomatic (daily headaches, abdominal pain, joint pain, fatigue, cardiovascular and neurological symptoms).

Trying to find adequate healthcare is challenging, as the medical field generally is not aware of AGS. Those practitioners who are aware of AGS are often just not knowledgeable. The allergist who diagnosed me with AGS advised that I only needed to avoid red meat when that is actually just the tip of the iceberg. He had simultaneously diagnosed me with lyme for which he had prescribed antibiotics. Only later did I realize the antibiotics contained mammalian ingredients. He also missed the fact that I was on medications made from pigs. My intention is not to blame or shame him, but to point out that the medical community is not yet informed or trained to advise patients appropriately. I was lucky that I did not end up with a severe reaction, especially since a hospital visit opens up yet another enormous opportunity for me to be exposed to more mammalian products. In fact, there are shockingly few mammal-free alternatives to the majority of medications and other medical products.

Finally, with many restaurants, grocery stores, and meat markets in MO making changes to accommodate people who have been stricken with AGS, it's clear that the AGS community is large enough to warrant changes in menus and inventory. With this in mind, I believe it is reasonable to support mandatory reporting of AGS (HB 1855) so that we can begin to understand of the scope of this serious health issue and hopefully find ways to stem its growth and help those who suffer from it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tia Chew



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY GREATHOUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had alpha gal syndrome for over 7 years now and it has almost killed me a few times from going into anaphylactic shock. It is a complete life style change not just limited to the foods I eat but the soaps I use and medications I take. We need more doctors and hospitals aware of this disease because I have had several nurses and doctors tell me they had never even heard of this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY LACORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My baby was 4 months old when his symptoms showed up we used to pull weeds at our church and it was summer so I would put him out on a blanket. After that my son is now 4 and has been in a feeding therapy for many years and still to this day. Cannot eat food. He has been on a liquid supplement for ninety percent of his nutrition. Now the rest of us i have 5 kids and 4 of them also have alpha-gal the hardest part is having them in a public school and knowing that they're safe. So i'm currently virtually sending my kids to school. And they really missed their friends. Me and my husband also have it. I have been bit twice and my symptoms are very severe. I'm hoping this can get passed. Thats 6 of us with it. We are struggling ??.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TONIE NOBLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with alpha gal syndrome in June of 2023 and my life has forever been changed. Alpha gal is not just a red meat allergy it is an allergy to anything that has mammal byproducts. I have to not only watch what foods I eat but also my shampoo, hygiene products, makeup, toilet paper, toothpaste, bottled water and anything else I might come into contact with on a daily basis. I cannot even set in the same room of my house when someone is cooking beef or I end up sick to stomach and get a headache. I tried the acupuncture for my alpha gal but UT did not work for me it actually made mine worse. When I was first diagnosed I was given an episode pen and told to do my research because the doctors didn't know enough about it. When I went to the dentist I told them I had alpha gal and they gave me the products they would using on me but I had to look them up myself to see if they contained any animal products. Alpha gal effects everyone differently things that I can tolerate someone else might not be able to. I can eat something 10 times and not have any reaction but then the 11th time I might react to it. there definitely needs to be more research done and more knowledge put out there about this disease because it has exploded here in Missouri and why? Why all of a sudden is there so many cases??????????



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TONYA J STOLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal in August 2025. I had anaphylaxis shock three times before being diagnosed. ER visits are expensive but necessary when this occurs. Most Dr's do not know much about this condition and just say you have to figure out what you react to. Food cost are higher and eating can be anxiety inducing when you do not have control over food preparation. Education is needed so everyone understands what Alpha-Gal is and how serious it can be.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TOSHA DRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a Missouri resident living with alpha-gal syndrome. I developed alpha-gal six years ago. Within that same time period, my then ten-year-old son, my mother-in-law, my sister-in-law, and my stepdaughter were also diagnosed all in jeff city and mokane Mo. When my son first became sick, he was believed to be the only known case at Lewis and Clark Middle School and the only known case at his physician's office. It took months to receive a diagnosis. During that time, we feared serious underlying illnesses because his symptoms were very different from mine and did not fit the typical allergy presentation doctors expected. The uncertainty was frightening

Six years ago, very few people had heard of alpha-gal. Today, it is rare for me to speak with someone who has not at least heard of a person affected by it. That shift alone shows how much this condition is spreading in our communities.

Without mandatory reporting, the true number of cases in Missouri remains unknown. Families struggle for answers. Physicians lack local data, thats very obvious. Which also creates more issues because alphagal also effects medication, vaccines, etc. Public health officials cannot accurately measure trends or geographic spread. HB 1855 would allow Missouri to track alpha-gal syndrome and better understand its impact.

This is not about alarm. It is about awareness, data, and preparedness. When multiple members of one extended family develop the same tick-borne condition, that signals something worth monitoring. I know myself and many others do not want to continue trying to navigate this in the dark, or speak to physicians that simply do not understand because the lack of data.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACEY SHOEMAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:50 PM

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

I have AGS I can't hold a job because I never know how I'm going to wake up i have good days and bad days along with others with this syndrome. I've worked my whole life and it sucks, because everything I've worked for is paid for and to get help and support people look at you like oh it's just an excuse trust me it's not and it sucks.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACY DAUGHERTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have alpha-gal and have to educate healthcare providers about this allergy. My provider doesn't even have a flag for my records for it, so I must advocate for myself at every visit. For the past 7 years I've had to live in fear of medication prescribed to me and always have to check ingredients for potential allergens. Restaurants think I'm just being annoying when I ask for my food to be cooked separately. The cost of eating at home has risen as well. We have to be very meticulous in food preparation.

It would be wonderful to be able to report and track cases to the health department. I think this is an excellent first step in raising awareness of this awful allergy.

Having to constantly have an epipen with me not only costs thousands of dollars a year, but causes a lot of anxiety. It's hard to explain that symptoms are delayed and can occur at anytime.

Please pass this bill for the health and safety of Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACY MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I know multiple people who have been diagnosed with Alpha Gal. They have to watch what they eat so closely. Many have to carry an EpiPen in case they need it. I'm sure a lot of people have it and don't know! More needs to be done and medical doctors need to know what to test for and not just tell people they are not sick and it's not serious.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRICIA LEIVIAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been affected by Alpha gal syndrome for 2 years and it has dramatically affected my life and my family's life. I also have several autoimmune diseases that I can no longer properly treat because most medications have mammal byproducts in them. It causes my esophagus to swell and diarrhea issues that are very consistent I have had to have my esophagus stretched several times and am now having to receive iron infusions which also make me sick. I can no longer give blood because I end up in the ER. That never happened until I got alpha gal. The extra cost to eat special diet is ridiculous as well. I'm constantly on guard to not be cross contaminated as is my family. The iron infusions have now caused my rheumatism and psoriatic arthritis to flare. We can't have regular flu shots either because of mammal byproducts. Certain skin care items have ingredients that we can't use either. We can't take medication that is in capsule form unless it is vegan(expensive). My hair and eye lashes are falling out because I'm so low on iron. Certain foods I can eat can cause my histamine levels to elevate which in turn causes you to have more reactions. This disease is hard on everyone who contracts it but it is especially hard on those of us who require treatments for other issues and can't get it because we are allergic because of mammal byproducts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VERA PITT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I received an alpha gal diagnosis and quickly realized how impossibly difficult and expensive it is to eat. Not too mention all of the medication changes and a lot of meds don't have substitutes, so now I have to go without them. I've become what's called "Fume reactive", so I can't smell meat being cooked without my chest closing up, my nose turning into a faucet and coughing my head off. I've had to change all of my personal care items from my scalp to my toes and everything in-between. Accidentally getting something that I can't have leads to a myriad of symptoms, instant abdominal swelling, stomach and gut pains, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, a host of mental health issues- the anxiety alone of being out in public and wondering if a smell is going to send me into anaphylaxis. There's zero regulation on mammal products being allowed in everything. I went into anaphylaxis because I chewed a piece of gum that turned out to have mammal based glycerin in it. My throat started closing one night because I had used feminine wipes without reading them, and they had mammal based ingredients in them. It has affected every single part of my life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VERONICA HOFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please support this initiative to track, count, and expand support to individuals with AlphaGal Syndrome. This is a public health crisis that is caused by a vector, just like West Nile and other diseases caused by vectors are reported. However AGS is hundreds of times more prevalent and fast spreading than any mosquito related diseases. I live in Osage County, and was officially diagnosed with AGS 2 years ago. Prior to my diagnosis I was extremely ill for 8 months. After 2 weeks of being very sick I began seeking medical care. For the next 5 months I had repeated blood draws, each time at least 7 vials were pulled all testing for various illnesses, like autoimmune disease, cancers, and tests the doctor wouldn't tell me about unless it came back positive. Every test came back negative. One of many symptoms I was having was intense leg pain and weakness. I was sent to pain management doctors. I had arterial scans conducted. I had painful nerve conduction study performed on my legs. Everything checked to be okay. Yet, I was mostly home bound most of 2023 due to the inability some days to be on my feet, fatigue, and the absolute need to be as close to a bathroom as possible, even inside my house.

Then a friend was describing a sickness her mother had the same summer. It sounded similar to my symptoms. I began requesting a tick panel be ran on my blood with AGS included. The denied my request and told me if I had AlphaGal I would be in an anaphylaxis state. This demonstrates how little physicians know about AGS. It took 3 more months and seeing a different doctor before an AlphaGal test was ran on me. At this point I figured it would just be another rule out. Two weeks later I get a call stating I was positive for AGS. Then my world was turned upside down.

Nearly everything I was accustomed to eating was out of my diet. The first month I only ate nuts, peanut butter, oatmeal and eggs. It took 6 months to psychologically adjust to this new, forced lifestyle. Plus, my family was impacted by this huge change. I couldn't cook all the meals raised my family on. It's or just deleting meat, it's dairy, salad dressings, pudding mixes, anything containing animal by-products. Then you have to look at soaps, lotions, toothpaste, cosmetics and anything you put on your skin.

Everything I know on how to heal myself was self researched. NO DOCTORS OR NURSES PROVIDED ANY EDUCATION, BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE.

It took over a year for me to figure out that it's necessary to keep your histamine level balanced. That means being aware of way more than not consuming mammal meat. You have to make sure you aren't "stacking" histamine triggers, like exercising, getting too hot or cold, other allergens, stress, drinking alcohol, etc. High histamine levels can cause an AGS reaction and make you sick for days.

There is so very much more I could say about the impact of AGS. If any legislator needs more insight, I would be willing to talk with them.

I have lived with ticks in my environment my entire life, and never feared them. Now, I fret over my family and grandchildren being bitten. Just in my church congregation in Linn, I could name at least 20

people who have contracted AGS in the PAST 2 YEARS! We have to do something from a public health perspective.

I cannot be there in person on Feb. 19. I certainly hope my testimony helps push this initiative forward.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VERONICA WHEELHON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Getting diagnosed with Alpha-Gal was life shattering. Most doctors do not know much, if anything, about it. Pharmacies are the same way. I had to diagnose everything I ate and drank. I called and emailed food companies to get answers. I asked pharmacists and doctors to call about ingredients in medications. It is a very miserable food allergy due to product packaging not having to list all animal ingredients. Do many people have been diagnosed with this and the ticks are horrendous, do it is not going away. Accurate testing and recording would be very helpful and more information for doctors.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VIRGINIA GRAF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dealing with AGS has affected me in many ways. I need to carry and Epi Plin at all times, because of inhalation exposure. I react to the smell of mammal products being cooked, my airway is affected immediately. Being a school teacher it is hard when your classroom is near the school cafeteria, I can't choose the times or place I will have a reaction. I have developed full body non-diabetic neuropathy, possibly a side effect from my tick bite when I had Rocky Mount Spotted fever. This is the same tick bite that caused my Alpha gal. When I can't control what happens to my body, even though I am extremely careful, because I don't know when I will have a reaction or continues to trip/ drop something because of my neuropathy. I am 62 years old, and have plenty of time left to work, but my health is not helping me achieve this goal. I have learned to live day by day to my fullest. The public, medical fields and government officials need to understand the importance of learning more about AlphaGal syndrome and how it affects each individual differently.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WENDY COOPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 1:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband was bitten by the Lone-Star tick and now has severe allergic reactions to anything meat-related due to Alpha Gal. He has hiked a bit, and we live close to the woods, but he never remembers being bitten. This has been a huge burden on our family because of the cost of food that does not contain meat. You would be surprised what it does. He has also tried a treatment that takes 1 hour, a 2-hour round trip a week, and \$45 for the treatment to hopefully reverse this! It has been so hard, and if he accidentally eats meat he has to take so many meds he is out of it for hours!. Eating healthy and cleansing seem to be 2 times more. Please try to help people with this by lowering costs, assisting with INS claims, or with any other ideas. We appreciate all you do!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WENDY MAAG VANCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 2:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alfa-gal 2 years ago, it is the worst allergy anyone can have, my grocery bill has grown because in order to eat healthy with no mammal or byproducts is super expensive, my Doctor bills have increased, because of reactions, I don't know if it is something I could have eaten wrong, it doesnt matter if I was able to eat it one day, it is no guarantee I can eat it again. My hair is falling out, I have to take a liquid medication cost 85.00 a month when before cost me 10 dollars for a pill 3 months, my skin is super dry, eyes are dry, and the brain fog is REAL. That is just a few things that Alfa-gal has changed in my life, Work, family gatherings, Alfa-gal is a huge life change and very expensive. The label on foods is so horrible cant trust natural flavors or hidden ingredients.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WHITNEY PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My Alpha-Gal Journey

Hi, My name is Whitney Phillips and I am from Pineville, MO. First I want to say thank you to the representatives and senators that took the time today to let us share how Alpha-Gal has affected our lives. We hope that after today you will see the importance and seriousness that needs to be taken in regards to Alpha-Gal.

When I first started getting sick, I was unable to eat anything. I struggled for almost a month with this. I finally went to see my Dr in October of 2024. He did an exam and said I seemed healthy. To track my symptoms and if things didn't get better to let him know. I did a follow up with him in November of 2024 and after some persistence on my part due to the loss in weight, and how sick I felt he did several tests. Blood tests, Stool Samples, Culture test, CT Scan on my abdomen. All of this came back normal.

I felt frustrated and unheard. Before all of this I weighed around 135 pounds. By December of that year I had lost about 20 pounds. I couldn't eat and inside I felt so sick. I was rushed to the ER once by my husband and kids with the worst pain I had ever had. They said all my scans were fine, my blood work was good, the only thing off was my blood pressure. I would wake up in the middle of the night so sick, nauseous, unable to breathe right, I couldn't eat during the day.

We finally contacted the Dr again and he never responded to me. So my husband went to visit him. Upon this visit the Dr informs my husband that he believes this is all in my head and I am healthy. If I am still worried he can schedule a colonoscopy. We agreed to that and on January 29th, 2025 I had one done. This came back fine. They put me on a FODMAP Diet which eliminates food that ferments in your intestine. I did this for 2 ½ months and it didn't help. At this point I was down to 116 pounds. I contacted the gastroenterologist and on April 22, 2025 she said my only other option at that time was a gallbladder scan and blood work to test for all the allergies they knew of. That day I had bloodwork done and my HIDA scan was done on May 8th, 2025. The gallbladder scan was clear.

My blood work test positive for Alpha-Gal, high on all accounts and for all amounts of the mammal. All I was told was to avoid eating mammal meat.

As those of us with alpha gal know it is more than that.

It's not eating anything with four legs, it's not eating out because we react to the cooking of meat (also known as fume reactive), its not being able to take medications because they all contain mammal (doing the research on our own because Drs dont know or dont want to do the research) yet they are supposed to be the helpers, the healers, and the ones that save lives, it's not having a Dr because either they don't know enough, they don't want to take the time to help, or they are not educated

enough to know. We can't eat most foods at stores or struggle to know which ones are safe because nothing is marked Alpha-gal safe, not all vegan products are safe. We don't know if we can go to the ER and make it out alive because they don't have the knowledge to treat Alpha-gal patients. I have two epi pens and I have come close twice to needing to use them. At the time I didn't know I was in anaphylaxis shock, the Drs did not help educate even after asking when to use it and how to know when to use them. I do not react outwardly, such as hives, or swelling. I react inwardly. My whole body inside feels like it is swelling up, I want to throw up but can't, I have the worst pain I have ever felt that leaves me unable to walk, I can't keep anything in and my heart rate will get very high and I get dizzy. This can last for 3 to 4 hours. It usually takes 6-10 hours after eating the wrong food, taking the wrong medications, or smelling the wrong food before the reaction starts. I am always on high alert. Having the Epi pens doesn't mean I feel safe. If I use them I have to go to the ER, if I go to the ER they don't know how to help me, and they don't know that what they are going to give me to stabilize me such as the H1 & H2 blockers (these can contain mammal ingredients in their inactive ingredients or gel capsules), and the steroids. I have also heard from others that medications to help with heart patients and those that need to get their heart rate down don't have options because most of those medications contain mammal products. This is a common thing that is seen throughout the medical world in just about anything that could be given to a patient. I would like to say I would feel safe at the hospital but I feel like it would be the fight of my life not only to survive but to get them to believe Alpha-gal is real. Mammal is in all hygiene products, make ups, and lotions as well. This has created side effects that I cannot control.

I also want to add to the strain and burden it causes on the family as a whole. My whole family, my husband and two kids, have to eat the same foods as me, by choice. To help me be as healthy as possible through this. I am fume reactive. This means they can not cook mammal foods inside the house, we can not use the same grill. I can't have dairy so we have to switch to the more expensive milk and butter. We eat a lot of fruit, vegetables, chicken, turkey, fish, and shrimp. I make a lot of our food, and grow a lot of our food. It is very costly and it's hard to afford this. We manage but there has to be a way to make this more affordable. This puts a heavy strain on our finances, when the only options are the top tier food items. And even some of these are not usable. Having good quality food that is alpha gal safe would make life just a little more simple. Having items labeled and cost effective would enable us to not be so financial constrained.

I don't tell you all this as it is anyone's fault but I tell you this so you know how hard it's been to be heard.

I still haven't found a Dr who will hear me. Who will help me navigate this.

There is no reason for anyone to go through so many hoops to find a solution. It has been the same for so many with Alpha-Gal and we are asking that it changes.

I hope that after today you will all see this as something that needs to be addressed and taken further, and that all Drs will be taught how to treat alpha-gal patients, new treatments can be made for Alpha-Gal patients, and all products (food, hygiene, and cosmetics) will state alpha-gal safe. That we can start finding a way to help us navigate this unknown.

I want to thank you all for your time and patience as I shared my story. I appreciate the opportunity to do so.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADRIENNE JACOBMEYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:38 AM

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

This bill as it stands gives government information on health condition and tracking. Government needs to stay out of health period. No tracking health conditions automatically



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALAN LEADERBRAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 3:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Right now, per RSMo 192.020 DHSS can only track infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases.

Lines 1-4 of this bill would change DHSS' power to promulgate rules for ANY disease, communicable or non-communicable. This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide.

This greatly expands government authority and centralizes power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER WAGNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:49 PM

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

I oppose HB 1855



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY CASTRO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: amymariecastro@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 1855 creates a new statewide “noncommunicable disease surveillance” law and gives DHSS broad authority to decide which noncommunicable diseases are “of public health concern,” then issue and enforce “orders, findings, rules, and regulations” related to them. It specifically requires reporting of alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease, with deadlines and reporting requirements (provider vs. lab) clearly defined. It also directs DHSS to build an electronic lab reporting system (for alpha-gal), perform follow-up verification using CDC case definitions, and send annual summary reports to the CDC. In practice, this is a new health reporting and surveillance pipeline with an open-ended “designate diseases + enforce orders” grant that could expand well beyond the two named diseases.

DHSS gets authority to pick which “noncommunicable diseases” count as “public health concern,” then “enforce adequate orders...rules, and regulations” to prevent spread and determine prevalence. This is the bill’s biggest problem: open-ended agency power + vague enforcement authority, in a domain that could be expanded politically (“public health concern”) rather than tightly defined in statute.

This bill establishes a standing health surveillance/reporting mechanism (mandatory reporting, electronic lab system, and sampling follow-up) and could lead to mission creep if DHSS expands the “designated” disease list. Federal Money & Strings / Federal Entanglement even without explicit funding, §192.037.5–.6 sets up alignment with CDC definitions and annual reporting to CDC, increasing federal influence over Missouri’s surveillance posture.

Act for Missouri **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB 1855. While tracking certain conditions may be a legitimate goal, the bill’s structure grants DHSS open-ended authority to designate “public health concern” noncommunicable diseases and to enforce orders/rules with weak statutory limits, while also establishing a state-to-federal reporting pipeline tied to evolving CDC definitions. This is exactly the kind of surveillance-and-delegation framework that tends to expand over time and should not be enacted.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 9:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

i am a Missourian who inhabits on the metes and bounds of Christian county. HIPPA is in place to protect my medical data and privacy. HB1855 does not have guardrails in place to protect my medical data and privacy. I ask that you add strict limits on data retention, secondary use, and the sharing of data. Data collected needs to be de-identified so that medical privacy is ensured. Please vote no on HB1855.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BILLIE JO SCOBEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:58 PM

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I do not want any government oversight of any diseases. People in the government can twist this power to control the citizens of Missouri. I stand against this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Too much government overreach.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA HOPFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I do not approve of this surveillance bill.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN HINTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:00 PM

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

This bill is in clear violation of US Constitution amendments 4 and 5 regarding unreasonable search and privacy. And it is simply bad law with regard to individual liberty.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS PORTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:33 AM

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

Huge expansion of power for DHHS! To promulgated rules means they can make up rules as they go! A threat to our privacy and rights. As a Healthcare professional this is wrong on so many levels!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORINNE REED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:56 PM

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

I oppose granting any additional authority to DHSS.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANA BUTLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE DEMPSEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is an egregious overreach of the government to be tracking personal health records! Especially of NON contagious illnesses/diseases. Keep our liberties safe. When given an inch, the mile is always taken. This bill gives too much liberty to government officials and impedes on citizens right to privacy. VOTE NO!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENNIS SHELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I do not want government surveillance			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA IJAMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 2:49 AM

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

This is unconstitutional! A complete invasion of my privacy and government control over individuals.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY FARRAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 4:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GERI THWING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GINNY THOMASON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is unacceptable and an enormous infringement of our right to privacy. It gives a government agency power to destroy the lives of our citizens based on their perceived or dictated community health risk without regard to any legitimate, documented concern. This is a power grab and MUST be stopped!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE PECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 5:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 1855 grants Missouri health officials blank-check power to designate and police noncommunicable condition, beyond alpha-gal and Lyme. And with almost no legislative oversight.

It cedes state control to unelected CDC bureaucrats by chaining Missouri's definitions and rules to constantly updated standards with no vote needed.

Most alarmingly, it builds a permanent, detailed data pipeline to the feds with zero mandated privacy protections. Inviting unchecked long-term surveillance overreach.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE SCHERRER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I do not approve of expanding the power of DHSS by giving them the power to regulate ALL non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease and cancer. I oppose giving this department any mandate power for ANY disease, communicable or non-communicable. This alignment with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide must be opposed at every measure.

I object to approving this expansion of government authority and centralized power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAKE JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 3:07 PM

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

I am in total opposition to this. Have we learned nothing from the COVID Scamdemic? Do you really believe it's a good idea to give government more powers over public health? HARD NO!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAN FARRAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 4:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 9:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Even though this bill states that it's explicitly for alpha-gal and Lyme, the broad language has very real potential to introduce scope creep into the DHSS authority into areas that are probably not intended. How many other potential items could be included into these new rules that are presently unforeseen but could eventually be included and then abused by a Director at some point? I've personally experienced abusive Health Department bureaucrats and political leaders as a resident of St Louis County during Covid and cannot stress enough how destructive those individuals and departments were to the citizenry. That whole episode is why I testified multiple times for passage of HB75 (2021) to mandate legislative oversight to eliminate overzealous health bureaucracies from overstepping individual rights. I have a genuine fear this bill opens a pandora's box of unintended unforeseen consequences in the future.

192.037. The department of health and senior services shall designate noncommunicable diseases that are of public health concern and enforce adequate orders, findings, rules, and regulations to prevent the spread of such diseases and to determine the prevalence of such diseases within the state.

Inclusion of Maladies: The bill does not explicitly name maladies such as heart disease, cancer, or depression. However, it grants the DHSS the authority to designate any noncommunicable diseases of public health concern, which could potentially include such maladies if the DHSS deems them to be of public health concern. The Missouri Constitution would likely require any such designation to be reasonable and related to public health.

Introduction of Noncommunicable Disease Reporting: Without this bill, Missouri law does not appear to mandate the reporting of "noncommunicable diseases" in general. This bill introduces the topic of mandatory reporting of some noncommunicable diseases (specifically alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease) and provides a framework for the DHSS to designate others.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANIE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:46 PM
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I oppose this huge expansion of power by the Department of Health & Senior Services.

This bill gives DHSS authority by statute to track cases of Alpha-gal and report them to the CDC. But it also fundamentally changes DHSS' purpose to regulate ALL non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease and cancer.

Lines 1-4 of this bill would change DHSS' power to promulgate rules for ANY disease, communicable or non-communicable. This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide.

This greatly expands government authority and centralizes power. President Trump withdrew us from WHO for good reason. Vote no on this bill!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER PAGANO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:27 PM

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

This would give too much power to the organization to try to manage these diseases. We want support and answers, not more government oversight and control.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER REYNOLDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill would change DHSS' power to promulgate rules for ANY disease, communicable or NON-communicable. This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide. This greatly expands government authority and centralizes power, which I strongly oppose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JO BOLHOFNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:24 PM
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If it is a non-communicable disease they don't need info on me. My illnesses don't need to be monitored by the government. They monitor too much now. What is next? Will they then say you are at a level that maybe you may want to end your life right now. Stay out of my private life and don't say it would be for the greater good and help others. Bull!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JO WHITBY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Why are we trying to align with WHO? (Lines 1-4 of this bill would change DHSS' power to promulgate rules for ANY disease, communicable or non-communicable. This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide.)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA JANSMA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 10:12 PM

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This is a gross overreach of the DHSS. I strongly oppose this legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA GORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 5:59 PM

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This would lead to people pushing for gun control first and literally exploit mental health of individuals who might only be in a short term issue. It's invasion of privacy and our rights under the constitution..



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ARMORVINE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM

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



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORA YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:19 AM

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I see no need nor do I desire a government entity tracking non-communicable diseases, as stated in the proposed amendment section 192.037 part 1. This is the height of over reach and sets a precedent that could be devastating for individual liberties. I am adamantly opposed to the way this bill is written.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY CREMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 5:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

A closer look at HB1855.

1)Take a closer look at the title “To amend chapter 192, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to non communicable disease surveillance.”

This bill is about ALL NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE.

2) The bill starts into changes DHSS would have the authority to designate ANY non communicable disease, at any time, and define the way to handle these.

3) Pay close attention to #3 on page 1. “Any required non communicable disease case report shall be submitted to the department within 7 days of receiving positive laboratory confirmation.”
Think about this. These are issues that do not spread, yet the government wants total control of your health issues that don’t spread to other people. This is too much government control.

4)The bill does refer to alpha-gal, which makes it appear as an alpha-gal bill.
But, what it really is, is in the title. It’s a Trojan horse using the wording to allow for total control of all conditions you have.

It opens the door for total access. It is none of the governments business, and we must stop their micro managing of our lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL COMPTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: mike@act4mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 7:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair Stinnett and members of the committee, I urge you to vote NO on HB 1855.

The bill is framed as “surveillance,” but it does more than reporting. It grants DHSS broad authority to designate noncommunicable diseases as a “public health concern,” and then enforce orders, rules, and regulations to address them. That’s an open-ended delegation of power.

We’ve learned in recent years that when the government builds a public-health enforcement pipeline, it can expand quickly—and it’s very hard to unwind after the fact. If the legislature wants tracking for specific conditions like alpha-gal and Lyme disease, it should pass a narrow bill with hard guardrails: limit it to those conditions unless the legislature adds more later, require de-identified/aggregated reporting wherever possible, and set clear statutory limits on what data can be collected, how long it can be retained, and how it can be shared or reused.

HB 1855 is not written with those protections. Please oppose HB 1855 and vote NO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WESTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I strongly OPPOSE HB 1855!!!

This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide.

This greatly expands government authority and centralizes power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE BRANDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 11:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill gives DHSS authority by statute to track cases of Alpha-gal and report them to the CDC. But it also fundamentally changes DHSS' purpose to regulate ALL non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease and cancer.

Remember Covid? Right now, per RSMo 192.020 DHSS can only track infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases.

Lines 1-4 of this bill would change DHSS' power to promulgate rules for ANY disease, communicable or non-communicable. This aligns with the WHO's SDG 3.4 (Sustainable Development Goal) for global management and data collection on non-communicable disease worldwide.

This greatly expands government authority and centralizes power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SELESNICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:06 PM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Absolutely NOT!!!!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA BRUGERE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 10:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I do not trust non-elected officials to issue health mandates and lockdowns.

I do not trust the CDC 's definition in identifying health concerns to control the masses.

The government can not be trusted to protect our privacy and our own personal health decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RHONDA BRACKETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:41 PM

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

I believe this is over reach and against such a bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBIN GEORGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 2:54 PM

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

No I'm this! The government has too much control!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROXANE MAGNUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:37 PM

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

I totally oppose thus ridiculous Bill. How pathetic it is to track noncommunicable diseases. You are not allowed to track we the people. Please shred this Bill and throw in the garbage



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA L ENO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELIA SHELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Don't want government surveillance			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY PALISCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill is madness. Expanding medical surveillance, especially to the degree of non-communicable diseases is fundamentally wrong and such policies have no place in Missouri. I urge you to strongly oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VALERIE SWEARINGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 5:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
This bill is a HUGE government overreach. I strongly oppose!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEXIS BIRKNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 2:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Alexis Birkner. I am 23 years old, and I was diagnosed with AGS (Alpha-Gal Syndrome) when I was 20. My biggest concern with this illness is the lack of resources. I am covered by UMR Insurance, however, chiropractor is not qualified, and that is where I could receive Acupuncture to treat my symptoms. It is very discouraging to have little to no treatment or easier/cheaper access to care. The worst part of my symptoms come from the gallbladder attacks I have that are triggered by this illness. It is an overwhelming, excruciating pain that I could not possibly wish on even my worst enemy. I hope to see more resources become accessible to us, and I'm positive that we would do next to anything to make that possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA HOOYMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha-Gal Syndrome in September of 2024. I have been hospitalized twice due to the disease. People like to classify it as a "red meat allergy". However, neither of my hospitalizations were due to red meat. My first reaction was due to a medication containing trace amounts of medical grade lactose which sent me into a hypertensive attack. The second reaction was far worse, requiring my then 7yo to administer an EpiPen while sitting in a local medical clinic, as they refused to see me since I was there before walk-in hours. That reaction was due to an airborne/fume reaction occurring in a laundromat. I will never be able to trace back that trigger- it could have been due to someone using a mammal-containing laundry soap or washing something which contained mammalian blood/saliva/hair/fluids. No one was consuming any food; I hadn't eaten mammal in months. There were no restaurants preparing mammal foods within a 500-foot radius.

I experienced daily hives due to fume or contact exposure. I must take multiple medications daily, which my kind, local pharmacist must personally research to ensure are safe, to prevent severe reactions. I am on a monthly injection containing monoclonal antibodies, just to make sure I don't experience anaphylaxis while alone with my children again. The injection costs thousands of dollars, which without insurance, I would never be able to afford.

We spend significantly more money on groceries to ensure our chicken and turkey are mammal-free (did you know that some major food manufacturers inject their poultry with mammal byproducts to "plump" them up without a need to disclose the ingredients of said "natural flavors"?). We went from raising our own meat or buying farm-raised beef to spending hundreds more monthly to buy organic chicken, turkey, wild caught fish. Even products labeled "vegan" are unsafe sometimes due to containing a plant-based ingredient, carrageenan, which mimics the Alpha-Gal molecule. I must screen my bottled water to ensure it hasn't been filtered through bone char. I also am not able to consume granulated sugar, as it is bleached using bone char as well, my medication to make sure it doesn't contain mammal-derived magnesium stearate, glycerin, Vitamin D, certain B vitamins. Toilet paper, tissues, baby wipes, laundry soap- can all contain mammalian byproducts.

I'm neither for nor against mandated reporting of a non-communicable disease, but I am absolutely for truth in manufacturing and adequate labeling requirements for all products on the market. FALCPA laws do not adequately cover Alpha-Gal as it is an unrecognized "allergy". This needs to change.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEE MATTHEWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 8:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have Alpha Gal. I was just diagnosed this year. It's been difficult to navigate how to eat now. Also still have a continued rash. I'm assuming maybe from my meds being that a lot of medications are "capsules" so they're made with gelatin, which I cannot have. I wish there were more vegan options & better pricing. I have discovered that everything I get now must be vegan or at least without any of the mammal product that carries the alpha gal sugar which I'm allergic to & it all is way more expensive than products made with mammal by products. Some of my medicines I haven't replaced yet because I cannot afford to, or haven't found a vegan or non capsule option.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BENJAMIN CASTERLINE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 10:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Testimony for Informational Purposes — HB1855

Benjamin W. Casterline, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Dermatology, University of Missouri School of Medicine

Test Performance. The alpha-gal–specific IgE assay, when ordered by providers with clinical suspicion of AGS, has been demonstrated to have 98% sensitivity and 92% specificity. Importantly, surveillance data from New Jersey — cited in the 2023 CDC MMWR report — found that approximately 90% of individuals with a positive laboratory result had clinical symptoms consistent with AGS, indicating that laboratory-based reporting captures predominantly genuine cases rather than false positives in endemic regions.

Missouri Prevalence: A 2024 study of 3,000 military recruits (Ailsworth et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract) measured alpha-gal IgE sensitization using banked sera from ten military installations. Missouri ranked third nationally in sensitization prevalence at 29%, behind only Arkansas (39%) and Oklahoma (35%). Granular geographic mapping demonstrated sensitization patterns consistent with county-level lone star tick distribution, including elevated rates at Fort Leonard Wood. These data establish Missouri as a high-prevalence state by the best available population-level evidence.

University of Missouri Research Commitment: The University of Missouri Department of Dermatology has established an AGS research program, external funding to support time for committed research, and active pursuit of NIH, CDC and other external funding opportunities which could involve funds to support DHSS time and effort and in MU-DHSS partnership.

Relevance of Surveillance Infrastructure: The 2023 CDC MMWR report explicitly identified the absence of state-level surveillance as the primary limitation of existing national prevalence estimates. State-level mandatory reporting would generate geographically granular, continuously updated case data that: (1) characterizes Missouri's true disease burden beyond what national studies can provide; (2) enables linkage to existing state health data systems to estimate diagnostic delay and healthcare utilization; and (3) provides documented epidemiologic infrastructure that strengthens Missouri-based applications for federal vector-borne disease research and surveillance funding from the NIH and CDC. Improved surveillance would directly advance our understanding of the state's needs and our capacity to support Missourians affected by this condition.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DESTINY RICHESON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:05 PM
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I have had alpha gal for 3 years now and it's very real. You have to read every label when you go to the store, because even if things are labeled "turkey" it could be encased in beef casing. Eating out is impossible because of cross contamination. McDonalds and Steak and Shake cook in beef tallow which is a no go for alpha gal. If I have beef or pork I can't breathe. It's a scary thing to deal with. It's very exhausting. More people. Need to be aware of how hard this disease is.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISABETH ANGEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Elisabeth Angel, I am 19 years old and i've lived in Missouri my whole life. Alpha gal has severely affected my life in all the possible ways it can. In highschool, 2024, I had to dropout of highschool and graduate online because of my symptoms. Before i found out i had alpha gal, my doctors checked if i had narcolepsy, diabetes, anemia, and/or thyroid disease because my mind and body were exhausted and sick, but we couldn't find out what was wrong. I would sleep 11 hours straight and still be tired, stomach aches, headaches, and anxiety. In May of 2025, I was diagnosed with alpha gal after my symptoms worsened. Currently, I've gone into anaphylactic shock two times from red meat and gelatin. I've had to change lotions and makeup due to ingredients such as collagen, glycerin, lanolin, etc. I have had to switch laundry detergents, hair products, and lower my sugar and dairy intake due to breaking out in hives/rashes, and itching into my skin bleeds. When i go to the emergency room or hospital, doctors don't understand the disease, I have to make sure they don't give me medicine with mammal derived products in it. I have had to stop eating at my favorite restaurants because they use products, such as beef tallow, to fry their food in. At other restaurants, I have to take a risk and hope they listened when I said no cross contamination. Alpha Gal Syndrome continues to affect my life every second of every day.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: K. CROSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:10 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son (9 years) and I both have been diagnosed with alpha gal. Before I discovered it, my health was slowly declining. My symptoms include suddenly being overtaken by fatigue, at times while driving, I'd have to pull over and sleep in a parking lot. My body hurts so badly, I'd have to crawl into bed, take Tylenol & benadryl and would sleep the rest of the day-having to neglect my duties as a mother and miss work. I've had to stop taking my ADHD medication because of the capsule casing causing reactions.

For my son, before we found out about his diagnosis, I had taken him multiple times to the ER for extreme stomach pain. He would become very constipated, we discovered, it was uncomfortable for him to stand up straight and walk.

His diagnosis has hit harder mentally. I struggle to ensure he gets the correct nutrition he needs with such a limited diet. He is often pale and has dark circles under his eyes. I am finding the by-products such as cheese and milk cause less issues, it still affects him if consumed regularly. He's had to miss out on favorite treats (though I'm trying to look at this as a positive, he feels he is missing out quite a bit) such as jello, gummy worms and gummy bears, on top of limiting many of these things due to ADHD (red dyes, processed sugars), the diet has become so limiting it's been disheartening for both of us to walk into a gas station or grocery store trying to find food without gelatin, dairy such as milk or buttermilk, etc. Eating out has become very limited-for me if food is cooked where mammal meat is, most often I have found I will almost always end up in bed suffering from inflammation throughout my body. I've began feeling the pain along my spine even.

Eating has become a little scary and food seems to become even more limiting on what is safe.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN VERNON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 8:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Kathleen Vernon. I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in September of 2024. Before my diagnosis I thought I was supposed to feel terrible after eating. It always happened, I'd eat dinner and with in a couple hours I'd be sick. It affected my entire life. Constant pain, hives, hair loss, headaches, upset stomach, diarrhea and more. After my diagnosis and education on Alpha Gal, I've been able get better control of my body. However, no matter how much research we do, how well we educate ourselves and others, if we don't get clear labeling on all products it's for nothing. It's more than a "food allergy". We can be affected by ingredients in toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, lotions, laundry soap, toilet paper, medications, vitamins. Some are fume reactive, can't go near a place where grilling is taking place. Forget about Sunday morning breakfast if bacon is being cooked in the house. If we don't get mandatory standards in place, thousands of Missourians will not be safe going out to eat, shop, normal daily activities. Cross contamination is a huge problem. For example one of my reactions was caused by a rotisserie chicken being in the same warmer as pork ribs. After a couple bites of the chicken my throat started closing and my breathing was restricted. I had to use my Epi pen and spend the evening at the hospital. This is serious and needs attention. Please help all of us that have been affected by Alpha Gal. Let Missouri set the standard!



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM SNYDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal in Dec 2023. I was fortunate to have a Dr who had previous patients with alpha gal so he was the one to suggest the testing based on my symptoms. Since diagnosis my life has been changed dramatically. Eating at restaurants presents difficulty, gathering with friends for pot lucks is difficult, holiday gatherings are difficult. Initially I spent hours at the store reading every label to see which ones were free of the allergens. I had it narrowed to which few items I could tolerate. The expense of these items are outrageous and our grocery bill increased tremendously. I have joined some Facebook communities and that has helped with letting me know acceptable foods and restaurants, as well as giving me a community of people to bond with. I am shocked at how rapidly this allergen has spread. I know multiple people affected with alpha Gal here in MO. I would love to see more research for treatments, more drs who are informed and ready to test and guide patients, more dietitian type help for those diagnosed, better labeling on food products, and more restaurant awareness to add more offerings. I appreciate that this bill is getting some awareness and being put forward to bring more awareness to something that is rapidly increasing in numbers and having such a debilitating effect on so many people. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express how this has affected me



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA ATKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 7:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I personally have alpha gal and so does my husband - it makes life so much more difficult since we have to watch every label and try to catch anything that might have mammal & byproducts and dairy & byproducts in them. Alpha gal needs to be tracked more so it can be seen as a much bigger problem than people think it is - and it needs to be listed as a major allergy so that labels have to show is there is anything to harm an alpha gal person in it.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA A KOZAK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 5:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My AG has been present since 2014. I have a hobby farm where I raise beef, goats, and chickens/eggs, and i grow my own vegetables and have worked for the state of Missouri for division of family services from 2009 to 11/28/25.

Prior to AG I fed myself from the food I raised, and now i an forced to sell my livestock and can no longer eat them. I have to spend a large amount of money on only chicken, turkey and seafood. I cannot afford emu/ostrich/ exotic AG friendly meats. So this has affected me drastically financially. I have anaphylaxis when eating mammalian products and cannot use and personal items containing mammal which also costs more. Any medications cannot contain mammalian products and often I have not been able to take prescribed medications due to this and it takes days for the pharmacist to investigate if they have any alternatives. I have been diagnosed with breast cancer 12/4/25 and believe my new diet, AG, and work stressor have contributed to my condition. I have missed work on many occasions because my AG has made my mouth and lips swell to the point of taking medications and seeing a doctor. I did SNAP interviews and could not speak. I was forced to leave my job early and retire due to my medical conditions and had to fight for accommodations through my employer for my AG. All I received was an air purifier, a mini fridge and never received my own microwave. I have fume reactions and often the food in office would make me ill. Using the shared microwave contaminated my food and I had to bring ALL my food daily and could not eat out or participate in office food potluck. The cost of the special allergist is min. 500. A visit. Blood work is over 300. And epi pens are over 500. I have a 6500. Deduct with my work insurance after retiring which costs me over 600. Per month This also affects social activities, eating out has ended along with simply having family meals with my children. Something so simple is now deadly.

Please be aware of the situation many of us now find ourselves living in.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LIZ ROSENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 3:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I was diagnosed with the alpha gal last year. I am also battling stage 4 mestatic breast cancer. When I was diagnosed with alpha gal, I had my cancer under control and was doing very well. Then all of a sudden I was sick to my stomach all the time could not keep any foods down. My doctor told me that cancer was probably taking over my stomach I just cannot believe that that was the case I had come so far. So I decided to dig in a little bit deeper. I had a friend that her seven year-old son was diagnosed with alpha gal so I had noticed I had several symptoms the same as what he did so when returning back to my medical doctor, I had told her that I did not think it was my cancer that I thought that I had Alpha gal. So she ran a blood work and it came back but yes I did have Alpha. I went from Weighing 120 pounds down to 92 pounds in just a couple of months you know how it feels when you have the stomach flu imagine that 24 hours a day every single day. also imagine your throat, swelling shut and not being able to breathe because you just had a reaction to something that had a mammal product in it. There is so many items that has mammal products in it that send people into reactions from bottled water to salt to sugar. The list is as long as your arm are used to get upset when going into the grocery store and seeing someone standing with a food container in their hand and they were reading the label. Well, I become one of those people because I now have to make sure that there's no mammal products in any of the foods that I eat because I am highly reactive so now you have the stomach that is upset all the time your throat swells so imagine trying to throw up in your throat is swelled shut. I've had this happens several times now throw into the mix that every muscle every joint every part of your body is in massive pain. You can't get out of the chair you don't want to get up to use the restroom. You can't get up to fix anything to eat. You're scared to eat anything because you're going to have a reaction, but you're hungry now let's throw into the mix mass cell activation. This sometimes comes along with alpha gal mass cell activation likes to make your body think that it is allergic to everything that you're putting into your body. Imagine today that you can eat a handful of grapes but tomorrow the handful of grapes make you sick now let's throw into the mix that you have a headache all the time so now you're sick to your stomach your bodyaches. You don't want to move and now you have a headache was throwing a few more reactions with your heart beating like it is about to jump out of your chest or your heart rate drops these are all symptoms of alpha and no 2 people are the same. They don't have the same symptoms. They don't have the same reactions. They don't react to the same foods all the mammal products they react to, so that includes no dairy. You also have to be careful with the Glycerine that is in products so now you can't use the dish soap to wash your dishes. You can't find shampoo to wash your hair. Can't find soap to wash your body so now you're limited. Also, imagine having the worst rash that you have ever seen all over your body from using products with glycerin in them. The rash completely covers your body, which this is a reaction to the glycerin and the mammal products the rash is so bad that it feels like someone is poking 1 million needles wherever that rash is that your body itches all the time I have itched my body so bad that it bleeds most of the time and you

don't even realize that you're doing it because you do it most of the time in the middle of the night, imagine not being able to get up to go and enjoy your grandchildren that are outside playing imagine not being able to enjoy your children to go do things with them to be able to get out to socialize because now you can't go into a restaurant because they are fixing mammal products and the smell of any mammal product throws you into a reaction so now your social life has come to halt. also imagine smells things that have a high fragrance start to irritate you. You can't go into shops because they are running air fresheners that have a smell that smell throws you into a reaction because of the fragrance the glycerin and the byproducts that it is made with imagine not being able to go to a basketball game of your grandchild because the people sitting around, do you have on the fragrance with things that will send you into a reaction you wanna talk about life coming to on hold your social life your life existence just comes to a stop you cannot leave your home because you're afraid to get into an area to where you will have a reaction. Imagine not being able to drive because you're afraid that you will have a reaction and your throat will swell shut you will not be able to breathe or your heart starts to flutter and you feel like you are going to be faint so you cannot drive because you're not for sure if you will have a reaction and you're not for sure if you will not feel completely wiped out and tired after you have went to town to go get groceries so now you rely on someone to drive . Alpha gal is serious. One of the things that I was able to do to help get my life back was to go to the chiropractor and get acupuncture needles put in my ear. I had to have needles in for 18 weeks to get my body straightened out. I still cannot eat mammal products so I am not getting the nutrients that you need from those animal products. I am now that person that sits in the grocery store reading labels. I'm just picking out a few things that I am able to eat what one Alpha gal person can eat. The next person cannot. Things that could be done to help with this disease we no longer burn and when I mean burn, I'm talking about our pastures or wooded areas to where the ticks are living when I was younger my grandparents always burnt and now you see no one doing that anymore, the state could help out with allowing local firefighters to come and help those with pasture and woods to burn to help with the tick populations Could also help with the tick populations with thinning out the deer, her dear Carrie tick, and they are a heavy populated animal no, not spraying another chemical that alpha gal people would have trouble with to be around. Would help to remove the ticks. Let's go to the natural way to remove these things many of the chemicals that we spray to kill or remove the ticks have ingredients in them that alpha gal patients cannot be around. This is just a short bit of my story thank you.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORI ANN WADLOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 5:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have been diagnosed with Alpha Gal. To say it has been life changing is an understatement. I'm only eating things that have fins and feathers. The mammal components that are used in various, wide array, of products is unbelievable. Your reaction can be mild in one setting and next time severe. I have lived with the GI upset when there is cross contamination. The hives, sweating, blisters around mouth and down the throat..various effects on your body. . My worst reaction was that I had a total knee replacement a little over a year ago. I , within hours began to develop a rash around the site , then hives that spread from downward to feet and upward to groin. My leg has never not been swollen, which has effected my ability for complete healing in my movement. All due to a bovine component that was in the glue.used. I need another surgery but am terrified to do so. There is so much that we alpha gals can react to in a surgical setting; from anesthesia to wound dressings. It is a life altering diagnosis. Please help to stop the spread and find better ways to manage this. Thank you for your time.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL AKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Both my wife and I have alpha gal syndrome and it is like a prison sentence. It not only changed our lives but hijacked them. It has increased our financial burden exponentially. We are afraid to eat anywhere but home and even there we are leary. We have had reactions many different times on many different things from medicines, foods, our pets we love but can't get their saliva or even just their noses on us, shampoos, lotions, soaps, and just about that has any type of mammal products in it. Gel caps on medicines, xanthan gum and try to find anything without that in it. Intimacy with one another where any bodily fluids have been exchanged. We are so paranoid that we have resolved to raising our own chickens just so we can eat and not starve to death. It has caused us both to lose weight 125 pounds for me and 150 for my wife. We did need to lose weight but it happened in the least healthy way possible. Our reactions have been rashes, sneezing uncontrollably, face itching, diarrhea, severe cramping, heart palpitations, passing out and bedridden from severe aches and pains. These are just some of the things we go through. The worst part is often it happens hours after the exposure making it hard to narrow down what caused the reactions. Dr appointments, emergencies and basically taken complete control over us.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA MIDDENDORF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had alpha gal syndrome for over 10 years. I was hospital twice with anaphylaxis before it was ever diagnosed. Afterwards, I have had anaphylaxis three more times, for a total of five. I can have no mammalian meat, no dairy products, I have to be careful with cross-contamination in restaurants. You can't have grilled chicken because it's grilled on the same grill as steak and burgers. You have to be cautious of fried foods because if you want french fries they may fry them in the same grease as their breaded beef or pork. You also have to be careful of what a fried food is cooked in. It cannot be cooked in lard or any other mammalian oil byproduct. You're also limited to the types of medications you can have. Nothing in cased in gelatin. That eliminates nearly all fish oil. You have to make sure your pharmacist is informed with alpha gal syndrome and that you aren't prescribed medications that are encased in gelatin. This is not an allergy that you have to be careful where you walk and don't get next to poison ivy. This is your everyday life. Eating to survive and not become ill.....



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I got sick in summer of 2020 and broke out, rash, hives, blisters and uncontrollable itching. Thought I had poison ivy or something from working in my yard, flower bed. But it kept getting worse and not going away, Going to 3 or 4 different doctors

Skin tests, skin biopsies and the couldn't figure it out. They thought I was having a reactions to my cancer drug I have been taking since 2017. Biopsy said something like it's something I'm taking but could not pin point. Prescribed higher potency cortisone creams and lotions, benedryl. In 2023 my oncologist suggested to dermatologist to prescribe me Xolair injections to see if that would help (he had another patient that it had helped for allergies. So dermatologist submitted to Medicare and it was denied because the treatment wasn't for an allergic reaction to medicine. I could get the medicine but I would have to pay 3-4 thousand dollars a month which I could not afford so I told dermatologist thanks for trying and I thought it was over... But my dermatology office docs went to bat for me and talked to drug rep and rep went to bat for me as well and I finally started shots as a special case and cost would be covered. I started shots and within 6 weeks I was getting better, rash's and hives were decreasing, still itching but not as bad.

In November of 2024 I saw a new nurse practitioner at my allergy doctors office for my seasonal allergies and she reviewed my file while talking to me and asked if I had ever been tested for alpha gal or ever had a tick bite. I said no, not to my knowledge, just skin tests. So she gave me order to go have blood test that day. The following week she called me and explained that I tested positive for AGS and what I needed to do to avoid getting sick. High for mammals and dairy. Needless to say I had to change my diet and even doing that I still struggle every day with brain fog, sensitivity to bright sun, nausea, fatigue. The hidden ingredients are what usually get me some days I don't even know what set it off. I will say taking the Xolair now is a godsend. My skin issues are so much better now with an occasional flare up that can be addressed with cortisone and allergy meds. Long story short it took 4 years to find out what was wrong with me. I'm thankful at least I know what it is now and I can advocate for myself and others. The medical field needs to better informed and not bush this off as a simple food allergy, it is anything but simple!! It should be easier for patients to get Xolair for alpha gal syndrome and drug cost need to come down. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL O'HALLORAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-432-3482	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI		TITLE: NUTRITION AND HEALTH SPECIALIST	
ADDRESS: 1106 HWY 28			
CITY: OWENSVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65066
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHEILA WIANECKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a 78 year old lady who has Alpha Gal Syndrome. It has affected every aspect of my life. Health wise and financially. It's not just a red meat allergy as most people think. Mammalian products are found in almost everything. I can no longer go to a restaurant with my husband or enjoy the same food everyone else eats when we have Sunday family dinners. I have several other life changing illnesses and certainly didn't need Alpha Gal on top of them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN KAY DENNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I got a tick bite that took 2 weeks to heal, then a week after that I grilled cheeseburger and fries for dinner one night. 3 hours later I broke out in hives and was itching. Took Benedryl went to bed thinking it would go away. Symptoms continued to get worse throughout the night until I ended up in ER. From that night on, I am unable to eat any mammal meats or by-products. Allergist assured me I could have dairy, but a bowl of cereal with 6 ounces of milk put me in anaphylactic shock. Spent 8 hours in ER. This disease is completely life changing, not only for me but my whole family. Since then I have developed fumes reactive and cross contamination by minuscule amounts. I carry an arsenal of meds including EpiPens everywhere I go. I have since learned that everyone reacts differently and to different degrees of seriousness. My heart breaks for the children affected with this disease. Some too young to know that it can be deadly. We walk around looking normal but are one bite away from death. This needs addressed now! You'll be shocked how many have this and there are still thousands going undiagnosed. And doctors need training! We are literally arguing with doctors to even get them to order the blood test used to diagnose it. That's all I wanted to say. Please help us!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIM MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2026 3:34 PM

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

My son and I both were diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome at the end of the summer of 2025. The lack of knowledge about this syndrome is pretty alarming. We had to request the blood tests that ended up indicating that we were suffering from AGS. I find it astonishing that some in our medical field do not believe that this is a real illness!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRENDT FRANCIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:10 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hi My Name is Trendt Francis - Im a 56 year old male thst lives in St Charles County. I was diagnosed with Alpha Gal this year. The last two years have been a living hell. Numerous ER visits, doctors, specialists, and it continues today. My work has suffered severely. Im a lead engineer for a Bioscience company and the struggle is so real. Imagine for a second that every day you live in pain, fear, and numb. I was a healthy person. Didnt smoke, little drinking at times, spend time with your kids, go on trips with the family. I never knew our bedroom except to get in a sleep and get to life. These days Im a prisoner here under fear and what to do next. Ive spent thousands trying to find a groove that has never materialized. I just spent another four days in the hospital. The anxiety attacks that ive never had till this, the stomach issues and more. Please help us...



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1855		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM J RAWLING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Alpha Gal syndrome also known as the Red Meat Allergen has been taking over the Midwest states. I recently got tested because everytime i ate any red meat the meat would get lodged in my throat and it would get stuck. Imagine having the feeling of something stuck in your throat and your incapable of pushing it down. The pain afterwards hurts alot. I had to go through countless amounts of testing done until they found out that I have Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) which is a chronic, immune-mediated allergic disease where white blood cells (eosinophils) build up in the esophagus, causing inflammation, narrowing, and damaging. This was caused from Alpha Gal that they also tested for and i came back positive for it. My stage of allergic allergen to meat is that my bowel movement is messed up, excess gas, bloating, and my body feels sore all over. Imagine having a headache and you can feel your head beat now imagine your entire body feeling like that. My reaction time to it will appear a few days later and I feel awful.

The price is I only get to eat Poultry and Seafood.

This allergen sucks. The price I have to pay for food now has added up more. Saving money is hard when you buy chicken based sausages, or turkey bacon. Alpha Gal also means I cannot consume anything than comes from mammals such as dairy and cheese. Even gelatin and medications i cant consume because it has bone marrow or some form of mammal product that I cant consume.

Unfortunately for me there is no pain killers for headaches and migraines that is not made from mammals that I know of. I get headaches and migraines alot from a tbi when I got a concussion many years back. So I have to take the pain killers regardless that it is made from mammal products. I fear that I am damaging my body more since my body is allergic to mammal products. Overall this sucks. Not to mention that i am also gluten sensitive which is entirely different from alpha but it adds to the struggle of what I cant eat.