



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLIE RIES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 7:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY MATTSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE (SADI)		TITLE: LPN	
ADDRESS: 755 S KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63701
EMAIL: amattson@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:35 PM

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

We who work at a disability center (SADI- Semo Alliance of Disability for Independence. Until you work with our special friends, or have a friend/family member who has a disability, it can be very easy to not realize how important these individuals are. They are so special in their own ways. When that lightbulb comes on over something they learned, it is the most rewarding thing there is. If funding is cut, this will not only affect my job as a worker in an independent company, but most importantly, our friends, and families, who depend on us and the benefits they get to help them in so many aspects. I ask you to reconsider this possible change that is being purposed. What would you think, or how would you feel if this was your family? Wouldn't you want the very best for them in an already challenging lifestyle? Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. I trust you will do the right thing.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH L SCHATNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:47 AM
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February 11, 2026
Chairman Dirk Deaton
Chair, House Budget Committee
201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm 309
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Deaton,
As lead Missouri volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I would like to submit the following testimony in support of continued funding for the Show-Me Healthy Women Program and the State's tobacco prevention and cessation programs in the Department of Health and Senior Services budget, HB 2010.

The Show-Me Healthy Women Program provides breast and cervical cancer screenings and follow-up services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured women. Deaths from breast and cervical cancer occur more frequently among women who are uninsured or underinsured and many of those deaths could be avoided by increasing screening rates through the Show-Me Healthy Women Program. Tobacco use claims the lives of 11,000 Missourians each year and costs Missouri over \$3.52 billion in annual health care costs. Funding for comprehensive tobacco cessation programs helps people who smoke quit and saves lives and money. Every \$1 invested in comprehensive tobacco control yields an estimated \$55 return, primarily in reduced health care costs associated with treating tobacco-related diseases.

Early detection programs like Show-Me Healthy Women have proven to save lives. Tobacco prevention and cessation programs have proven to help reduce the burden of smoking, which causes 34.4% of cancer deaths in Missouri.

Funding for these programs helps keep the state in better financial shape by catching cancers at an early, more treatable stage and keeping people from becoming addicted to the deadly effects of tobacco use.

I urge the members of this committee to appropriate the necessary funding for these important, lifesaving programs. Since the Governor's recommendations were released, more than a hundred of my fellow volunteers have signed a petition asking to maintain the vital funding for tobacco prevention and cessation. On behalf of them, I ask you to restore this important funding.

If you have any questions or need additional information about ACS CAN, do not hesitate to contact our ACS CAN Government Relations Director, Emily Kalmer, at emily.kalmer@cancer.org

Thank you,
Beth Schartner
Missouri State Lead Ambassador

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHIA-CHING WANG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:38 PM
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Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members, I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has supported services that I have witnessed both personally and professionally to be life-changing. As someone engaged in the mental health field, I have seen how these programs provide not only clinical guidance but also dignity, connection, and practical support for individuals and families facing overwhelming challenges. They create a bridge between treatment and everyday life, ensuring that people are not left to navigate crisis alone and that communities have the resources to care for one another with compassion and expertise. I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services: Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – \$43,005, Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – \$19,482, Family to Family Program – \$60,000. Thank you very much for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHUCK MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:06 PM
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Chuck Moore, and I am a longtime healthcare professional and community advocate with over 28 years of experience serving individuals and families in Missouri. Throughout my career, I have worked in memory care, long-term care, hospital settings, and community health, supporting seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families facing complex medical and emotional challenges.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for continued and full funding of caregiver and home-based services programs, including services that allow families to care for their loved ones at home.

In my professional experience, I have seen firsthand how essential caregivers are to our healthcare system. Family caregivers are often the primary source of daily support for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, physical disabilities, and chronic illness. They provide care that goes far beyond basic needs—offering dignity, stability, emotional support, and safety.

Programs that support caregivers do more than help families financially. They prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, reduce nursing home placements, and allow individuals to remain in familiar environments where they can thrive. These programs save the state money in the long term while improving quality of life for Missouri residents.

As someone who has worked closely with individuals experiencing memory loss and cognitive decline, I understand how demanding caregiving can be. Caregivers frequently sacrifice their own careers, income, and personal well-being to care for loved ones. Without adequate support, many families are forced into impossible choices between employment and caregiving, or between safety and affordability.

Budget cuts to caregiver services place vulnerable families at serious risk. Reducing funding will increase caregiver burnout, lead to higher institutional care costs, and negatively impact the physical and mental health of both caregivers and care recipients. These outcomes are harmful not only to families, but to our communities and healthcare system as a whole.

In addition to my professional background, I am deeply involved in community education and advocacy related to aging, memory care, and mental health. I regularly work to connect families with resources and to promote awareness of the challenges faced by caregivers. I see every day how vital

these services are to keeping families stable and healthy.

I respectfully urge lawmakers to protect and strengthen funding for caregiver and home- and community-based services. Investing in caregivers is an investment in public health, family stability, and responsible use of state resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective and for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
Chuck Moore



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FAYE LINK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:44 PM

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I have been apart of Nami with caregivers of military veterans with PTSD. This group allowed me to make friends and most importantly support'. This support is crucial when dealing with someone with PTSD. I am thankful for Nami and all that they offer!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FLOETTA SANDERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:41 PM

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Our daughter attends sadi its time for our government to stop looking past our differently able adults and children stop taking away from them to use else where it is not fair they need these programs my daughter and friends would be lost with out their dayhab please reconsider



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER BRANON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:27 PM

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If we have cuts to this then my daughter and many others like her will be hurt. Young adults with disabilities don't deserve this to happen. It isn't their fault they are like this. Please please do not cut this funding. It is helping a lot of people.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOLEEN PRIESTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 4:31 PM

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These are extremely highly needed programs. They deserve to recieve these benefits



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOY KIM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 7:21 PM
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HB 2910			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN T. COLLINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:48 AM
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My niece Nancy Green who resides with her sister in Lee's Summit, Missouri. They receive Federal benefits that assist in paying for in-home care, food, transportation to and from DPI, clothing, utilities, dental and doctor care, etc. Note the word "assist" in previous sentence. Without the assistance Nancy's daily life would be severely limited and deprived. The assistance is gravely needed and appreciated for Nancy's existence and daily life.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE ORTIZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 11:42 AM
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Dear Representatives,

I am a Missouri resident who has friends and loved ones working and receiving services under Self Directed Supports "SDS". SDS is a Medicaid services which assists over 3500 Missourians with disabilities. It helps them stay at home and live with their natural family instead of in an institution or other setting.

SDS workers do a lot for their clients. Clients can have very aggressive behaviors which the SDS staff must deescalate. Clients can need help with moving and mobility. Clients can need help with basic hygiene like using the restroom or bathing. SDS staff are the ones there to help.

It is very possible what without SDS staff, many families will not be able to take care of their loved ones. This means that these people may very well be removed from their natural homes and put into facilities. Not only is this not what is best for the clients, but it's also more expensive. The average SDS cost to the state is about \$50,000 per client. Whereas the average for community living is \$600,000.

Under Governor Kehoe's proposal, SDS workers could receive pay cuts of more than \$14,000. This is absolutely devastating. Special needs work, as an industry, already has about a 50% retention rate annually. This means that every year, about half of all the people working in special needs will quit. Because of this, there is sometimes a two year long waiting period for some Medicaid services.

By cutting SDS, we are not only endangering the dignity and wellbeing of the most vulnerable Missourians, but we are making a financially and logistically unsound decisions.

Please Representatives, support SDS in your budget deliberations.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE JORGENSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter is 21 with Autism and Down Syndrome. Grace relies on this funding for all aspects of her life. She relies on the funding to live in an ISL where she is happy and thriving. Losing this funding would be detrimental to her and our family as I am unable to provide all of the assistance that she needs due to residual health issues following a battle with cancer. Grace needs help with all aspects of her day.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LOLETA WHITE-FINDEISEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:23 PM
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I am honored to introduce to you our twin sons, Joseph and Jon. They are why state funding for the Department of Mental Health and Department of Health and Senior Services is of the utmost importance.

Joseph and Jon are 40 years old. For the past two years they have had the privilege of living in their own rental home. With required 24/7 1:1 care including daily day program, behavioral supports and other supports that provide them a quality of life such as other Missourian adults have a right to. Joseph and Jon function as toddlers. They must have assistance with all daily needs including behavioral supports to allow them access to community life including church, farmer's market and, most recently, the joy of a circus. That is their back story.

My husband is 73 and I am 66. The arrangement for Joseph's and Jon's living was made when it became clear we could not longer meet their daily needs. My health had become serious. After 38 years we can no longer care for our own sons.

Please do not allow finances to force Joseph and Jon to live in a nursing facility or other sequestered living arrangement that will seriously decrease their dignity and right to live according to state legislation that protects health, safety, welfare, and morals of the public.

Your valuable time to read this testimony is greatly appreciated on behalf of myself, my husband, Joseph and Jon

Loleta White-Findeisen
Mother and Guardian of
Joseph White-Findeisen and
Jon White-Findeisen

I am willing to testify in person; however, finances preclude that from happening.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARTHA TRAMMELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 6:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.]

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
Family to Family Program – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)
Thank you very much for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY BETH BRUNK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:04 PM
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Dear House Budget Committee Members:

I am reaching out in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 detailed below. This funding has helped me when I attended the family to family class several years ago. It helped me to learn to set up boundaries and the correct language, and resources to help my son who lives with Borderline Personality Disorder, anxiety, and ADHD. After I took this class, I decided I wanted to help other parents/caregivers by becoming a teacher for this class. It was very rewarding.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for mental health adult community treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

*Parent Ombudsman and Education Services- amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

*Mental Health Training Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482

*Family to Family Program- amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget recommendations \$60,000.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this delicate matter.

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Brunk



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAURA PATEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-596-1418	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 12400 OLIVE BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN BLACKWOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:14 PM
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Please reinstate this bill! My son and two grandsons are able to live happy and productive lives due in a large part to the help that they've received from mental health organizations like NAMI. Our society needs help like this more than ever for not only the individual with mental health challenges but for their friends and families as well.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PENINA EKEROMA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:18 AM
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I have worked at a day program that took care of adult individuals with IDD, Intellectual Developmental Disability. I saw first hand how important it was for these individuals to have a place that they could learn life skills. These places provide resources for individuals with IDD. I cannot stress enough how important it is for there to be places open for individuals IDD. They come, they form bonds with staff, make new friends with other individuals, go out into the community and some even get help with finding employment. Places like these give individuals with IDD a chance to experience life in world that thinks because they have a disability, that should be limited.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA YARBRO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:27 AM
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I am writing as a member of our community and also a registered nurse to express my concern about the proposed FY27 budget reductions affecting disability support services, including Day Programs and Self-Directed Support services.

These services are an important part of creating an inclusive and supportive community for individuals with developmental disabilities. Programs like SADI (SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence) provide opportunities for individuals to stay engaged, develop everyday life skills, and participate in social and community activities. These opportunities help individuals build confidence, relationships, and a greater sense of belonging.

Community-based disability services also support families and caregivers who work hard to provide care for their loved ones. Access to structured programs and in-home supports helps reduce caregiver stress while allowing families to remain active and productive members of the workforce and community. When these services are available, they help promote stability, safety, and overall well-being for both individuals with disabilities and their families.

If funding is reduced, it could limit access to services, increase waitlists, and make it harder for families to receive reliable support. These challenges can create long-term consequences for individuals who depend on consistent care, routine, and social interaction to maintain their independence and quality of life. Additionally, reduced funding may lead to workforce shortages, which would make it even more difficult for families to secure dependable support services.

Strong disability services benefit the entire community by promoting inclusion, supporting local families, and strengthening the workforce that provides care. Maintaining these programs reflects our shared values of compassion, accessibility, and equal opportunity.

I respectfully ask that you consider the impact these services have on individuals and families throughout our area and advocate for protecting funding for Day Services and Self-Directed Support programs during budget discussions.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to representing the needs of our community. Please feel free to reach out if you would like additional community perspectives regarding this issue.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SPENCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 2:33 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SYLVIA STONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 2:41 PM

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

I am writing this in support of my best friend who uses SDS funds so that her daughter can be taken care of while she is at work. It's not babysitting. The PA's keep her daughter safe while working on skills in home and outside in the community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TONYA ECKSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 10:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom it may concern:

I am asking that you do not eliminate Community Specialist and personal Assistant pay. These changes would be devastating for adults with disabilities and there families. Without these benefits some families would have to make a hard decision with no other choice but to institutionalize there love ones which would end up costing tax payers a lot more. This bill allows families to provide a safe living environment for there love one with the people who love them not being cared by strangers. It allows them to learn to live independent in there homes. Without this support,families lose training,education and problem solving and assistance when needed. These families work hard, pay there taxes to provide there family the best life they can. The cost of this bill is minimal compared to placement into high cost services.

I see this bill work in our family, my grandson is autistic he received help through this bill, I have seen him start to communicate. As a mother and grandmother you never know the words I love you to be so precious when you have never heard it from you child and then they learn to express there feeling through assistance. The education for my daughter to learn how to handle everything there is to taking care of a child with special needs has been a God send. She has learned to work through everyday challenges with a autistic child. Without this I fear for our families and the decisions they will have to make. These people did not ask for this disabilities, But it is up to us as God fearing tax payers to help,protect those who can not protect themselves, the world needs this let the caring start here. God said Proverbs 4:20-22

DO NOT LET THEM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT, KEEP THEM WITHIN YOUR HEART.

Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABBAGAEI MAPLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:13 PM

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

Rate cuts hurt abilities to provide care and are dangerous to individuals who need hands on care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ABBIE MEYERHOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 618-973-1447	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MCCLAY ADULT DAY CENTER;CAVE SPRINGS ADULT DAY CENTER;WENTZVILLE ADULT DAY CENTER		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 142 DOUBLE EAGLE DR.			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63303
EMAIL: programdirector@mcclayadc.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:22 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the budget committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

This statement is submitted on behalf of adult day habilitation providers and the individuals with disabilities and families who rely on these services every day.

The individuals we support are people who require consistent, hands-on support throughout their day. Many are learning basic daily living and work skills for the first time in their lives, things most of us take for granted. For many of them, the goal is simple but powerful: to become more independent and, one day, to be gainfully employed and contributing members of their community.

That progress only happens because of stable, trusted staff who know them well. A cut of this size would make it impossible to pay those staff a livable, competitive wage. When staff leave, individuals lose more than services, they lose relationships, safety, and momentum toward independence.

When adult day programs are reduced, the impact doesn't stop with the individual. Families depend on these programs so they can go to work, provide for their households, and continue caring for their loved ones at home. Without these supports, parents and caregivers are forced into impossible choices of reducing work hours, leaving jobs, or facing burnout that puts everyone at risk.

We also want to emphasize that adult day services save the state money. When individuals lose structured, preventive supports, they are more likely to need emergency services, hospital care, or residential placement, all options that are far more expensive and far less effective.

Adult day habilitation programs protect dignity, support families, build independence, and prevent higher costs down the line. Cutting these services does not solve a budget problem, it creates a much larger one.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to protect funding for adult day habilitation services and oppose deep cuts that would harm individuals with disabilities, families, and communities across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Abbie Meyerhoff
Adult Day Habilitation Director



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADAM MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 2:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Adam Morgan. I am 23 years old, I live in St. Peters, Missouri, and I rely on Self-Directed Services (SDS) and Personal Assistant services every single day. These supports allow me to live a meaningful, independent life in my home and community, and they help many of my friends do the same. I respectfully ask you to protect these services and oppose the proposed cuts.

I also want you to know that I am a fiscal conservative. I believe in responsible spending and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely. SDS funding is not wasteful — it supports people like me in the least restrictive and most cost-effective settings possible: our own homes with our families. Cutting these services will not save money. It will lead to more crisis care, more emergency room visits, and more costly residential placements.

One of the most important parts of SDS is that I get to choose my own staff. This is extremely important for my safety and dignity. My Personal Assistant helps me with very personal parts of daily life, and trust is everything. Lowering reimbursement rates makes it harder to keep good staff, which leads to high turnover and more strangers in my home. That instability directly affects my safety, comfort, and quality of life.

Personal Assistants also do not receive paid time off, holiday pay, or employer-provided health insurance. Their wages are what allow them to meet those basic needs. When rates are cut, experienced workers leave for jobs that offer benefits, and people like me lose the consistent support we rely on. This is not just a workforce issue — it is a direct threat to the stability of our care.

I communicate using an iPad, and I must be able to trust my communication partner. If I cannot trust the person supporting me, I lose my voice. Communication is not optional — it is how I make choices, build relationships, and participate in my community.

Through the Adam Morgan Foundation, my family and I also help provide Community Specialist services to others with disabilities. Community Specialists teach skills that increase independence, including learning to use communication devices and safely participating in the community. This reduces long-term dependence on paid services and increases quality of life.

I also work with a Community Specialist at Spectrum Fitness for CrossFit sessions three times a week. These sessions improve my stamina, strength, and range of motion, while also helping regulate my body and improve how I anticipate and plan movements. This support helps me move more safely, participate in community life, and manage daily tasks. Without this consistent preventative support, my motor regulation would decline, and everyday activities would become much more difficult.

Preventative services like this are far less expensive than future medical treatment or crisis care.

The services being discussed are not extras. They are essential. They allow people with disabilities to live safely with their families, avoid more restrictive settings, communicate, and contribute to their communities in ways that are both humane and fiscally responsible.

I respectfully ask you to protect Community Specialist services and ensure fair reimbursement for

Personal Assistants. These supports make independence possible for me and many others across Missouri.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Adam Morgan**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADAM ROACH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AIRIELL CLAIR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a caregiver with multiple clients who will be severely affected by this bill, I would like to break down how generalizing this bill to all disabled persons affect them by listing the reality of agency vs self directed systems and point out how their rights, liberties, and freedoms will be deprived. Leaving these clients to resort agencies leaves more room for abuse, neglect, less of an opportunity to participate in society, a decreased chance in fulfilling their individual plans, a disadvantage in having the right to choose their caregivers, and many other factors that would negatively impact their quality of life.

When a client goes resorts to an agency, their freedoms, rights, and ability to go into society are stripped because agency regulations that restrict their worker from leaving the clients home and from certain duties. In comparison with the self directed systems, the client is able to identify specific duties and won't have a barrier to receive that assistance as well as they are able to leave their home. The only restrictions are the amount of hours worked and waiver specific things. With agencies, it is unclear that the money being received is actually being used to pay direct support professionals which poses an increased threat to the fraudulent activities that brought up the proposal of this bill. In regards to the self directed systems, the money is being controlled by the financial institutions. Understanding

Overall, agencies should not generalize what is needed to the wide spectrum of disabilities, and the agency model should be considered for those who would benefit from the outcomes of it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALICIA WHITEHEAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in reference to the proposed cuts in HB 2010 - Deaton - APPROPRIATIONS BILL day services which will impact not only individuals with intellectual and delayed disabilities but all of the professionals in the industry and their direct support care specialists. These cuts aren't a 2% cut or even a 10% cut, but you have proposed to cut funding by 1/3 causing an apocalypse in services, the service providers and their staff of direct support professionals.

The cuts would lead to fewer opportunities to integrate individuals into their own communities and reduced staffing (when there is already an unprecedented shortage of care givers across the industry). Anyone looking for employment can go to Sam's Club down the street and make more than the amounts that would be offered with the cuts. The benefits currently offered would be null and void and only offered to administration as they would only be able to afford to hire part time employees. This would cost money to the state in unemployment, free Medicaid and subsidies to marketplace insurance, increasing need for spending in other departments of government to accommodate the individuals needing these services for health, safety, skill building, community inclusion, dignity and purpose.

It is INHUMANE to cut services to individuals with intellectual and delayed disabilities at a time when funding should be expanded to include more opportunities for individuals to get involved into day services and integrate into their community.

Department of Mental Health has a wait list for waiver services. Day services across my community and the non-profit I work for, Pony Bird, have waiting lists for programs. We cannot work for free and support our communities with the cuts being proposed.

Maybe funding needs to be cut elsewhere to accommodate all the work the professionals in mental health, intellectual and delayed disabilities and rehabilitation services have worked so hard to build and provide at already extremely low rates.

Please RECONSIDER the cuts being made to HB 2010 - Deaton - APPROPRIATIONS BILL. We can all sacrifice something, but we cannot survive an apocalypse to the services our communities need to thrive.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ALIDA PERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-248-3333	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COMPLETE HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS		TITLE: PM SUPERVISOR	
ADDRESS: 504 N CLEVELAND STREET			
CITY: FAYETTE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65248
EMAIL: a.perry@braunhome.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:58 PM

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

**Cuts undermine independence and community.
Cuts hurt families and caregivers.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALISON WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to oppose this bill. I've worked with adults with developmental disabilities for almost 17 years at a day hab program. The individuals that come here have nowhere else to go everyday. If they did not come here, most of them would have to sit at home every day doing nothing; waiting to die. If they weren't secluded at home, they'd be in a nursing home. Day habs are not nursing homes and nursing homes don't offer the meaningful life that our day hab program provides. I can say this because I've worked in many different nursing homes as an agency staff. Please consider the thousands of lives that you'll be negatively changing by voting for this. Individuals who are in day hab programs have the opportunity to grow, make friends, be a part of their communities, work on goals, and overall live a meaningful life. Nursing homes are a death sentence. If anything, day hab programs need more funding to provide quality services. These are people were talking about. Quality of life shouldn't be up for a vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLEN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 18-year-old son Nathan does not receive SDS services or spend time at a day hab program. . .yet. We were told we could not apply for a Medicaid waiver for him until he became an adult. On August 12, three days after he turned 18, we began the paperwork to get him a Medicaid waiver. We learned two weeks ago that he was approved for SDS services in the form of 10 hours/week with a PA and also day hab in the summer and on days off from school. My son is now on the waitlist for these services.

These services will be crucial for our family. They will make it possible for my wife and I to continue to work when Nathan is out of school. These services will allow Nathan to be part of his community, adding to the quality of his adult life. It's important to note that the proposed cuts will make it very difficult, if not impossible, to find a PA and quality day hab.

It gives us hope to hear support from the committee to protect these services. Please continue to support these Home and Community Based Services at the current level in the budget.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLISON REILLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Governor's proposed budget cuts in HB 10 - HB 2010 to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation will have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. These programs help Missourians with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity. I urge the committee to vote NO on HB2010. The Governor's proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation will have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable Missourians. These programs help those with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSA ANA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSA SAUER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA DURHAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello I writing about the proposed cutting of funds for Missouri disabled. This would directly negatively affect my family in a great way. Because of waiver funds my daughter with Down syndrome would be able to attend day program. This program gives purpose to her every day. It allows her to live her daily life as closely to other adults as possible. She gets to get up every day, leave her house, interact not only with peers like her but also with typical peers. Loosing those fund also affect myself and my other kids. Without a safe place for her to do during the day, I am not able to work a job, as not just anybody or place is safe or capable of caring for her, which directly takes away from the other children in our home. There are MANY MANY families just like ours that this would cause hardships for in Missouri. I encourage you to consider voting against this change. Thank you
Amanda Durham



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA KAY RAGLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If SDS PA pay rates are cut, I cannot continue providing the service I have provided to families who desperately need the assistance I provide as a skilled worker in this field. I will be forced to find other employment. While it may seem the current rate is 'higher than the industry average for this region' I do not have any employee benefits available to me and must account for things like health insurance and retirement on my own making my actual wage much less.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA LIPPITT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose the proposed budget cuts. These cuts directly take money away from people with disabilities, who need services to be participating individuals in society. It funds day programming for individuals who would otherwise not leave their homes. It provides independence and a sense of belonging and contributing. Please do not make these budget cuts to Disability Services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA MCCAFFERTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Your constituents with developmental delays are humans. they are the most vulnerable of your constituents and proposing to cut 80.7 million dollars from services that off let them jobs and protection is doing the opposite of what your constituents elected you to do. Forcing those with delays into institutions and homes, keeping them jobless and without good care is discriminatory and makes you no better than Hitler!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER CONN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 4:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter has a rare, degenerative disease that has caused a multitude of disabilities for her. As a family, we rely on support of programs for people with disabilities. I cannot work outside of the home due to my daughter's excessive medical needs so I'm getting a nursing degree in order to be a paid caregiver. These programs help support my family and allow us to be able to meet my daughter's needs for medical treatment, equipment, and various state programs. Cuts to these programs will directly affect my daughter and our family negatively. I'm appalled that cuts are being considered in areas where the vulnerable are getting the support they need, especially since disabled people are rarely supported out side of these programs. Without these programs, disabled people will suffer. Governor Kehoe clearly has no idea what it's like to be disabled or to have a child with a disability since he's proposing cuts to people who need the support most. Quite frankly, I'm embarrassed to call him my governor.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMBER O'NEAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY NOEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This fund cut will deeply hurt individuals of the IDD community. These funds help make sure that individuals are taken care of properly and given the same opportunities as everyone else. Please do not cut these funds. All individuals deserve the same respect and opportunities as everyone else.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY PAYNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 6:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Amy Payne. I am a personal assistant for my nephew who is a quadriplegic, which means he is unable to move anything below his shoulders. He relays on the Individual Directed Goods services to be able to live at home thanks to the individual Goods and Services he also self directs his care which gives him some form of independence since someone has to do everything for him.

Let's talk about bill 2010. These services are not extras they give individuals with disabilities to maintain dignity, stability and a good quality of life. Without them they are individuals are forced into institutions or left without care. For my nephew that would be tragic considering he relays on someone twenty four hours a day to do the simple things that most people take for granted. Without these services he could be placed in institution that would not give him the twenty four hour care that he needs.

This bill also talks about cutting the pay rate for personal assistants which I am one. The work is not easy. It is physical, emotional and constant. It involves making sure the individuals have all of their needs met. Personal assistance are the backbone of in home disability services. When you cut their pay, you cut the support systems that keeps people safe and happy in their homes. I love my nephew, but everything in this world is expensive and cutting my pay will not only affect my nephew it will affect my family as well. Cutting pay will also make it harder for individuals to be able to find good help.

My nephew or other individuals with disabilities are not a line item in the budget. They are human beings who deserve to live in their own community and home. These people deserve independence just like you and I.

This bill sends a message that lives of people with disabilities are negotiable. I strongly disagree. Missouri should be protecting and strengthening these services not get rid of them.

I see everyday how fragile this system already is. When services are reduced or restricted, it isn't the paperwork that suffers it's the individuals.

This bill puts so many people at risk not only individuals but also their families. How could anyone take away something that is so important.

Thank you
Amy Payne



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY RAFTERY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMYE TREFETHEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped my family at a time when my daughter was suicidal and needed treatment. I took a NAMI Basics course and attended a Family Support Group that helped us find treatment and communicate better as a family. Today my daughter is in college and is thriving because of the help from NAMI Missouri.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

- Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
- Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
- Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANA GORDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am against the an proposed cuts!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA BLAYLOCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.]

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA CAMPOS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 2:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please reconsider cutting funding for the most vulnerable in our society. it doesn't just affect them it affects the whole family and everyone trying to support them in the community. the loss of income will be huge for care providers who are not being given benefits and will make it hard for them to stay healthy enough to take care of others. I will not be able to hire anyone to take care of my severely disabled child who requires constant care. this will make it even harder to take care of my other children and responsibilities which will in turn affect my husband's ability to stay at work. Making vulnerable families and individuals in the community more vulnerable will only cost more in the long run. Please consider supporting and bolstering up programs for those trying to help others and those trying to help themselves. I much rather see my son be able to reach his full potential and give back to the community in what ways he can. Rather than be a burden in some facility. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA KALAFUT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern and absolute opposition to the proposed budget cuts to Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS). I am addressing you not only as a mother, but as an advocate in this field who has dedicated years to supporting individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities across our state.

My daughter did not come from me biologically—I adopted her as a foster child at birth. She presented with disabilities immediately, as did one of my two other adopted children. As a young mother serving in the United States Navy, I experienced firsthand what it meant to navigate a system with limited support and almost no resources. That experience is what pushed me into advocacy work. My constant external locus of control is what pushed me to continue my education after my service, complete my BSW and DHS, and become the advocate I am today—specifically to fight against harmful proposed cuts such as these.

The idea that Missouri would cut these critical services is not only unwarranted—it is unlawful, dangerous, and profoundly inhumane. These decisions are being made without any genuine consideration for the real-life consequences they will have on vulnerable individuals. For many, SDS is the only safeguard preventing them from being forced into unsafe placements.

My own daughter was sexually exploited by a caregiver working under traditional provider services. This is not hypothetical. This is the lived reality families face when they lose control over who comes into their home. To force individuals like my daughter—who already battles autism, epilepsy, Tourette's, ID/IDD, and Arnold-Chiari Malformation—back into systems where exploitation and neglect are more likely is unconscionable. She still struggles with trauma she cannot fully understand or articulate. No family should ever be forced back into the environment that harmed their child simply because the State decides these services are no longer worth funding.

These cuts will not only destabilize families—they will create long-term harm, increase state-level costs, and place individuals at significantly higher risk of abuse, exploitation, and institutionalization. This is not a cost-saving measure. It is a direct threat to the safety and dignity of Missouri's disability community.

I strongly urge you to reconsider any and all reductions to Self-Directed Services. Missouri families will not quietly accept decisions that endanger their loved ones. There will be considerable and justified resistance to any policy that removes autonomy, safety, or supports from individuals who rely on them to survive.

For the sake of our children, our community, and the integrity of Missouri's disability system, I respectfully request that these proposed cuts be withdrawn immediately.

Dr. Andrea Kalafut

Mother and Fierce Advocate



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA ROSEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Andrea Roseman. I am the Access Special Needs Ministry Director at Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau, MO. I work primarily with teens/adults. It didn't take long in my role, to learn how important it would be for me to learn about transition services for the friends that I serve. Being a part of community is such an important thing for my friends. Their day program and personal assistant services are not only a way for them to have independence, but they also allow their parents to work. I have relationships and work with multiple day programs in my community. It will be detrimental to my friends, if the services are cut by the amount that they are supposed to be cut. We have some amazing providers that run well-staffed programs and have their consumers best interests in mind. Concerning the other cuts, it is very hard to find people to come and work in the home as a PA. One of the drawing points that has made this easier, is the family being able to pay more with self-directed services. I've watched friends blossom and grow in ways that would not be possible, without these additional people helping them to be in community and all of the things that go along with that. I understand that we have a budget that must be balanced, but taking away from these vulnerable individuals is not the way to accomplish this. I ask that you find other ways to fix the budget. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA WOLF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am an individual who knows the importance of Day Services. Day Services provides so much for individuals with disabilities. It is their FRIENDSHIPS, their SOCIAL LIFE, their JOBS, their DAILY LIVING SKILLS, and their lifeline in many cases. Just because a person graduates from high school does not mean they can hold down a job. They need MEANING and PURPOSE in their life and this is what Day Services does for them!!!! PLEASE DO NOT CUT DAY SERVICES!!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW ARNOLD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri citizen and as an Uncle of a niece who is severely autistic, it has come to my attention that significant cuts to disability programs are in the works and may in fact be passed in the Missouri legislature this coming week.

My niece lives in Springfield, MO and requires 24/7 care. In the past, she has lived in state-fund supported care homes, but for the last few years she has received self-directed care, which has proven to be quite an improvement to her quality of living.

As I understand it, authorized self-directed supports (SDS) and care-giver wages could be slashed by up to 30%. This is a profound cut to the Missouri HCBS waiver system that truly saves the taxpayer more dollars than what the potential new costs will be. So this 30% cut in wages will jeopardize my niece's staff being able to continue to provide for her care as it simply isn't a wage cut that they can absorb. This means she will likely have to return to a state-funded care facility, which is in fact a net higher cost than the savings these wage cuts will create. And arguably, lower quality care for our most vulnerable citizens. Does this make any sense?

Please reconsider making these short-sighted cuts that would end up costing the state MORE than it saves, and more importantly, could be extremely devastating to my niece and others like her.

Respectfully,
Andrew Arnold



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW FARMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 7:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the Missouri House Budget Committee,

I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to Self-Directed Supports (SDS) in HB 2010, including reductions to 93% of prior budget levels, lower hourly allocations for personal assistance services, pay rate caps (e.g., around \$22.88/hour), and elimination of supports like community specialists and individual goods/services. These changes threaten the independence and safety of Missourians with developmental disabilities, including my family members.

My sister-in-law has two adult children with significant developmental disabilities who live at home and rely on SDS for personalized, in-home care. This flexible program lets them hire trusted caregivers who know their unique needs, routines, and medical requirements. SDS enables them to stay connected to family, participate in community activities, pursue goals, and live with dignity—avoiding restrictive settings.

The cuts would worsen Missouri's severe Direct Support Professional (DSP) shortage by effectively reducing pay and making retention/recruitment even harder. Without consistent, skilled support, families face safety risks, instability, reduced community access, and extreme stress. Most critically, these reductions increase the risk of forcing adults with disabilities into institutionalized care—group homes, nursing facilities, or state-operated institutions—when community supports fail. Institutional care costs the state far more (often over \$600,000 per person annually) than SDS (averaging ~\$48,000 per person). This is not savings; it's a costly shift to worse outcomes: loss of homes, routines, personal choice, and community ties. Budget decisions must not push people toward institutionalization. SDS promotes independence, inclusion, and cost-effective care while supporting work, relationships, and person-centered choice. Fair DSP wages are essential for this vital workforce.

Please reject these cuts in HB 2010. Protect SDS funding, maintain flexible supports, ensure fair pay, and prioritize community living over institutionalization. Adults with disabilities deserve full, independent lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Farmer



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW SIMMONS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGEL PINNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA DAWN DEMARCO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a person that has worked 27 years in special education and has volunteered many years with special Olympics and have been a supporter to the many parents of persons with developmental disabilities, I urge you to also show your support to persons with DD. This is one thing you can do for these families that have to struggle everyday for their children. Please don't cut funding that helps them to continue to provide the best care for their children. It is the right thing to do, to be compassionate to those that deserve it. Let's not turn our backs to the less fortunate. The programs that would be lost without the funding would be detrimental to their growth and potential in society.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA PINNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA VINCENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a dear friend of at least 10 people, individual families, that will be affected by this bill even as an outsider;I know that it is staggeringly wrong. Who are we as a society if we make cuts to support for our most vulnerable members?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELINA CREPEAU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:07 PM

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

My family asks for no cuts to self directed services as this will negatively impact my cousin Hanalei her family since she receives self directed services and needs 24/7 care which is extremely hard her family along with others.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELIQUE N HEMMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As I sit here attempting to write another appeal to protect Missouri's Self-Directed Support (SDS) program from recommended budget cuts, I am faced with a set of seemingly impossible tasks:

To prove why Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities are inherently worthy of the support they need to survive.

To explain why the SDS program is not a luxury, but a fiscally sound investment that prevents much costlier institutionalization.

To justify why other support options, such as natural supports and agency-based supports, may not be feasible for every individual.

After 26 years of parenting two children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I am exhausted. I am exhausted from fighting for their education, their health care, their acceptance in the community, their value in the work force, and their very right to exist safely, meaningfully, and productively in the state our family has called home for generations.

So instead I share a few bullet points about our family and how the SDS program has worked for us:
The Success of Flexibility: Our 26-year-old son, Zach, relies on SDS. Because of the unpredictable and impulsive nature of his disabilities, he requires 1-on-1 support that is flexible and responsive. He cannot meet an agency's required attendance, rigid schedules, or behavioral expectations. Because of SDS, Zach works on his farm and continues to learn and develop skills applicable to his life while also allowing him to contribute to his community. Without SDS, he would need to live in agency group-housing or institution—a move that is not only devastating for him but far more expensive for the state of Missouri.

The Stability of the Family Unit: Because Zach has SDS and consistent paid staff, we are able to focus our time and energy on providing the “natural supports” our 22-year-old autistic son, Kaden, needed to reach his own potential—rather than requiring paid supports for him as well. As a result, Kaden now lives semi-independently, drives, and works full time with health care in his local community.

Economic Contribution: Because of the stability and flexibility SDS provided our home, my husband, was able to work 30+ years at AT&T, and I have spent my career in the professional disability field supporting other individuals and families through mentoring and direct support.

Fair and Sustainable Compensation: The current pay rate should not be reduced, as it already compensates for benefits typically provided by agency-based programs. SDS does not offer sick leave, vacation time, mileage reimbursement, health insurance, or paid administrative overhead. Additionally,

program coordination including employee hiring, training, and monitoring is completed by an unpaid Designated Representative. The existing wage is a necessary and cost-effective means of ensuring stable, quality direct support.

If these budget cuts are enacted—especially the pay rate cuts—Zach’s support staff will be forced to seek employment elsewhere, shifting costs from a cost-effective, family-supported model to a significantly more expensive state-funded alternative. The resulting loss of paid support would destabilize our family and lead to higher-cost, less efficient, and less effective placement for Zach—entirely at the state’s expense.

Please consider a compromise with less severe rate cuts to the Self-Directed Support (SDS) program. Do not balance the budget on the backs of Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens and the families who have worked a lifetime to keep them in their own homes in their own communities.

Sincerely,
Angelique Hemmer
angehemmer@gmail.com
40 Countryside Estates Drive
Troy, MO 63379



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGIE SHUSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my opposition to the cuts to SDS. My 22 year old daughter has complex medical needs and requires 24/7 care. We have tried all the different programs and agency based care. They didn't work. Private duty nurses either didn't show up or worked only the shifts they wanted to work and turnover was constant. The nursing company's response to the inconsistent staff was "isn't something better than nothing?" No... no it's not. My daughter is a human being who deserves to live a life of dignity, but due to a wheelchair, feeding tube, seizures, 19 daily medications, and being non verbal, she needs an aide to be able to live life. I am one of her paid caregivers through SDS and we also have two other caregivers. Because of this program, we were able to catch that she had pneumonia last week and avoid a costly, stressful hospital stay. Because her caregivers know her and they show up every day, we caught it early. She is living a full life right now and is very involved in her community because we don't have to work around agency "rules" and agency-based staff willingness to work. Please do not cut funds for this program. Our citizens with disabilities deserve the best quality care and staff who wants to be there!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANI ALVAREZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I strongly oppose HB2010 and the proposed cuts to the SDS budget. Through SDS, I have witnessed lives change in ways that cannot be measured on a spreadsheet. The clients are supported in living with dignity, building confidence, and working toward independence. I've seen them reach goals that once felt impossible—learning new skills, gaining routines, and growing month by month. These are not small victories. They are life-changing moments that allow them to feel valued, capable, and respected.

SDS does not just provide services; it provides stability, consistency, and hope. The relationships built between staff and the clients are essential to their growth. Progress happens because there is trust, patience, and continuity of care. Budget cuts would threaten that foundation and undo years of hard work, growth, and progress for people who rely on this support every single day.

These cuts would also be devastating to the workforce that makes this care possible. Working for an SDS family already requires enormous sacrifice—no healthcare, no retirement, and no paid time off. The current pay structure allows employees to continue showing up with commitment and compassion. Reducing funding would make it nearly impossible to stay in this work, even though it is deeply meaningful and absolutely essential. When staff cannot stay, the clients lose trusted supports, and their progress suffers.

This work matters. These lives matter. I urge lawmakers to oppose HB2010 and protect the funding that allows SDS to continue providing dignified, consistent, and life-changing care to those who depend on it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANITA PAREDES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My niece, Alicia Paredes, has permanent disabilities due to loss of oxygen and stroke at birth. Her needs are great and she requires equipment that changes as she grows. She requires specialized education and therapy to help her grow and develop. She has a right to learn and develop just like any other child in our country.

These budget cuts for disability will take away services that she needs. I am in opposition of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANN ELIZABETH GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:31 PM

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

I have good friends who care for an 18 year old son with cerebral palsy. Please fight to oppose this bill as cuts in pay through SDS PA will create a tremendous problem in the ability of the family to care for their son. This loving family strives to provide a loving safe environment for their severely disabled son. Help them to continue meeting their son's needs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANN POISSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:20 PM

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

DO NOT CUT FUNDING FOR SERVICES FOR MISSOURI CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES! THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES DESERVE AND NEED OUR SUPPORT. MISSOURIANS DO NOT WANT TO HURT THESE VULNERABLE CITIZENS AND ARE TRUSTING YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING! IF YOU CUT THEIR FUNDING, YOU ARE NOT REPRESENTING OUR STATE'S VALUES!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 4:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a Missouri resident who relies on Medicaid-funded Self-Directed Supports (SDS) to live independently in my community.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Medicaid reductions in HB10—especially the provisions that would cap caregiver wages below \$23 per hour and eliminate key self-directed services. These are not small policy changes. They are direct cuts to care that would put my health, safety, and independence at risk.

Without SDS, I would struggle to:

- Work and participate in the economy
- Maintain access to food and personal hygiene
- Receive safe, reliable, and consistent support
- Remain in my own home and community

My support staff are essential to my daily life. I do not use a traditional agency model by choice. Instead, I hire college students studying health-related fields, providing them with real-world, disability-centered experience. This model benefits everyone—it supports my independence while helping build a knowledgeable, compassionate workforce for Missouri's future.

The idea that “natural supports” can replace Medicaid services is unrealistic and unsafe. Not every disabled person has unpaid caregivers available, and many families simply cannot afford to provide round-the-clock care. As parents and loved ones age, there is no guarantee that anyone will be able to step in. Medicaid services like Self-Directed Supports exist because unpaid care alone cannot ensure health, safety, or dignity.

Currently, I pay my staff \$29 per hour to recruit and retain skilled caregivers. If HB10 is passed as written, I would be forced to cut wages or lose my care team entirely—destabilizing my support system and putting my independence in jeopardy.

I urge lawmakers to oppose any cuts to Medicaid and to fully fund Self-Directed Supports and other home- and community-based services. These programs are not optional. They are the backbone of independence for disabled Missourians and an investment in a stronger, more inclusive Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNA MARIE NEIDERHOUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern and absolute opposition to the proposed budget cuts to Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS). I am addressing you as a caregiver and a family member. Our family's situation is unique in that my husband and I became my adult sister's primary caregivers in the fall of 2022 after my parents were no longer able to care for her in the same capacity. I had been her SDS caregiver prior to this, however, once she started living with us everything beyond my 40 hours per week were natural (unpaid) supports to her. We took on everything in regard to her care: medical support, financial support, behavioral and emotional support, and all of her day-to-day life. On top of this we have two of our own children we are raising.

The SDS funds that pay my wages allow me to be able to provide fulltime care for my sister, plus support her AND my family. The proposed budget cuts would drastically decrease my income. So much so that it would not even be a living wage if I were single let alone a mother of two. Caregivers who are paid through SDS funds are already not offered any form of benefits; how does this seem even remotely ethical to cut wages so significantly? If the proposed budget cuts that I have been reading about do in fact go through, I will no longer be able to care for my sister. I will have no choice but to find alternative employment in order for my family to survive. This will mean that my sister no longer has a caregiver. We literally do not know what we are going to do if this happens. The idea that Missouri would cut these critical services is not only unwarranted, it is unlawful, dangerous, and inhumane. These decisions are being made without any genuine consideration for the real-life consequences they will have on vulnerable individuals. For many, my family included, SDS is the only safeguard preventing our loved ones with disabilities from being forced into unsafe placements.

When my sister was a young adult, my parents tried other social service settings. On two different occasions my sister was sexually abused and taken advantage of by individuals who were supposed to be trusted professionals. This is the reality that families face when they cannot have say in the people who care for their loved ones. The thought of my sister being forced back into a system where exploitation, neglect and abuse are a common occurrence is unacceptable. My sister still deals with the trauma from these incidents. One of them being that she associates a job with being sexually abused since it was while working a job through Vocational Rehabilitation that one of the traumatic incidents happened to her. Because of this she is adamant that she never wants to try to have a job ever again. Another sexual abuse incident occurred when she was a minor and her behavior therapist took inappropriate liberties with her. Yet again, someone our family should have been able to trust. Because of these incidents, my sister was diagnosed with Chronic Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Our family should not be put into a position that would force us to put her back into an environment that is

known for being rampant with abuse and neglect simply because the State decides these services are no longer worth funding.

I want to tell you a little about my sister (36). She cannot ever be left alone. She requires 24/7 care and supervision. She is not able to safely navigate day-to-day tasks within a home setting. For instance, she has tried on numerous occasions throughout her life to microwave something and small fires have been started. And she has no idea what to do if there is a fire. She does not know how to dial 911. She does not know how to properly use scissors or a knife without accidentally harming herself. She cannot prepare her own food, set her own water temperature for a shower (when she was younger, she severely burned herself), she does not know how to clean herself properly after a bowel movement, she does not know how to tell if food is spoiled and will eat it regardless, she does not know how to properly take her medications, she lacks the ability to sense danger, and I could go on.

These cuts will not only destabilize Missouri families, they will create long-term harm, increase state-level costs, and place individuals at significantly higher risk of abuse, exploitation, and institutionalization. This is not a cost-saving measure. It is a direct threat to the safety and dignity of Missouri's disability community. Not to mention, in regard to the cost of care for my sister -- it is much more cost-effective for the state to pay a reasonable hourly rate at 40 hours per week versus 24/7 care.

I strongly urge you to reconsider any and all reductions to Self-Directed-Services. Missouri families will not quietly accept decisions that endanger their loved ones. There will be considerable and justified resistance to any policy that removes autonomy, safety, or supports from individuals who rely on them to survive. Similarly, these Missouri families should not be asked to absorb the consequences of budget shortfalls—especially when these programs are proven to be both effective and cost-efficient.

For the sake of our most vulnerable citizens and the integrity of Missouri's disability system, I respectfully ask that these proposed cuts be withdrawn immediately.

Sincerely,
Anna Neiderhouse



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNE DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped deliver critical access to mental health services for our community. By providing these services to adults, you are, by extension, providing better outcomes for their children. This is the first step to increasing school attendance, academic grades, and overall breaking the cycle of substance use, abuse, and allowing for more access to higher education/skilled workforce.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNETTA ZIDZIK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning,

I am writing to urge each of you to first recall why you chose public office as your career. I am sure for all of you this started from a strong desire to serve your communities, your cities, your state, and your nation, to make each a stronger, better place, to make a difference in the lives of its citizens. I hope that by doing so, you include every member of your community, especially the weak and vulnerable, as I cannot imagine what that world will look like if we allow any of them to fall to the wayside or be forgotten.

I am speaking first as the mother of a special needs child, an adult according to her chronological age, but a child in her mind and in her actions. Allow me to introduce her to you. My daughter Alexa Bohnert was born 27 years ago with significant developmental delays, which required many years of in-school Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy to maximize her function. She began her toddler years unable to walk until 22 months old, unable to speak until age 4, and with progressing behavior issues that prevented her from remaining in "regular" public school. She completed her schooling from 4th grade until she graduated in the Special School District system. At age 13, she was finally diagnosed with a rare chromosome deletion named Smith-Magenis Syndrome, which is a complex genetic disorder characterized by distinctive physical features, developmental delay, cognitive impairment, severe sleep disturbances and behavioral issues including outbursts, aggression, and self-injurious behaviors. Despite all her challenges, she is a very loving young lady, who is friendly with everyone she meets, never forgets a face or where she met someone, loves to hug, sing, do crafts, watch her Cardinals play baseball, loves the Fox Theatre, the zoo and playing games with family.

Once she graduated, which was during the start of Covid, I had no where for her to go during the day while I worked, so she stayed with my mother. This worked for a while, but as my mother has aged, it became more difficult, especially given the 45 min drive to and from her home every day, which we split, but was difficult for her driving in traffic twice a day. This situation was difficult on Alexa, as she had minimal contact with anyone besides her grandma, was limited in her activity because it was difficult for my mom to be comfortable enough taking Alexa anywhere. She spent most of her days, sitting on the couch watching TV or coloring. Safe, but not very engaged. I went through 2 years of work to obtain legal guardianship and conservatorship of her, I applied for SSI and Medicaid and started looking for a Day Program for her to attend. Fortunately, we found the perfect spot for her to spend her days, and this past September started her at her "club" while my husband (her stepfather) and I both work full-time. This has relieved my mom of her caregiving role, given her back her freedom in her retirement, and allowed Alexa to thrive once again while surrounded by peers, and is making

friends again, and I have seen huge improvements in her language ability, problem solving, sequencing, behavior, and sleep since starting her program.

It scares me to think of Alexa not being able to attend there because of government cuts. Instead of striving to keep people like my daughter in their own home with their families, with a few outside supports, there is fear of being forced to place her in a residential setting. I am speaking secondly, as a Physical Therapist Assistant with nearly 32 years of experience. I worked for the Missouri Department of Mental Health for 2 years when I moved back home to St. Louis shortly after Alexa was born. I know firsthand how habilitation center's function, as I worked at 3 of them here in St. Louis. Being present for annual meetings, talking with parents, and working alongside the constantly changing staff, is the main reason I never applied on Alexa's behalf with the St. Louis Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities. I saw the struggles of those residents daily, and my heart broke for those parents, who had no other options. They had very little in the way of personal items, activities were often nothing but disorganized chaos, and outings were nearly impossible. I was constantly training new staff on how to move residents, and the pay scale was so low, they couldn't keep a consistent staff. This just led to more stress for the residents, who thrive on routine and familiarity. The level of behavior issues I witnessed were innumerable, and I swore then I would do everything possible to ensure my daughter never had to live in such a place.

I implore you, to consider what you would do if your child had disabilities? If it was your niece or nephew, grandson, or granddaughter, would you want them to go to a place full of strangers that dealt with this level of chaos and struggle? Or would you like to keep them at home where they are comfortable and can grow and blossom? Why are we pulling money away from services, facilities, and programs to help these special humans be their best selves and stay at home with those who know them best and love them fiercely? Why is it ok to take things away from these amazing kids and young adults who have had to work so hard their entire lives for every little milestone, every small victory? If you need a reason, look at my daughter, look at her smile, look at how happy she is, and imagine being the one to take that away, and crush her spirit, her hope, her progress. I only need these services until I am retirement age. Then my husband or I plan to keep her home with us. But if we lose the ability for her to attend a day program because of government budget cuts, we won't be able to afford the private pay rate on our own. Then one of us will have to retire early, and try to make it on one income. Is that what families with special needs children in Missouri have to look forward to? Haven't we struggled enough to get our children where they are? We have had to fight for every service, every therapy, every inclusive class, sport, or activity. We have to fight for equipment, and medications, educate teachers and doctors constantly on our child's condition. Now we have to fight for what they deserve once they leave school. She is worth it. They all are. Please help us not have to fight so hard. Vote NO on HB 10.

Thank you for your time,
Alexa's Mom:

Annetta Zidzik
409 Richarz Drive
Fenton, MO 63026
(314) 341-0743



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTHONY THOMPkins		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son is currently supported by a strong team of SDS PA caregivers who work to keep him healthy and safe and give him opportunities to go into the community while his mother and I work for non-profits helping to provide resources to some of the most vulnerable constituents in our area. I ask you to fight against cutting SDS PA's pay rates. The proposed cuts of over 20% in pay will slash our ability to maintain the consistent and quality care that a 20 year old with cerebral palsy that affects his physical and developmental abilities needs to participate in community activities and maintain a healthy balance in life. In the near future, he may need to rely on a day hab program once school ends. Cuts to these very fragile support systems could prove dangerous to his health and future. Please do not cut services for this very vulnerable population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: APRIL SPEHAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 1:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do NOT cut budgets for Day Habilitation programs in Missouri. There are so many families that rely on this service for their Adult children with disabilities. It gives them a place to go and feel like they are included and be around peers just like them!! Imagine you having an adult that is your child and they rely on these services. These people are so amazing and these services are needed!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: APRIL WILBANKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have a 23-year-old daughter who requires 24-hour care, yet we only use 70 hours per week of self-directed services, and we do the rest for free. Gracie is completely blind and non-verbal. She has cerebral palsy and is severely cognitively, developmentally, and physically delayed. She is unable to do ANYTHING independently. I have been advocating for her, which is actually more like fighting for her, her entire life. It started with fighting for her life as she laid in the NICU for 4 months. Then there was fighting for the First Steps program when she was 2 years old and Matt Blunt wanted to abolish the program. After that, I spent the next 16 years fighting for her to have the appropriate services in school. When she turned 18, the guardianship process was stressful. Then the fight for adult services began. Just 10 months ago, I was fighting for waiver money to increase SDS services. As a matter of fact, I wrote the governor at that time because the process was such a nightmare. It took 5 months to make that happen. Now, just 5 months later, I am in a fight again to make sure she is safe and protected from services that put her at risk for neglect and abuse because she can do absolutely nothing to protect herself in any situation.

The thing is.....individuals like my daughter and their families already have unbelievably tremendous challenges throughout life. It's easy to take simple things for granted if you have never been touched by a situation like this. But try to imagine not having any control at all over your life. Not being able to decide what to eat or wear, where you are going, what you are doing, what is happening to you. If that were you, your son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter, who would you want providing your/their care? A stranger? A random care facility? Or would you want family and caring individuals selected by you? I am just asking you to put yourselves in our shoes. We are productive taxpaying citizens. We try to support small businesses when possible. We do not require state aid for food or shelter. We are homeowners. We do not abuse the system. We do not ask the state to provide 24-hour care even though our daughter requires it. The way we are using services actually saves taxpayers money. We have tried many other services. Under the care of a county program, Gracie drowned during a swimming outing and was resuscitated by the lifeguard. That was the day before Thanksgiving several years ago. There was also a time when an aid dropped Gracie from the top step of a bus, and I had to catch her. There was an agency provider who was letting Gracie flail in a tub full of water when her dad walked in and immediately drained the tub and got Gracie to safety. That same provider asked for gas money and stopped showing up. Another agency provider had a bad back and did not want to bathe Gracie and preferred to sit around visiting with anyone who was home. A PA from a county community program was extremely loud and intense which always made Gracie irritable, but we had no say in who would work with her. Turnover in these programs is extremely high and training is extremely limited. Gracie is at risk for choking, falling, drowning, being underfed, and neglect if she is being cared for by an unfamiliar person. As part of the state assessment required to increase funding for self-directed services, not only was the assessor completely ignorant of Gracie's condition, but I was required to

contact a list of approximately 30 home health agencies, all of which either didn't work in our area or told me that Gracie's needs were "facility level care" or "out of our skill level." We have done our due diligence in trying to abide by the system.

I have worked with young children with disabilities for many years in their homes. I have been in homes where there are 9 children between the ages of 2 and 18 and EVERY SINGLE ONE was receiving SSI for some kind of disability. Almost none of them actually displayed a disability. I have seen foster kids whose mom has had up to 9 babies, every one of them taken into foster care. I have met more than my fair share of families that have 2 healthy, young parents sitting at home, not working, accessing all available state aid. There is no shortage of people abusing the system. Our family and others like us using SDS are not those people. We are educated people and aware of the many other items in the budget that are frivolous and wasteful that do not put vulnerable citizens at risk.

One of our staff is a young single mother who gave up a career in special education to become a self-directed provider. She cannot afford a pay cut. A pay cut would mean that she and her daughter would have to access Medicaid and other state aid. Which would counterbalance the money you are trying to save. When people look at the wage for self-directed services, they think it is high. But in reality, staff do not receive any benefits. There is no travel reimbursement, paid time off, paid sick time, health insurance benefits, holidays, maternity leave, or vacation days. There are no benefits at all. When all of those things are subtracted from their pay, they are practically making minimum wage, which Missouri keeps raising to the detriment of taxpayers and small businesses. Comparing this wage to that of agency providers or consumer direct providers is not an equal comparison. Tasks of those providers are basic physical care and help with light housekeeping and errands for the most part. We have had providers from home health agencies quit over showering and feeding responsibilities. The responsibilities of self-directed staff often include total physical care including bathing, feeding, dressing, support with moving at all levels, meal preparation, toileting, behavior control, and socialization to name a few. Self-directed staff is also required to work on the goals as described in the individual service plan. These goals are specifically written for the individual to allow them to increase participation in their life. Since receiving consistent self-directed services, Gracie has learned to participate in her daily routine by opening and closing the microwave/refrigerator/pantry, turn water on and off to wash her hands, wipe her mouth with a napkin, carry items to trash, assist with preparing snacks/meals, and make various art projects, all with verbal and physical prompts of varying levels. These goals are aimed at improving participation in and quality of life.

One other aspect that no one seems to consider is that as parents/relatives of a person who is permanently disabled, we make enormous sacrifices. Many of us basically have 2 full-time jobs. One in the community, and the one we come home to in caring for our loved one. We also sacrifice a traditional, hard-earned retirement. We will spend our entire life caring for our loved one. Can you imagine having thoughts of hoping you outlive your child? I have those thoughts more frequently as I get older. I am terrified of leaving my beautiful, sweet, vulnerable daughter in this world without me to look out for her. Please don't take away the few things I am able to enjoy by taking away our funding for services. I will not put my daughter in an institution even if I have to sell my house and give up my way of life. She did nothing to deserve the disabilities she has. I will not punish her for them and I'm asking that you will not either. We are making many sacrifices. I gave up a career in therapy that paid much better and offered benefits. My husband works harder to make up for that. I gave up guardianship to be able to become staff, and her biological father and stepfather agreed to become co-guardians so we could provide for her needs. We are truly a team that will do anything for Gracie to be safe, healthy, and happy.

Gracie is a person. She has real emotions. She loves music. She loves being outside and going to the lake. She loves her family. She loves ice cream and Italian food. I know these things because I know her. She can't tell me. She has no choice but to trust me. Gracie and individuals like her are the most vulnerable citizens of Missouri. Don't discriminate against them because they have disabilities and can't speak up for themselves.

I wish I could attach pictures or videos so you could see for yourself why this is so important. You are welcome to visit our home anytime to meet her. I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

April L. Wilbanks



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNESIA F. TERRELL MA, CDP, CPG, CADDCT, CST-P		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a gerontologist in Missouri, I am greatly concerned about the \$1,000,000 budget cut to section 10.835 of the DHSS appropriations bill. Underneath the Missouri Caregiver Program, access to training, respite, and assistive technology are made available to caregivers of adults with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. Caregivers of adults with dementia need significant assistance to ensure they can provide adequate support and appropriate care for their loved ones. This care and support assists the caregiver in being able to keep their loved ones at home and allows them to age in place while increasing their quality of life. Professionally, I have watched many families struggle to determine how they will provide care and how they will survive while doing so. If we cut this level of support, families are sure to no longer have access to tools that encourage maintaining the independence of their loved ones and keeping them in the comfort of their own homes to age in place. I would like to share a personal story with you all today. In November of 2024, my mother, Kim D. Terrell had a stroke. It was believed that she had vascular dementia with Alzheimer's disease based on her symptoms. I knew that she had this diagnosis, but our medical professionals did not and would not provide the diagnosis. We had back to back stays in psychiatric units and hospitals for the first few months, and I felt hopeless as the caregiver and her advocate. I was exhausted and didn't know who to turn to in my time of need. No one discussed respite with me. No one talked to me about my options. I begged for someone to listen to me and hear my cry for help so that I could get her diagnosis and ultimately begin seeking the resources she would need to help increase her quality of life and keep her independent at home with me. By January of 2025, it was too late. Instead of working with rehabilitation teams to regain her abilities and return home, she was constantly evaluated for psychiatric behaviors and in and out of hospitals. She lost her ability to walk. She could no longer perform any of her activities of daily living. I found myself immediately having to admit her to a skilled nursing facility because we lost time. We lost time because I didn't have the support that I needed. We lost time because no one would listen to me. It was as if no one had knowledge or training to assist me in finding resources and/or accessing options to help me navigate her disease process. My mother died on May 7th, 2025 because we lost time. We deserved to have options and a chance to avoid moving into a nursing home. We deserved access to Medicare and Medicaid literacy and understanding. She deserved the right to comfort and dignity. She deserved the right to live and die in her own home. Programs like this and funding that covers it should be allowed so that our loved ones can age in place with the highest quality of life we can provide. That comes through providing the funding necessary for families to avoid unnecessary hospital and nursing home admissions and to assist in providing care and support to caregivers who simply want more time. I urge you to consider the weight that this bill carries and the lives that will not only be affected but lost due to our withdrawal of support to people with dementia and their caregivers. Please note that the detriment of moving forward with this bill will affect several generations. Please ask yourselves in a \$1,000,000 cut to this program is worth risking the precious lives of a people who cannot speak for

themselves and for those whose arms grow more weary everyday.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AUDREY B		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 4:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To begin, I have worked within the SDS organization for 4 years. I currently work with twins but have worked with several children in my time with the organization. With SDS these boys have grown and learned so much. When I first started working with the boys, 2 years ago, these boys could hardly go out in public. They had a hard time managing their vocal stems and being able to keep their bodies calm in such a way they were able to go into a store or even into a restaurant. In working with them over the past couple years, the boys are now able to go into stores and walk around and pick out things they want, whether that be a snack or an activity. They have even started being slowly introduced to sitting inside fast food restaurants. That's just the beginning, these boys are also working to be able to use their word pads to be able to tell staff what they want, need or are feeling. Which requires lots of help from staff. They have grown in ways that can also help them eventually be able to help out around the house and do things for themselves, they have learned to use the washer, load their dishes into the dishwasher and clean up small messes they might make on their own.

SDS has changed the way I view children who have special needs. Each child that I have worked for has been so different and have shaped me into who I am today. With that, there are no sick days, no paid time off, no vacation time, no paid health care. With the pay I am getting now, I still pay over \$300 a month in just health care alone, not including vision and dental, on top of rent and personal bills I have. The pay we have is to be able to afford that and everything else that most other jobs cover. The current budget allows me to be able to afford and pay for that myself.

If this budget were to be cut, I would not be able to afford to live off the new pay, I wouldn't be able to afford health care. Which means I would also have to leave these boys who I have come so close with in the past two years all because I would have to do what's best for myself. These boys don't deserve that. That is heartbreaking to even THINK about. These boys need us more than anyone can see and SDS is what keeps staff here and able to continue to teach them and continue to get them to grow and overcome the challenges they have in day to day life. The work I do is valuable and meaningful to these boys, as well as their family. They deserve to be taught as much as everyone else, I strongly encourage you to reconsider the budget and how it will affect not only the staff but all of the children and even adults involved as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AYDAN SQUIRES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 7:33 PM

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

My sister has a rare chromosome deletion and lives with profound developmental delays, quadriplegia, epilepsy, and chronic respiratory disease. She has a tracheostomy, is fed exclusively through a G-tube, and requires skilled care by my parents and personal care assistants 24 hours a day. State-funded, self-directed care services make it possible for her to live safely at home and allow our parents to work, maintain private insurance, and avoid relying on additional state assistance.

This program is working and is far less costly than hospitalizations or institutional care. Cutting caregiver wages under HB 10 would destabilize this system by driving away the qualified, dedicated aides who know her complex medical needs. That turnover would put her health at risk and ultimately increase costs to the state through emergency care and expanded use of other public services. Please oppose these cuts to SDS services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA A. BUSCHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the grandmother of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which his family oversees. I have witnessed my grandson build positive relationships with his caregivers. His caregivers take the time to listen as they are provided specific, thorough training from my daughter on how to best support him. They are open to learning and adapting as needed. Further, they are always mindful of and advocating for his needs. The turnover rate of his caregivers has been extremely low, and they report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with my grandson. The feeling is mutual, as he is always so excited to see them. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily living. Further, my grandson has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, our family stands to lose qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. Our family will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. They may need to rely on agency services. Agencies across Missouri have struggled for years to hire and retain staff. Many cannot accept new clients, cannot fill shifts, or have stopped contracting with the Department of Mental Health altogether. If families lose employees because of these proposals, and agencies cannot replace them, the state is responsible for the consequences. Additionally, one of his parents may need to leave their employment to care for our grandson and no longer be contributing taxpayers in the State of Missouri. I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care should remain a priority.

Respectfully,
Barbara A. Buschmann
2602 Camino
St. Louis, MO 63125



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA B. BUCANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding directly supports services my family relied on when my daughter was diagnosed with Bipolar 2 & PTSD. Programs like Family to Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, a better understanding of what my daughter lives with, resources to help me better help her, and a place to ask questions when didn't know how to ask anywhere else.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

*Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

*Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

*Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

NAMI's free services are vital to our community, especially given the limited resources available to families!

Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA FERGUSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I work s a nurse for developmentally disabled adults. My clients rely on the services supported by the state in order to live fulfilling lives. I've seen what happens when families can't get the support they need, unable to care for these folks and unable to support them, being responsible for their care 24/7 is not easy- many need basic assistance to eat, to be clean, to be repositioned. I've seen the videos of the same individuals living in filth with bed sores and starving because their families don't know how to deal with their every day needs. I'm proud to work with other like-minded people that do not want to see these people abandoned. I like to see them supported, happy and many are proud to be able to hold jobs and live in their own homes and enjoying life. This is only possible with the funds that assist with training families and workers to care for them, that pay for the medicine and health care they need, and give them places to go and be a part of their communities. Families that depend on the care provided for them to hold down jobs themselves and lower their stress at the daunting prospect of trying to care for their loved ones that cannot do so for themselves. Help us support them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA REECE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:26 AM

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

Day Services are a needed part of individuals with disabilities lives! It gives them a chance to socilaize with other people and learn and have fun. It is so important to their well being and for their families too. Please no cuts!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BAYLEE CAMRON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My brother is 21 years old. But unlike most 21 year olds, his two joys in this world is being able to volunteer and visit with his counselor. Both, of which, are funded by the disability program you are attempting to defund.

You see, my brother was born with developmental disabilities and has to work harder than most to have a good or productive day.

For someone who can't have a drivers license, his day program is his life. It gives him an opportunity to feel like a normal, productive member of his community, to the same society that shames him for being different. He visits with residential facilities, hands out warm food to those who arent fortunate, and just lights up every room with his smile and eagerness to help.

It is hard enough getting into the day programs due to little funding already, but then to find out that the funding for the programs is possibly being cut by \$80 MILLION, is devastating to think about.

Please, reps, if you have anybody you care about with disabilities, rethink voting for this cut to be approved. This could crush so many individuals and their families who fight so hard for their family members to even be seen as a member of their community. Please, don't take away the few things they have to make it through daily life.

I am sincerely devastated that this is the cut that seems most logical for our governor to make.

We are only as strong as our weakest links in our community. Is this the example we really want to set for the future of our state and of our youth?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKY VAN VELSAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEVELOPING POTENTIAL		TITLE: GUARDIAN	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: BLUE SPRINGS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64015
EMAIL: beckyvanv@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I believe this will have a very negative impact on individuals with developmental disabilities and their ability to have a more fulfilled life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEKKA MATTHEWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a sibling to a brother who has a developmental disability. My brother has been using Self-Directed Supports since he graduated high school. He has had great support from staff members who have become like family. As my parents have aged, the option for SDS has made it possible for my brother to remain at home, even though he could not live independently. Now, I am one of the personal assistants for my brother and my 18 year-old son is in the process of applying because he wants to give back to his uncle and others that need similar supports. He recognizes how difficult it is to find staff and budget cuts to the SDS program will only make it more difficult. My mom does the paperwork and it isn't easy for her, but it keeps my brother living in his home. He wants to stay and home and we all know that my family cannot do it without the supports we have in place. Please consider the families who struggle daily and do not make it harder for us to care for our loved ones who bring us so much joy!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEN COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

"I urge the committee to vote NO on HB2010. The Governor's proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation will have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable Missourians. These programs help those with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity. Vote NO on budget cuts in HB 2010 and reject any appropriations bills cutting programs that help those most vulnerable.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETHANY ANTHONY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me as a parent navigate the mental health system on behalf of my children. NAMI Missouri's education and parent support services helped me understand my role, advocate effectively, and feel less alone during an overwhelming time. This course not only helped me accept my children's disabilities, but also gave me a family of support and acceptance in a world that is quick to judge special needs children. Mental health should be important to a society, and eliminating this pillar in the mental health field will greatly affect the people who need it!

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETHANY PINNEY (BATSON)		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEVAN EAGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to respectfully voice my opposition to HB 2010.

I am writing to you both as a disability service provider and as a parent and stepparent of adult children who rely on these services. My son receives Personal Assistance (PA) and supported employment services, and my stepson receives Independent Supported Living (ISL) and supported employment services. These supports are not optional for our family, they are essential.

Through my professional role, I see every day how critical these services are for individuals with disabilities. Supported employment, PA, and ISL services allow people to build independence, develop skills, maintain employment, and participate meaningfully in their communities. These services are not just about care, they are about dignity, growth, and inclusion.

As a parent and stepparent, I see the direct impact on my own family. These services have not only helped my stepson grow more independent, but they have also significantly supported his father. My husband was his son's only parent and sole caregiver for ten years, carrying the constant responsibility of care on his own. With the introduction of ISL and supported employment services, the stress and demands of around-the-clock caregiving have been reduced, allowing my husband to regain stability, improve his overall health, and better support his family. These services strengthen entire families, not just the individual receiving them.

HB 2010 threatens the stability of services that families like mine depend on. Changes that reduce access, limit funding, or destabilize the provider workforce place individuals with disabilities at risk of isolation, regression, and loss of independence. This bill would not only impact providers, it would deeply affect real people, real families, and real communities.

I strongly urge you to consider the long-term consequences of HB 2010 and to oppose legislation that weakens disability services. Please protect programs that allow individuals with disabilities to work, live in their communities, and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of families and providers who are directly affected by this legislation.

Sincerely,
Bevan Eagen



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BILL LOGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Diminishing the already fragile support systems for the disabled would seriously affect my grandson and his parents. Our grandson has cerebral palsy and is unable to care for himself in any way. He is currently supported by the SDS PA program, with the help of wonderful SDS PA caregivers. Their care enables him to get out in the community and allows his parents to work. Also in the near future he will need to go to a day hab program after he completes schooling. Please vote against cuts to this very fragile support system for a vulnerable population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BOBBY WILBANKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the stepfather of a 23-year-old daughter with significant disabilities. Gracie is completely blind and has cerebral palsy. She is significantly cognitively, physically, and developmentally delayed. She requires total assistance for all daily needs. I met her mother 12 years ago. She was the most devoted mother I have ever met, which is what led me to decide to be a part of their lives indefinitely. Her mother has made so many sacrifices for her in the time we have been together which has inspired me to also be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to provide for her health and safety. Gracie is an amazing young lady who brings so much joy to our family.

Over the years, we have tried to access many different programs, including county funded programs and home health programs. The turnover is high, the training is limited, and the skills and commitment are inconsistent. It has had detrimental effects on our family trying to maintain our jobs with the unreliability and untrustworthiness of staff. Self-directed services have been a true blessing. I'm sure you can understand that having an outside person in your home on a regular basis is difficult. They have to be someone you trust. Someone you connect with. Someone whose purpose lines up with yours. That only happens when you can make the decision for yourself.

My wife and I are making many sacrifices. We are committed to living in Missouri for the rest of our lives because that is where Gracie's dad and his family live and we are a team united in doing what is best for Gracie. We are expecting less out of our retirement years because we provide for Gracie's needs in choosing a home and planning for extraordinary expenses.

We are educated, taxpaying, homeowners citizens of Missouri. We are aware of the other areas of expense in the budget that do not require putting the most vulnerable citizens of Missouri at risk. We are aware of the frivolous increases to minimum wage that mean failing small businesses and inflation of the daily needs of families. We are asking for no more mistakes that cost Missouri families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA SHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Three different agencies attempted to support my daughter, who is behaviorally challenged, and all three failed her. These agencies did not properly train or support their staff, leaving both employees and my daughter vulnerable. In one horrifying incident, my daughter was punched in the face by a staff member who was supposed to protect and care for her. Beyond that trauma, each agency eventually withdrew services altogether, citing constant staff turnover and an inability to meet her needs. The system that was meant to support my child instead exposed her to harm, instability, and neglect. Self-directed services changed everything. For over three years, my daughter has had consistent staff—something the agencies could not achieve. The difference is not accidental. Through self-direction, I am able to carefully select, train, and support the people who work with my daughter. They are invested, accountable, and knowledgeable about her specific needs. This consistency has allowed my daughter to feel safe, understood, and respected. It has given her the stability she needs to thrive, not just survive.

Because of this program, my daughter is a productive member of our community. She holds a job. She participates in community activities. She has dignity, purpose, and a life that reflects her potential rather than her disability. Without self-directed services, the alternative is clear and devastating: institutionalization and heavy medication. That outcome would strip her of independence, harm her mental and emotional well-being, and cost taxpayers exponentially more than the support she currently receives.

Cutting Medicaid funding to self-directed services would not save money—it would shift costs to far more expensive and harmful systems while destroying lives in the process. This program is not a luxury; it is a lifeline. It keeps vulnerable individuals safe, engaged, and contributing to their communities. Please do not take away a service that works, that protects people like my daughter, and that ultimately benefits all of us.

Thank you,
Brenda Shaw



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:31 PM

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

Families are in desperate need of funds and services, you are reducing funds to those who need it most.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN UPTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 5:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son uses sds services . Please don't allow these cuts. Cutting these services is heartless. These people deserve to receive care and stay in their homes where they are happy and safe. If you cut these services some people will be forced into institutions. The cost of sds averages 50,000 a year, an institution is 600,000 a year. Cutting these services makes no sense. The care givers who work for sds don't get health insurance, dental, paid time off. They get no benefits at all. Sometimes they use their own vehicles and gas to take their clients out into the community. Cutting these services will make it hard to find caregivers. Please protect this program. If it's cut it will hurt many Missouri families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTIAN RHODES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a professional who works closely with individuals who rely on these services, I see firsthand how essential they are. These supports provide stability, independence, and dignity for many people with disabilities in our community. When services are cut or disrupted, families are forced to reduce work hours or leave jobs entirely, creating significant financial strain. These decisions have real, immediate consequences for people with disabilities and the families who depend on these supports to live and work in their communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAITLIN SPARKMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

A budget cut to these services will leave vulnerable individuals without supports. This will be detrimental to their quality of life. We all deserve to have a good quality of life. We are all human, disabilities do not mean they deserve less.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CALEB HELMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CALLIE MOUSER DE PHIPPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:50 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello,

I am a constituent of Missouri, specifically of Cape Girardeau County. I am a master's level social worker serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities at a center for independent living called SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence (SADI). I am writing to you today to speak out about the proposed FY27 budget cuts for the House Bill No. 2010 introduced by Representative Deaton that is in the committee right now. I care about the budget cuts for everything that the bill entails, but am writing you in focusing on the specific cuts to day habilitation services through the Department of Mental Health.

As a service provider in the state of Missouri, we have the ability to impact the lives of every consumer we provide services too. Day habilitation (day hab) is not just a place for someone to come and hang out, but is a place that provides safety and learning. Almost all of our consumers are unable to care for themselves and stay home alone, and therefore our day hab is a way they can be taken care of while their parents can continue to work during the day. The families of our consumers rely heavily on the day hab services to maintain employment. They trust that their child will be safe with proper staffing, have a meaningful day, learn significant independent life skills, and socialize with their peers while they are here at SADI.

The proposed budget cuts to the 2027 fiscal year would cause drastic change in services as a provider for our consumers. It could mean the difference between having more than adequate staffing to having only the exact necessary amount of staffing to ensure their needs are met. It could mean family members could have to quit their jobs to have to stay home with their child while they miss out on skill building and social interaction with peers. And ultimately it could mean the inability to provide services to some or future individuals altogether. It would put our agency, and all agencies around the state in crisis mode trying to care for the most vulnerable population our state knows.

I ask you today, Representatives, to speak with the Governor's staff and budget/appropriations leadership to advocate on behalf of your constituents to NOT cut the budget for day habilitation services in the HB 2010. The restoration of the \$21.8 million in general revenue in this bill is critical in making sure our consumers remain safe in the community they live in, continue to receive the support they need, and that their families are not impacted in such a way that considerably hurts them and our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this request. With all due respect, I urge you to vote NO on this bill and to discuss this with your committee and the governor's office. With the proposed cuts, we will see a substantial impact within our communities, and specifically with the disability population, that this office has been elected to serve and protect.

Thank you,

Callie Mouser de Phipps



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMERON HOLDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:49 PM

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

We are posted this because our son was born with X-Linked hydrocephalus (L1 CAM Syndrome) this has caused him to be severely disabled we have utilized therapy through the school districts and other resources that have been able to help him now be able to graduate high school if these services were in place my son would not be where he is at today



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CANDI BOCKENSTEDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing about the proposed self-directed supports cuts and how they affect families like mine.

I am a mother and advocate for my son, Eben. He is 25 and has lived at home his entire life. He has a complex medical history, including over 50 surgeries, 15 of them brain surgeries. He lives with courage and kindness. People are drawn to his gentle spirit and his love for music (Elvis and Edelweiss are his go to songs).

You would be glad to know him.

Self-directed supports through SDS make daily life possible for us.

Because of these services:

- You allow my son to live safely at home
- You allow me to work and support our household
- You allow me to continue my graduate education so I can serve others
- You give our family stability and dignity

I am a single mother. Without SDS caregivers, I cannot work or attend school. The weight of care falls on me alone.

Cuts to these services would harm families like mine in real and immediate ways. They put people with disabilities at risk. They also strain caregivers who already carry a full load.

SDS is our lifeline. When you cut it, you cut our ability to stay afloat. This is not about convenience. It is about safety, health, and basic human dignity.

I ask you to:

- Stop the proposed cuts to SDS
- Protect funding for self-directed supports
- Stand with families who care for loved ones at home

Please withdraw these cuts. Your decision directly affects our daily lives and our future.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community. I would welcome any chance to share more about Eben and our experience, and if you are ever in Eldon, you are always welcome to come

visit. HE LOVES TO VISIT (and sing.)

Respectfully,
Candice Bockenstedt
Eldon, Miller County
27 Lyons Rd, Eldon, Mo 65026

573.476.3107



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAREN SUE EVANS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:56 AM

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

I am against any cut in SDS services. Our family consists of 2 adult sons with significant autism that utilize the services. A cut would jeopardize keeping our family together in our home and community. These services are vital to their well being. Losing caregivers would spiral their lives. They deserve to remain in our home with us, not in an institution costing an enormous amount of money.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARLA COOK-KOSSOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 8:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

RE: Opposition to Proposed Rate Reductions for Day Habilitation and SDS-PA (FY 2027)

I am the mother and primary caregiver of Jedidiah Russell Cook, a 30-year-old resident of the Marble Hill–Patton area. Jedidiah lives with severe, non-verbal autism and high-acuity self-injurious behaviors. For our family, the specialized day programming at Blue Sky Community Services in Jackson, MO, is not a luxury—it is the essential infrastructure that allows Jedidiah to remain safely in our home.

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the proposed rate reductions for self-directed and group habilitation services. My son requires intensive, 24/7 care. These services provide the foundation for his dignity, offering him community integration, life skills, and the social interactions that every Missourian deserves.

Beyond Jedidiah’s well-being, these supports are the cornerstone of my family’s economic stability. Without them, my ability to maintain gainful employment and meet our financial obligations would be severely compromised. Furthermore, these programs provide the essential respite that allows me to manage household necessities and maintain vital connections with my grandchildren—activities that most take for granted, but that I can only achieve with this support.

Reducing this funding is a counterproductive economic policy. It threatens to shift costs toward more expensive institutionalized care and forces productive, specialized caregivers out of the workforce. This funding is a critical investment in our community’s human infrastructure.

I urge you to reject these proposed rate reductions and prioritize the funding that allows Jedidiah to live a safe, dignified life at home. I look forward to your response on how you plan to protect these vital services for vulnerable Missouri families.

Respectfully,
Carla Cook-Kossow
Jedidiah Cook’s Momma
40027 State Hwy 51
Marble Hill, MO 63764
573-225-4446
carlacook9295@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARMEN SHRIMPLIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We have a teenage son who's on the autism spectrum and we already struggle with resources in our county. By taking away the few resources that are already in place is very discouraging for families like ours. Our son has come so far, we've taken a proactive approach and have signed him up for anything that is available for him. He has benefited from SADI summer camp in 2025, he loved it! Our son Alex cannot attend regular sports, he requires a PA to help with day to day activities. Our special needs population deserves better, PLEASE DON'T take what they have in place. This will disrupt not only their daily schedules but the families as well. Sincerely, two very concerned parents



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL D LUDWIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee

I am in strong support of reinstating House Bill 2020 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130), \$122,487. This funding has helped many services. I particularly have been helped as a parent of an adult daughter I have been given education and support that has helped us navigate through debilitating illness. and improve quality of life considerably. Please, please return this funding.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHLEEN KARR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:54 AM

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

please don't take funding away from individuals who greatly need it, and who cannot help themselves due to physical disabilities and abnormalities. Families that care for ,and love these individuals are heavily burdened for a lifetime, and often have nowhere else to turn. The care services provided by businesses that assist these types of individuals are struggling to meet increasing inflation, operating costs and employee retention due to competitive wage shortfalls within the industry.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHY BROWN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-737-5090	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EASTERSEALS MIDWEST		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 11933 WESTLINE INDUSTRIAL DR			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: cathy.brown@esmw.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:33 PM

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

Easterseals is Missouri's largest disability focused not-for-profit serving tens of thousands of people across the state each year through life-changing early intervention for children with autism; employment services that help people with disabilities find and keep jobs; day supports that allow families to work; clinically focused services that improve physical health, hearing, and speech; and home visiting programs that strengthen and stabilize families. Easterseals also provides residential services with 24-hour support to people with developmental disabilities who need around-the-clock care to live safely and with dignity in their communities.

First, thank you for your consistent support of programs that serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As you know, the workforce crisis that has overwhelmed these safety net services has made the provision of services difficult, resulting in reduced access and disrupting the lives of people served. The rates paid for these services directly impact the wages of those providing direct support and thus our ability to attract, hire, and retain Direct Support Professionals, who provide support and care to people on a daily basis.

Proposed reductions to key safety net programs for people with disabilities and their families (in HB10) will do real harm. Day services allow people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn skills and contribute to their community, while receiving necessary support and protective oversight. This allows unpaid caregivers to remain in the workforce while their loved one is engaged in activities that support their health and safety and provide them with a valued day.

The investment in these services not only benefits people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are served, but also benefits their families and members of this incredibly important – but underpaid - workforce in your district.

We are asking you not to support any reductions in services (or rates) for Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for your attention to these important issues and services. As always, we are here and available to discuss the impact of what we do or answer any questions you may have.

On behalf of Easterseals Midwest,
Cathy Brown



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAYLAH COPAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To whom it may concern.

Hello, we are a family with a special needs man who is a brother, son, uncle, grandson, nephew. He is a person. A person who lives with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism amongst other things due to no fault of his own but due to the neglect of a physician during birth. A person who strictly relies on the supports that SDS provides, that allows family to care for him daily. Without the proper pay, we cannot continue to do so with the cost of living that continues to increase. We would be forced to get second/third jobs, government assistance, and increase daily struggles. We would be pushed towards potential homes for him that would cost the state more in the long run. We take care of him daily 24/7 no breaks, no holidays, no benefits, but because we love him, he's our family and we want nothing but the best for him. And us being able to stay home and take care of him is the absolute best case for him. We plead that you reconsider this bill. We plead you hear the people that have no voice of their own. We plead you hear the people that ultimately voted for you. Please don't crush the lively hoods of the families and supports of the disabled.

Sincerely The Belzer family.
Carrie Belzer and Caylah Copas advocates for disabled Paul Belzer.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLENE A ADAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband and I have a 48 year old daughter who was diagnosed at eight months of age as having Cerebral Palsy. At about 12 years of age she also developed Epilepsy. Her father and I through her 48 years have committed to caring for her. We both have worked until we reached retirement, we have paid our taxes, supported our local government, and have done our best to be good citizens. We are reaching the point in our lives that it appears that our daughter will outlive us. So as we look to the future, we need the Day Habilitation Programs such as Developing Potential, Inc.(DPI) and the Self Directed Services Programs to CONTINUE WITHOUT BUDGET CUTS. Both programs provide care for our daughter. Developing Potential does just what it's name says. It meets individuals at their functional level and supports them and encourages them to use the abilities that they have to their fullest ability. But they can only provide these desperately needed supports to individuals with funding. Please VOTE NO TO DAY HABILITATION CUTS. Our daughter has attended Developing Potential Independence for 25 years. Developing Potential also provides a base for friendships with her peers and staff. Due to her Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, she is not able to work or volunteer. Companies like Hallmark have stated that they liked our daughter and having her volunteer in their store but their insurance says "NO". So without DPI our daughter would only be able to sit at home 24/7 without a friendship base or opportunities to be out in her community.

Self Directed Services(SDS) allow individuals to manage their own care, reducing overheard costs associated with agency-run programs and prevents the need for more expensive institutional or habilitation center, setting. Data from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, which oversees SDS and institutional care, reports that in fiscal year 2025 SDS cost an average of \$48,534 per person while care in state-operated facilities for developmentally disabled Missourians cost over \$600,000 per person. I do not understand the governor recommending a budget cut that will add approximately \$551,466 per person to the state expenses if individuals are forced to go to agency based care or institutionalization care. Beyond the financial impact, our daughter receives better care by being able to have a say in who provides care for her. Some of the ladies working with our daughter have supported her for over 10 years. They are good caring women. We started with having agencies provide her care. We found that agencies work on a drop kick basis. They drop an employee in to care for your child who has never met your child, they do not know her needs, her likes and dislikes. We even had bed bugs brought into our daughter's home by agency staff.
PLEASE VOTE NO TO DAY HABILITATION AND SELF DIRECTED SERVICES CUTS.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:23 AM

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

**The cuts to self-directed services will harm those who are doing what they can to help themselves.
Please vote against this.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL JO AYLESWORTH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a member of the Board of Directors for Pony Bird in Jefferson County. The individuals we serve—and their families—depend on our services every single day. They cannot function without them. The current backlog for services in Missouri is deeply concerning.

Please take time to look at the hundreds of photos sent to you by families of children and adults with disabilities. These are the constituents you represent—many of whom cannot advocate for themselves. They are relying on you to protect the services that ensure their safety, dignity, and quality of life.

Reducing these services is not comparable to someone like me, a senior citizen, cutting a small luxury from my daily routine. For the individuals we serve, these programs are not optional—they are their lifeline.

Cheryl J Aylesworth



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL DEBOOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do not cut Day Services I work for Pony Bird and if it wasn't for our agency and others that support the disability they would have nothing. Please consider to help fund for the disability, so sad the way this is going when there are so many other unnecessary things that are being funded. God Bless and please don't discriminate the disability clients.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTAL SOBBING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Day services are essential to the wellbeing and health of adults with disabilities. I have watched the joy and stability it has provided these individuals. Cutting funds to these programs will be detrimental to these humans. They need to have qualified and caring support professionals. They need to have activities that interests them, help them to gain skills, expand their world, and help them to be a part of the community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTANIS HILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son is 41 and has Down syndrome. He lives at home with his family. He is not able to go out in the community without assistance. Because this program provides SDS (self directed support) he is able to volunteer 3 days a week at a local business with his personal assistant. Volunteering gives him a sense of independence. He is also making new friends. Funding cuts to this program will have a negative effect. It will make it harder to find and keep personal assistants. My son has already been impacted negatively by funding cuts. He had to quit his job at BCI, a sheltered workshop located in St. Peter's mo. The state made cuts to transportation. The new transportation company that was hired was not reliable. Therefore it forced him to leave his job of 16 years. He has been volunteering for a couple of years now. I would hate to see this end too. Please stop making cuts to these programs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA BENSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 12:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter Mia recently turned 18 and is preparing to graduate from high school. She has multiple physical and developmental disabilities, including spina bifida and autism, and requires daily hands-on support to live safely at home. Self Directed Services is the bridge that allows her to transition into adulthood with stability, dignity, and continuity of care. Without adequate PCA wages, that bridge collapses. Families like ours are already assuming the administrative burden of care without compensation because we believe in keeping our loved ones at home. Reducing caregiver pay puts us on the edge of a cliff at the exact moment our children age out of school-based supports. Mia is a joy to her friends and family and an important member of her community, but without reliable in-home care, the only alternative becomes institutional placement. These changes would harm families, increase long-term state costs, and undermine a program that works. For these reasons, the proposed changes to Self Directed Services should not be made.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA BLANKENSHIP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:02 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Subject: URGENT - Hayden Blankenship - Self-Directed Supports Waiver Cuts

Recently, my son, Hayden Blankenship, cleared the Medicaid Home and Community Waiver waitlist. Even with all the delays in getting onboarded by DMH and then Acumen, we were thrilled that he was going to finally have the supports he needs, particularly since he is in his last semester of the VSP (Vocational Skills Program) at SSD(Special School District of St. Louis County).

In addition to being on the Autism Spectrum (primarily non-speaking), Hayden also has potentially lethal food allergies and moderate to severe Crohn's Disease. Therefore, not just anyone can provide PA (Personal Assistant) services to Hayden.

As we have found, highly skilled individuals applying for PA (Personal Assistant) positions require a minimum hourly rate of \$24/hr. Those with experience require a hourly rate upwards of \$35/hr. Under our current budget (through 06/31/2026) we can pay PAs a maximum rate of \$29.04/hr. We thought we could make that work with the plan being to hire a blend of experienced and less experienced individuals and schedule them strategically.

I was literally hours away from extending offers to individuals with experience and good fit for our son at a rate of \$29.04/hr. when I received notice that the proposed CSR for the next budget period would drastically reduce the PA (Personal Assistant) hourly rate such that the maximum rate would cap out at \$22.88/hr.) This would require these newly hired individuals to take a drastic \$6.52/hr. pay cut effective July 1, 2026.

As you can imagine, I am very concerned that these individuals that we extend offers to now will either reject the offer knowing that a drastic pay cut is imminent or will accept the position only to resign just prior to July 1st leaving us to scramble to find replacements that would have to onboard and train as well.

I am writing to strongly advocate for the continued inclusion of Community Specialist (CS) services within Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) Waiver and to express serious concern regarding any proposal to eliminate CS support or reduce Personal Assistant (PA) pay.

The SDS Waiver provides what can best be described as "just enough" support for adults with disabilities. It allows individuals to remain living in their family homes and communities while receiving the support necessary to promote independence, dignity, and meaningful quality of life. This model is not only person-centered, but fiscally responsible.

Without access to a Community Specialist, families will be left without the education, training, and problem-solving support required to make SDS successful. The inevitable outcome will be families being forced to seek more restrictive and costly services outside of the family home. This shift would significantly increase long-term costs to taxpayers through higher levels of care that could have been avoided with appropriate community-based support.

Missouri has positioned itself as a leader by adopting a “technology-first” approach for adults with disabilities. However, technology without training and ongoing support is ineffective. Community Specialists play a critical role in ensuring assistive technology is implemented appropriately, used consistently, and adapted as needs change. Without CS services, taxpayer-funded technology is at high risk of abandonment—unused, sitting on shelves, and ultimately wasted—while individuals require increased face-to-face support that could have been prevented.

Additionally, reducing PA (Personal Assistant) pay would further destabilize an already fragile workforce. Lower wages will result in decreased availability of qualified caregivers, increased turnover, and heightened risk for gaps in care. These gaps place adults with disabilities at greater risk for neglect and abuse and directly undermine their health, safety, and quality of life.

Eliminating Community Specialist services or reducing PA pay would not save money in the long run. Instead, it would shift costs to more restrictive systems, reduce oversight and education, and erode the very support that allow adults with disabilities to thrive safely in their homes and communities.

I urge you to protect and strengthen the SDS Waiver by maintaining Community Specialist services and ensuring fair compensation for Personal Assistants. These supports are essential to responsible stewardship of public funds and to honoring Missouri’s commitment to independence, inclusion, and innovation for adults with disabilities.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Best regards,
Christina Blankenship (aka Hayden’s Mom)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA MCHAFFIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 9:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to urge you to protect Missouri's Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program from the cuts proposed in HB10.

SDS is not a luxury. It is the only way thousands of Missouri families are able to keep their loved ones with disabilities and medical complexity safely at home instead of being forced into institutional care.

Families who rely on SDS are already stretched beyond their limits. Many parents and guardians provide around-the-clock care for children and young adults with autism, serious medical conditions, and intellectual and physical disabilities. Because parents and legal guardians cannot be paid as Personal Assistants for their own children under 18, these families are required to hire outside help — even when they are barely able to afford groceries, rent, or utilities.

The proposed SDS cuts — reducing Personal Assistant funding and eliminating Community Specialists and Individualized Goods and Services — would make it nearly impossible to recruit or retain qualified caregivers. This will not reduce need. It will only push more families into crisis, burnout, debt, and ultimately institutional placement for their loved ones.

Last year, my own family came dangerously close to financial collapse due to the cost of caring for a medically fragile child. We are far from alone. Across Missouri, families are quietly drowning under the weight of caregiving, medical bills, and lost income. Cutting SDS now will take families who are barely surviving and push them past the breaking point.

These cuts do not save money. They shift the burden onto families until they fail — and when families fail, the state pays far more for facilities, emergency placements, and long-term institutional care.

We are asking you to do what is fiscally responsible and morally right:

Protect Self-Directed Supports, protect in-home Personal Assistant funding, and preserve Community Specialists and Individualized Goods and Services.

Missouri families deserve the chance to care for our loved ones at home with dignity, safety, and stability.

Respectfully,

Christina McHaffie

Platte County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE BOSTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge the committee to vote NO on HB3146. This bill is a shameless attempt to replace SB22 just recently struck down unanimously by the MO Supreme Court as unconstitutional. Like SB22, HB3146 would sabotage the initiative petition process and purposely slow it down with a scheme allowing the Secy of State multiple attempts at writing ballot language that is deceptive, biased, and confusing. Voters deserve clear and unbiased ballot language to understand the measure. I urge this committee and this legislature to honor over 100 years of citizens initiatives in Missouri, and end these repeated attacks on the people's direct democracy. Vote NO on HB 3146.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE LOUISE BOWER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to ask that Governor Kehoe and the House Budget Committee not make cuts to DD services. I'm the 66 yr old mother of my 42 yr old son who has cerebral palsy. My son's disability affects him primarily physically (moderately severe) he uses a wheel chair and is totally dependent on others for all care. He's smart, social, and has many good qualities. He graduated high school and attended college classes. Those achievements were possible with supportive services. For him to have his needs met and a good quality of life, he will continue to need supportive services. Though he currently lives with me and his dad, we are soon approaching the age that we won't be able to care for him. I would like peace of mind (as it weighs so heavily on my mind) that he will have a waiver and services to be used for his future care, caregivers and well being. He currently attends a Day Program and Community Networking. It provides him with therapies, socialization, advocacy training and also gets him out into the community. During Community Networking he has supported volunteer opportunities that helps him "give back" to his community. His time at the day program also provides me with a much needed break.

So many cuts have already been made by previous Governors. I respectfully ask that cuts not be made to the programs of our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE NICOLE HOAGLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Christine Nicole Hoagland
14 Royallprairie Ct.
O'Fallon, MO 63368

February 9, 2026

Dear Representative

My name is Nicole Hoagland I am a Missouri constituent living in O'Fallon, Missouri, in St. Charles County. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget cuts to the Self-Directed Supports (SDS) Medicaid waiver program – specifically the significant reductions to Personal Assistants pay rates.

I know everyone is very familiar with the proposed cuts by this time and I would like to share with you how this will directly impact our family, my daughter Lorelei's care and the ability for workers to stay employed and make enough money to support their own families.

My daughter Lorelei Hoagland is 20 years old who has been lucky enough to receive SDS services the past few years. Lorelei is 24/7 care, she has 16 hrs, 4 therapists and a dictionary of diagnosis. She is a beautiful young lady and keeps us all very busy with her daily care. Because of SDS Lorelei is able to stay home with her family and friends. She is able to participate in the things she loves like Cheer, dance and being with family and friends. She also is able to receive the best of care possible due to the fact that her Guardians are able to employ amazing staff, train them and monitor them on a regular basis. They do exercises with her, help her do everyday tasks we all take for granted, take her out for social activities all while caring for her mental and physical needs. If their hourly pay is decreased by the amounts proposed Lorelei's staff won't be able to afford to continue to work for her. The cost of living continues to increase and this pay cut would be detrimental to all Personal Assistants. With the loss of staff, I don't know what would happen and we may have to look into other options outside of the home for Lorelei. This is nothing any of us would ever want and would not give Lorelei the best quality of life.

Lorelei deserves the best life and care possible. I strongly urge you to fight for the most vulnerable in our communities and to make the right decision to save the funding for Personal Assistants and to not decrease their pay. Being disabled is the one minority that any of us or our loved ones can become part of at any moment. This is not a path anyone chooses however it's a path we walk daily. Parents,

guardians and caretakers fight day and night for our loved one's care, safety and health. I hope you never have to face such a battle but if you do I hope there are still great programs to assist you and your loved one through hard times. This is a lifelong battle till the day we lose our daughter and I'm proud to fight for Lorelei. I hope you chose to fight for Lorelei and all the other amazing disabled citizens in our community.

Thank you for listening to your constituents and for protecting programs that support people with disabilities, their families and the workers that support Lorelei. Please know your decisions have a direct impact on our family and thousands more. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hoagland
636-219-3388
Nicoleh128@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER JACOBS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER MENKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. As someone who has quite a few immediate friends & family that struggle with Mental Illness, this funding has directly helped me in the past. My wife suffers from major depressive disorder and severe anxiety which takes a toll. I took the Family to Family class and participated in NAMI groups which offered invaluable support & information.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRYSTLYN SCHMITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. MO			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CINDY BOSSALLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 3:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do not cut funding for our children with special needs. Our son has multiple disabilities, including physical, mental, and emotional issues. He attends a great day program in Warrenton, which is helping him to learn how to behave appropriately and deal with his disabilities. It's such a blessing to have a caring, well-trained staff. I fear that if the caregivers' maximum wage is cut, these wonderful caregivers will walk away from their jobs.

We also have been blessed to have received a comprehensive waiver for our son's housing, but there is a huge lack of caregivers. We would have to place him over an hour away from our home, just to get him into an ISL. We've been told that it may be years before he can actually get into a "local" home which is appropriate for his needs... and this is if the caregiver pay doesn't drop. The stress involved with caregiving is intense. The cuts will affect our son, but also the rest of our family. Please try to find cuts in other places.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLAIRE AND SCOTT WATSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We, as citizens of Missouri and parents of a 24 year old daughter with Down syndrome oppose budget cuts to Day-hab programs for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Being active, having a daily routine, continuing to learn skills, meaningful interaction with peers, and community integration are all vital to mental and physical health of these vulnerable individuals. Post high school, these essential opportunities are most cost effectively provided by day-hab programs. We sincerely hope you will stand in opposition to cuts that would jeopardize or eliminate these programs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARK BOGLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 9:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri constituent, I am writing to urge you to use your position on the Budget Committee to reverse the proposed cuts to Day Services and Self Directed Services (SDS) in HB 2010. You have the power and responsibility to protect essential services that thousands of the most vulnerable Missourians with disabilities depend on.

My Family is Directly Impacted By These Cuts:

I'm a SW Missouri native and resident. I'm co-guardian with my parents and sister of my severely handicapped sister, Amber. When Amber was 3-5 weeks old, she contracted a rare form of bacterial meningitis, which left her with severe intellectual disability and Cerebral Palsy. She is non-mobile, non-verbal, legally blind and is an amputee.

Despite her disabilities, Amber has a ready smile for anyone who will engage with her. She has a great sense of humor and laughs at anyone's jokes, even if she doesn't understand the punch line. She loves the Andy Griffith Show and Wheel of Fortune. She loves ice cream and listening to my dad's made up stories, which always include her as the main character. Amber is a joy and her life is a gift.

For almost 47 years, my parents have faithfully cared for Amber in their home. Their desire has always been to keep her in her own home with them for as long as possible. They know it is what is best for Amber's health and well being.

However, my parents are now 80 and 78 years old. Their own health is failing and they are facing their own health challenges, while still trying to care well for my sister. For years, they have relied on self-directed services (SDS) and funds for her day program to help them with her care.

SDS and DD Services have become absolutely necessary as they try to keep Amber out of an institution or an ISL, both of which are significantly more expensive to the state than the SDS or Day program services. These programs are not optional extras—they are lifelines for families like ours.

I know that there is a lot of waste in government spending, but this program is NOT one of them. This is not the kind of program that I want cut as a constituent. As a society, we should seek to help and care for the most vulnerable, and this program helps

These programs:

Enable individuals with developmental disabilities to participate meaningfully in their communities

Provide families with essential respite and support

Sustain the dedicated direct support workforce that makes these services possible

As a member of the Budget Committee, you have the authority to:

Amend HB2010 to restore full funding for Day Services and Self Directed Services.

Question the rationale behind these cuts during committee deliberations and ask whether this actually saves the state money if many of these individuals have to go into institutions or ISLs, which will actually cost the state more.

Advocate with your fellow committee members to prioritize this critical funding.

Engage with Governor Kehoe's staff and legislative leadership to find alternative budget solutions. The people who rely on these services are Missourians you represent. Their families are counting on you. The workers who provide this care need your support.

I urge you to take action in committee to restore this funding and tell your colleagues: No cuts to DD Services.

Please use your budget committee position to protect individuals with disabilities, like my sister Amber. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your staff.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY BRACKETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill does nothing but create a less than equal opportunity for these individuals. Everyone deserves to have a chance to live the best life they can. This bill being passed would just create large limitations in turn lowering their quality of life which is not fair by any means.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE FLAMMANG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

These programs are so important to our children . My grandson was born, through no fault of his own, he presently goes to a school where the staff are teaching the children skills to survive on their own. He desperately needs the support in order to live a full life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONSUELO G MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable Members of the House Budget Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding outlined below. This funding has played a critical role in helping my family move from instability across multiple areas of life to a place of stability and healing.

After the loss of my son, NAMI stepped in and walked alongside me during one of the most painful seasons of my life. Through education, support, and connection, I was not alone in navigating grief. Later, when I was diagnosed with a mental health condition and faced the complex emotions that accompany that journey, NAMI again provided education, guidance, and normalization that helped me understand my diagnosis and engage in recovery with dignity and hope.

As part of a military family, NAMI Missouri's family education services provided practical tools and peer support that addressed challenges unique to service members and their loved ones. These services helped our family better understand mental health, strengthen communication, and build resilience during times of stress and transition.

I respectfully ask that you consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades, this funding has been competitively bid and has supported essential services for individuals, families, and professionals across our communities, including:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – Amount struck from Governor's FY27
Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family-to-Family Program – Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000
(CRD.GV.169)

These services make a measurable difference in the lives of individuals and families facing mental health challenges, just as they did for mine.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and thoughtful consideration of this request.

**Respectfully,
Consuelo Moore**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORINNE CAVANAUGH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:16 PM

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

NAMI helped me through one of the most difficult times of my life. The services they offer are so important. Please understand they are one of the only organizations that people can find help.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COURTNEY TINNIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. In my professional role as a case manager in community based roles, I have seen firsthand how NAMI Missouri's mental health training services improve understanding, reduce stigma, and strengthen how professionals engage with individuals and families affected by mental illness.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CRYSTEL LEWINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members, I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.] I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services: Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – \$43,005, Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – \$19,482, Family to Family Program – \$60,000. Thank you very much for your consideration."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA KIEBER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 6:36 AM

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

I am opposed to budget cuts from Bill HB2010. My son Hunter is 22 years old. He has a diagnosis of Down Syndrome and severe Autism. My son is Non-verbal and totally dependent on us or a caregiver for his every need. The use of self directed time support gives me control of who looks after my child. It also keeps him in his home with people who love him. Do you remember when you had a baby in the house how exhausted you were? How about when they were toddlers and you feared for their safety? Well imagine never leaving those phases of growth! I am 67 years old. It is my worst nightmare that someone I don't know will care for my child someday. With self directed support My family picks who cares for him. We need to be able to offer a good salary to acquire good workers. This is not a easy job to do. Turnover is already at a high level. Can you imagine finding someone to work for a small salary with no health insurance or milage reimbursement?? My son will never grow up, never wash himself, never fix his own meals or dress himself. He suffers from anger issues and inappropriate behaviors in public. We must be able to hire good caregivers for him. He deserves a good life. Hunter did not ask to be born this way. We did not ask for this. He's ours , we love him. Please vote no!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MCMELEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAN FREEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Budget Cuts			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAN RUTLEDGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am an advocate for my friends in the community who need disability services. Without these services I fear the families of individuals with disabilities will further struggle and likely experience hardships beyond their ability. Please keep funding these services including day services at the current levels.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL BARNETT-FOSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. I have seen the impact of NAMI Missouri's services on families in my community, particularly those who have limited access to affordable, trustworthy mental health information and support.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

- * Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
- * Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
- * Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL J LUEBBERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My dear friend John has Stage IV metastatic pancreatic cancer and is nearing the end of his life. When John passes, his wife will be left with the burden of being the sole caregiver for their autistic son. John's wife will be forced to give up her career if the proposed budget cuts to programs like Day Solutions come to fruition. Please consider the impact on the lives of families like John's and advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am writing as a constituent who cares deeply about services for Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Governor Kehoe's proposed FY27 budget includes significant cuts to an essential program, and I urge you to speak with the Governor's staff as well as House Budget & Senate Appropriations leadership to STOP proposed cuts to Day Services in HB2010 in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Budget (page 6 of the MO DMH FY27 Budget Request Appropriation Book).

These services provide individuals with developmental disabilities the support they need to participate in their communities, give families vital relief, and this funding sustains the dedicated direct support workforce. Cutting these programs would have a real impact on the lives of people in our community who rely on them every day.

Please do not make cuts to Developmental Disabilities Services.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Luebbert
Kansas City, Platte County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL LEWIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE E. PONTIOUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the House Budget Committee,

I am writing to provide testimony regarding the proposed budget and its potential impact on individuals living with disabilities. I appreciate the opportunity to share perspective on how funding decisions directly affect the daily lives, independence, health, and stability of people in our community.

For many individuals with disabilities, public programs such as day programs are not optional supports — they are essential resources that make it possible to access community activities, and participate in education and volunteer work. Changes or reductions in funding can create immediate and severe consequences, including loss of critical care, increased financial hardship on guardians, and reduced ability to live independently.

When services are underfunded, families often face increased caregiving burdens, individuals may be forced into institutional settings, and community participation becomes significantly limited. Conversely, strong and consistent investment in disability services supports workforce participation, strengthens local economies, and promotes dignity and inclusion for all residents.

I urge the Committee to carefully consider how budget decisions affect individuals with disabilities and to prioritize funding that protects access to home and community-based services, assistive technologies, and supportive programs that allow people to live safely and independently.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to serving all members of our community. I appreciate your attention to the real-life impact these decisions carry.

Sincerely,
Danielle Pontious



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE WIMMLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cuts to mental health that are included in this bill are an embarrassment for Missouri given the mountain of evidence that mental health initiatives help out communities in a variety of ways. The fact that Missouri has spent it's surplus and is now trying to remove programs that help Missouri citizens rather than making cuts to overpaid politicians' salaries is appalling. I am an independent and have voted for Republican representatives in the past, but I will never again vote for Republican if they continue to insist on pushing the agenda of their party over the needs of their people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DARIN DODRILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the father of a 23-year-old daughter with significant disabilities. Gracie is completely blind and has cerebral palsy. She is significantly cognitively, physically, and developmentally delayed. She requires total assistance for all daily needs. Although her mother and I divorced more than 13 years ago, we have worked together tirelessly to provide the best situation for Gracie. Recently, in order to continue to do so, her mother resigned guardianship so she could become staff for Gracie. In doing so, her stepfather and I agreed to become co-guardians. Although it was difficult for her mother to give up that responsibility, as a team that wants what's best for Gracie, we knew it was the right decision. As Gracie has gotten older, she has been exhibiting some self-harming, aggressive behaviors to try to communicate. These behaviors must be managed by those of us who are very familiar with her in order to prevent injury. Gracie is an amazing young lady who brings so much joy to our families. Over the years, we have tried to access many different programs, including county funded programs and home health programs. The turnover is high and the quality of care we were receiving was unacceptable. Under the care of a county program, Gracie drowned during a swimming outing and was resuscitated by the lifeguard. That was the day before Thanksgiving several years ago. There was also a time when an aid dropped Gracie from the top step of a bus, and her mother had to catch her. Another time, I walked in on a PA from a home health agency letting Gracie flail in a tub full of water and just watching her. I immediately had to get Gracie to a safe position and drain the tub. Due to Gracie's neurological, cognitive, visual, and physical challenges, she is at risk for choking, falling, drowning, being underfed, and being neglected if she is cared for by an unfamiliar person. I understand the challenges related to balancing a budget. Not only have I been self employed my entire adult life, I have also served on the Board of Directors of the Taney County SB40 Board for many years. It is always difficult to find areas to cut the budget when it becomes absolutely necessary. However, I assure you that this is not the place to make cuts. From both perspectives, as a board member and father, I see that this program is too valuable to make cuts. I am around a large number of individuals with disabilities and there are just some individuals whose needs just cannot be met by day programs, county programs, and home health. Individuals like my daughter need personalized care by people who are familiar with them. My daughter cannot see or talk. We literally have to interpret her needs by being familiar with her moods, sounds, and actions. The solution is not to cut the services currently in use. As a business owner, I can say confidently that if you cut the pay of your employees, you will lose them. This community cannot afford to lose their employees. I would encourage you to take a look at how to proceed in the future. The families who are actually abusing the system by accessing all available state aid programs when there are healthy, capable adults living in the home who are not working. Our families are doing our best to take care of our loved ones with minimal cost to the state. Self-directed staff does not receive benefits. There is no travel reimbursement, healthcare, paid time off, sick leave, vacation days, holidays, maternity leave, or

opportunity for overtime. Many of these people will have to rely on state aid if their pay is cut. I am an educated, taxpaying, homeownership citizen of Missouri who loves my daughter very much. I am aware of the other areas of expense in the budget that do not require putting the most vulnerable citizens of Missouri at risk. I am aware of the frivolous increases to minimum wage that mean failing small businesses and inflation of the daily needs of families. Do not continue to make mistakes that cost Missouri families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID B STEELE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is David Steele and I live in St. Louis County, Missouri. My stepson, Brian, is a young man who has relied on Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) for over 10 years.

The stability and quality of his care are a direct result of Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS).

He currently has five part-time workers. All have been with him for more than two years, and one has supported him for over five years. That level of consistency is rare in the direct care workforce and exists because of the Self-Directed Services structure.

One worker is a teacher in a local St. Louis county school district. Others are students at universities throughout Missouri, pursuing Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, and Mechanical Engineering. One volunteers with Special Olympics. These are committed, capable individuals who provide skilled care for Brian.

I recently learned that caregiver wages under Self-Directed Services (SDS) may be reduced by 30 percent. A reduction of this magnitude would directly affect these workers, all of whom rely on this income to meet tuition, housing, and living expenses. It is unrealistic to expect them to remain in these roles under a 30% pay cut. Loss of even one or two caregivers would destabilize Brian's carefully structured support system and create immediate gaps in care for our family.

At a significantly lower rate of pay, replacing trained, trusted caregivers may not be possible. Disruption in staffing would affect Brian's safety, progress, and daily stability, while placing significant strain on our family as we attempt to use reduced resources to rebuild a support system that has taken years to establish.

Self-Directed Services reduces administrative overhead and costly turnover, and directs public dollars straight to care in the home and community. It is fiscally responsible. Reducing worker rates risks putting individuals like Brian into a situation where they may be put on agency waitlists, or may not even meet criteria for an agency. Additionally, these alternatives are more costly for the State of Missouri.

I respectfully ask that you oppose any reductions to Self-Directed Services (SDS) and continue supporting this proven, cost-effective program for Brian and more than 3,500 Missourians across our state. This is a program Missouri can be proud of!

Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID STILLWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 2:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is David Stillwell. I have two grandsons with disabilities who will never be able to live on their own. The Self Directed caregivers do more than take care of them. They develop a relationship with their clients and help them to improve.

On August 6, 2024 my daughter gave up guardianship of her older son and I was appointed guardian of him as his disabilities are so severe that he can not be his own guardian. My daughter made the difficult decision to leave her job as a Family Advocate to take care of her son. Since then, having more time, she has been able to find a better quality of caregivers through Self Directed Services rather than those provided by the healthcare companies. These company provided caregivers are paid less and do not receive adequate training. In addition to these lesser skilled caregivers, many families do not possess the necessary skills to care for their disabled family member. In order to keep a higher level of caregivers it is necessary to pay them a livable wage. Even at the current wage level the budget for an individual is much less than what the state is paying to companies who provide a lower level of care. The budget cuts the governor is proposing for SDS would undermine the ability to keep a better quality caregiver. Also the current SDS budget is far less than it would cost if families would have to drop SDS and put their disabled family member into a healthcare facility. There are other proposed changes to the SDS program that are also detrimental.

One grandson was almost non-verbal and just parroted back one or two words of a question he was asked. Now he is asking two or three word questions without prompting. He also has seizures and his caregivers have learned to recognize signs of an impending seizure.

The other grandson was mostly quiet and sullen unless frustrated and then he would act out in anger. Now he can interact and converse with people and be happy and laugh showing that he also has a sense of humor.

Oppose Self Directed Services proposed cuts - DMH-DDD FY 2027

Thank you for your consideration

David Stillwell

4271 N Farm Road 157

dcstill15@gmail.com

Springfield, MO 65803

417-425-7012

02/07/2026



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN BOLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:37 AM

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

Please don't take from our friends with Disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN HENSLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Day habilitation funding should not be cut. There are numerous individuals that I am aware of who are waiting on waived services. Missouri's IDD population should not lose services/funding. Many of these individuals were born with their disabilities and deserve to be cared for by our State. Sitting at home day after day watching TV is not good for their mental health or socialization. Programs like Day Habilitation Services are key services to help these individuals have something to look forward to each while helping them grow and learn more skills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN MATTHEWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding supports programs that provide free, evidence-based education and support to Missourians who often have nowhere else to turn.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN PUZZO-MICHALSKI		PHONE NUMBER: 636-282-4412	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD INC		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIVING	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 190			
CITY: MAPAVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63065
EMAIL: dmpuzzomichalski@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please reconsider cuts to Missouri Day Services providers. These services are vital to Missouri constituents with developmental disabilities and their families. Thank you, looking into this matter would be greatly appreciated.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE BANKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do not cut the important funding for services to help people with disabilities. My daughter, Abby, has autism, and benefits greatly from the learning and socialization opportunities she currently is provided at her day habilitation program. This is very important to both her and our family as a whole.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE CROSSLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman Deaton & Members of the Budget Committee:

I am strongly opposed to this bill that cuts DD services by 33.3%. I ask that you advocate to have these funds restored.

I am not in favor of the proposed cuts to the DD Services. My nephew with special needs attended a day program for almost 20 years. (Sadly, Jeremy passed away last May at the age of 39.) Jeremy loved going to his day program and always looked forward to attending. If he had to miss a day, he was not happy! If funding for this day program is cut, it will impact Developing Potential, Inc and the individuals they serve in a very negative way. Staff will need to be cut and therefore, individuals who attend and those on the waiting list will not receive the benefits of attending this day program. I can tell you that the individuals who attend DPI look forward to their time there. It is a program like no other! I have witnessed what DPI does for these adults with special needs!

"Developing Potential, Inc. (DPI) is a non-profit social services organization in the Kansas City area, including Lee's Summit, that provides day habilitation and employment support for adults with developmental disabilities, helping them achieve independence and a dignified lifestyle through individualized programs, health services, and job coaching. Founded in 1993, DPI is nationally accredited and serves individuals with various disabilities like autism and Down Syndrome, focusing on personal growth, community integration, and skill development."

If you have not had the opportunity to visit one of the DPI locations, I would strongly suggest you do before making a decision on these cuts! You will witness these special needs adults being cared for and loved on!

If there is anything you can do to prevent this 33.3% cut to these programs, it would very much be appreciated! Please advocate to have these funds restored!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORA S. BIGGS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in opposition because this bill would eliminate funding for family peer support services provided by NAMI Missouri. These services are vital to helping those living with mental illness. Through this service family members gain a better understanding of mental illness and ways they can support and help their family member. Without the family support services, they will be left to struggle finding resources, their own support and support and services for their loved ones. This service is desperately needed in communities, especially those with fewer resources. Having worked in mental health peer support, I have seen how this service makes the difference between recovery and someone not receiving help. Family members have expressed their gratitude with being connected with others experiencing similar circumstances and with getting a better understanding of what their loved is experiencing. Please continue funding support for this service



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEIDRE ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me so much in helping me deal with my brother who has been struggling with mental illness. The NAMI family support group has provided valuable connection and resources such as online classes like Family to Family and in person classes such as Family Communication. Having a close family member with severe mental illness is a huge challenge and these programs provide answers and support not available anywhere else. So often the person with mental illness isn't able to identify their own needs to even look for help and these types of programs help us as family members help our loved ones and also ourselves.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENEE BIGGERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Governor and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts to Developmental Disability (DD) services. These services are not optional or supplemental, they are essential supports that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to live with dignity, safety, and purpose in their communities.

Cuts to DD services will have immediate and lasting consequences. Individuals who rely on these supports may lose access to daily programming, community integration, therapeutic services, and consistent care. Regarding families, many already stretched thin and will be forced to fill gaps that are simply unsustainable. Direct support professionals, who are already underpaid and overworked, will face further strain, leading to increased turnover and instability for those they serve.

For individuals with developmental disabilities, consistency, routine, and trusted relationships are critical. Reducing funding disrupts these foundations and risks increased isolation, regression in skills, mental health crises, and unnecessary institutionalization, outcomes that are both harmful to individuals and more costly to the state in the long term.

Investing in DD services is not only a moral responsibility; it is fiscally responsible. Community-based supports help individuals thrive, reduce emergency interventions, and strengthen families and communities. When we cut these services, we do not eliminate need, we shift the burden to families, hospitals, and crisis systems that are far more expensive and less effective.

I urge you to reconsider these proposed cuts and to prioritize funding that protects our most vulnerable citizens. Individuals with developmental disabilities deserve to be seen, valued, and supported, not balanced away in a budget.

Thank you for your time and for considering the real and human impact of these decisions.

Respectfully,

Denee Biggers



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENETTE ROSE BUTTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Denette Button, and I am 38 years old. I aged out of Missouri's foster care system at 21. When that happened, the State placed me in a group home. I had no choices there. I was told where to go, what to do, and even had to work at a landfill sorting trash. I hated it. I felt trapped and scared, and I had no family to help me. Both of my biological parents are deceased, and I have no contact with any relatives.

Sixteen years ago, I was finally able to leave the group home and join a loving household. I live in the home I chose, after asking to leave the group home and join a family who supports me. With Self-Directed Services and my SDS Medical Personal Assistant, I have grown more than I ever thought possible. I make my own decisions now. I am safe. I am healthy. And i am supported in all the ways I need support to live the life that I chose. I am proud of the life I have built.

But I cannot do this alone.

My SDS Med PA helps me with everything that keeps me stable and healthy—my medications, my medical appointments, my therapies, my communication skills, my coping skills, my safety at home and in the community, my nutrition, my hygiene, my equipment, learning to use technology, and they support me with all the daily things that allow me to live with dignity. These are not optional supports. They are the reason I am able to live in the community instead of being forced back into a group home. I am very afraid of losing my SDS Med PA because of the proposed rate cuts. If the pay is cut by almost ten dollars an hour, I will not be able to keep the skilled employees I depend on. It is already hard to find people who can do this work. They deserve raises, not cuts—everything in life costs more now, and it is not fair to expect them to work for less while doing so much for me. And they do not get benefits at all and they use their vehicle and pay for things because they want me to be able to go places and do things.

I also depend on IDGS funding. Without IDGS, I cannot get the equipment, supplies, technology, or adaptive items that help me meet my ISP goals. These things are not luxuries. They are what allow me to communicate, stay safe, participate in my community, and keep my home accessible. And the IDGS needs to be able to help with the expenses for going into the Community and so I can meet my Goals to be involved in Community.

If SDS Med PA rates are cut and IDGS is eliminated, I will lose the life I have worked so hard to build. I will lose my independence. I will lose my stability. And I will be at risk of being placed back into a group home—something I have feared my entire adult life.

Please do not take away the supports that keep me safe and allow me to live in the home I chose. I am asking you to protect SDS Med PA rates, give workers the raises they deserve, and keep IDGS funding and increase it please, so people like me can continue to grow and live with dignity.

Thank you for listening to my story.

Denette Button



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE SHOCKLEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have so many friends that care for loved ones with disabilities and their care by loved ones or family members so far outweighs any institution. There is so much abuse in institutions even in nursing homes that never gets addressed because the truth is the powers that be do not care about human life and suffering. why in the world would anyone want to cut off funds for a person with disabilities that is being loved and cared for by a family member . it's unconscionable . it's inhumane. what is happening to the moral fabric of this country. every disabled person on the planet deserves to be loved and cared for with dignity. it should not have anything to do with money. people over profit. we know the right thing to do. stand up for what is morally right. stop the abuse . no one has the right to make money off of a person with disabilities. people with disabilities are human beings, they are family.. mothers fathers sons daughters. relatives that are loved.God Bless those that are standing up for those that cannot stand for themselves. treat others as you yourself would want to be treated or as you would want a disabled loved one to be treated. Stand up for what is morally and humanely right. when did we become a nation that puts power control and money over doing the right thing and caring and sacrificing because it is our God given responsibility to care for the disabled , You would not stand by to see your own loved one suffer why would you stay silent for the suffering of anyone else. God help us to do the right thing.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEVON T MCTYE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me access needed mental health services for myself and others I know. It is vital to have this funding for this purpose.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
Family to Family Program – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)
Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA FISCHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I strongly support reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below.

I completed NAMI's Family-to-Family 12-week course held in Fulton, Mo., more than 11 years ago. The information I learned in that course has helped me better support a family member who struggles with mental illness, as well as help friends and acquaintances who are trying to support their family members. When I think of the most impactful experiences of my life, the training I received through NAMI is right at the top of the list. I cannot stress enough how positive and life-changing NAMI classes are.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

--Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005

--Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482

--Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000

This funding provides services crucial to ensuring a healthy Missouri. Thank you so much for your consideration!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA FRAZIER MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

People need to be able to take care of their loved ones in need. This bill cuts Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation. These programs help Missourians with severe disabilities and seniors live safely and independently. I oppose these cuts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA KORNFELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 5:02 PM

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

It will be incredibly harmful if cuts are made to Disabled care services. I know how much these services can help the disabled and their families. It could be devastating to those losing care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA WILLARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 9:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a 66 yr old female with IDD disabilities , I do the SDS program and love it. I have been able to stay in my own home. I was thought at a young age that it does not matter what happen in life you can always try and if you do not get it done try again. I have been with agency in the past and they cam into my home and started telling me what to do. How would you like this. I may need help doing things and I will always ask, If you make the cuts to IDD people you will pay more. My staff do a lot for me and with out them I would problem be in a group home or something, and this is not the life that my MOM, Dad and Grandmother wanted for me. I do not get payed for the paperwork I fill out for the state like agencies I would pass that on to the staff.

Thank you for your time
Diana L Willard
Joplin, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE MATTIONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 1:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose cutting funding for SDS and other special needs services.

My son Andrew is about to turn 35. We have been using SDS services since he graduated from High School 15 years ago. Because of direct Services Andrew is able to work part time, live on his own, be in Special Olympics, go to the gym, go to church activities, go to doctor and therapy appointments. He even volunteers at a children's home once a week. Because of SDS Andrew has lived on his own for the last 14 years and had the same job the last 12.5 years. In the beginning of using SDS we were constantly looking for employees. Turn over rate was very high. Since the rates of pay was raised we have had the same employees. The average employee Would leave within the first 6-12 months. Now we have consistent care, employees who have gotten to know his needs. Because Andrew works retail his work schedule varies greatly from week to week. An employee may work an 1 hour in the morning and then 2-3 hours in the afternoon. On his days off they may work 8 hours. But since Andrew gets his schedule the Saturday before the following week it makes life difficult to plan for everyone. These employees earn their money. They deal with adult autism melt downs. They help him keep his apartment organized and clean. Which makes it safer. They help him go to the grocery store to go shopping. And all of the things I listed above. They receive no mileage, no benefits, no sick or vacation time. They earn the money. Agencies and group homes have a high turnover rate with their employees. Incidences of abuse are much higher with agencies and group homes.. And agencies and group homes cost more money than SDS does.

I know many families who these changes will be devastating and will be forced to put their loved one in a group home where the care of the individual will greatly suffer. Please do not change SDS rates or remove any disability services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE MEEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-234-0342	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--MISSOURI; NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--COLUMBIA AREA		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 203 BREWER DR.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: columbiamonow@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:31 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We urge the committee to restore the funding for mental health services, specifically Mental Health Adult Community Treatment, to the Governor's F27 Budget Recommendations. These services are a lifeline for so many Missourians, especially those in rural areas who often lack other treatment options. The amount in question, \$122,487, is a pittance in comparison to the benefits of providing Missourians with much-needed mental health services. Improving the mental health of Missourians in need, rather than allowing them to languish and their problems grow worse, will make our state a better place for all of us to live, work, and thrive.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DONNA COOPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:53 AM

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

Hundreds of the people I support would be terribly affected by this cut in services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DONNA THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE INC-FISCAL AGENT		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 755 SOUTH KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63703
EMAIL: donna@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:19 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Donna Thompson and I am the Executive Director of SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, (SADI), We are a center for independent living in Cape Girardeau and we provide day hab services to adults with developmental disabilities. We are strongly opposed to any funding cuts to day hab services. I am speaking on behalf of our board and staff, as well as the individuals we serve. These individuals deserve a safe place where they can continue learning and growing after high school. I am talking about individuals who cannot seek employment or go to college. Without day hab services they sit at home, sometimes alone, because parents have to work. I am here to tell you, day hab makes a huge difference in the lives of these developmentally disabled adults. Here they have friendships and opportunities to volunteer, and time to practice their daily living skills. We do not provide day hab services to get rich. In order to run a high quality program, there are a lot of logistics involved. The environment must meet strict guidelines through Department of Mental Health and it requires a lot of maintenance. At our center we go above and beyond the 6 individuals to 1 teacher ratio in the classrooms. We provide more staff because of safety concerns and also to give more hands-on assistance to the individuals we serve. We pay a higher wage to attract the good classroom teachers who are professional and dedicated. We provide ongoing trainings to staff. We offer transportation so there is upkeep on the vehicles. We cover the cost of social and educational outings into the community. We have overhead and administrative costs as well. But let me assure you, it is worth every penny to see our day hab individuals reach their goals and thrive. We also know it is a relief to parents who can go to work without fear of their child being at home alone all day. And SADI is a better place because of our day hab and those individuals. Any funding cuts to their services will be harmful to their quality of life. I beg the budget committee members to come and visit our day hab and see for yourselves what a day hab is all about. It is a much needed service to so many who don't get a lot of opportunities or attention. Decreasing their funding is not the way to balance a budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DORI FRANK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped many families in support of mental health.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUGLAS PRIEFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have a son with autism who has received services and will likely need services in the future that are funded by Medicaid. He is unlikely to ever have a high paying job with benefits and is likely to have low paying jobs with no benefits. He will need Medicaid benefits to be able to live his best life. I have also worked for the Department of Mental Health as well as an organization that provides services for those with developmental disabilities. It is hard for organizations to keep good workers unless we are able to pay staffing competitive wages as jobs working with individuals with developmental disabilities is hard work and requires 24-hour staffing. Please do not cut funding for individuals like my son or those that organization like I work for serve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR SARAH GOODMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:34 PM

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

As a physician, I am very concerned about how this will affect many of my patients who are currently benefiting from this program. They rely on this to maintain their independence. This will greatly impact their ability to live independently.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. RACHEL MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chair of the Budget Committee,

I am writing to you directly in your role as Chair of the Budget Committee regarding the proposed reductions to Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) Waiver, specifically the elimination of Community Specialist (CS) services and reductions to Personal Assistant (PA) pay that are being brought forward for consideration. As Chair, your leadership will be pivotal in determining whether these cost-effective community supports are preserved or dismantled.

I want to be clear at the outset: I am a fiscal conservative. I support responsible budgeting and strong oversight, including the removal of fraud, waste, and abuse from government programs. Fiscal responsibility matters. However, I did not vote for budget decisions that remove essential, cost-effective supports from our largest and most marginalized minority group—people with disabilities, a group that anyone can join at any time through injury, illness, or aging.

This issue also impacts my family directly. My adult son is autistic and utilizes SDS supports. He is his own legal guardian, an engaged citizen, and votes in every election. Like me, he is also a fiscal conservative and voted for his representatives because he believes in responsible stewardship of public funds. He did not vote for decisions that would dismantle the supports that allow him—and thousands of other Missourians—to live independently, contribute to their communities, and avoid far more costly systems of care.

The SDS Waiver provides what can best be described as “just enough” support for adults with disabilities. It allows individuals to remain living in their family homes and communities while receiving the supports necessary to promote independence, dignity, and meaningful quality of life. This model is not only person-centered—it is fiscally responsible and prevents far more expensive institutional or restrictive placements.

Our family is committed to keeping my son at home with us for as long as possible. We do not want to ask taxpayers to fund a more restrictive and significantly more expensive system of care when community-based supports allow him to live safely, productively, and with dignity within his family and community. The SDS Waiver makes this possible.

Without access to a Community Specialist, families lose the education, training, and problem-solving support required to successfully implement SDS. The predictable outcome is that families will be forced to seek more restrictive and costly services outside of the family home. This shift increases long-term taxpayer costs through higher levels of care that could have been avoided with appropriate, lower-cost community-based supports.

Missouri has positioned itself as a leader through its “technology-first” approach for adults with disabilities. However, technology without training and ongoing support is ineffective. Community Specialists play a critical role in ensuring assistive technology is implemented correctly, used consistently, and adapted as needs change. Without CS services, taxpayer-funded technology is at

high risk of abandonment—unused, sitting on shelves, and ultimately wasted—while individuals require increased face-to-face support that could have been prevented.

Additionally, it is important to understand the reality of the Personal Assistant workforce. Personal Assistants do not receive overtime pay, holiday pay, or employer-sponsored health insurance. These positions are already demanding and financially precarious. Further reducing PA pay will inevitably drive workers to leave these roles in search of more sustainable employment opportunities. Increased turnover and reduced availability of caregivers will create gaps in care, destabilize families, and place adults with disabilities at greater risk—often resulting in higher downstream costs through emergency services, hospitalizations, or more restrictive placements.

Eliminating Community Specialist services or reducing PA pay would not save money in the long run. Instead, it would shift costs, reduce oversight and education, and erode the very supports that allow adults with disabilities to thrive safely in their homes and communities.

As Budget Committee Chair, I respectfully urge you to halt advancement of these proposed cuts and to carefully examine their long-term fiscal impact. Maintaining Community Specialist services and ensuring fair compensation for Personal Assistants represents responsible stewardship of public funds and honors Missouri's commitment to independence, inclusion, and innovation for adults with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rachel C. Morgan, Ed.D., CAS, ETIS, BCTS
Founder & CEO – The Adam Morgan Foundation
1821 Sherman Drive, Suite 200
St. Charles, MO 63303
rmorgan@adammorgan.org
Cell: 636-399-0269
Home Address:
138 Berry Manor Circle
St. Peters, MO 63376



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. RACHEL MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-922-4800	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ADAM MORGAN FOUNDATION		TITLE: CEO/FOUNDER	
ADDRESS: 1821 SHERMAN DRIVE, SUITE 200			
CITY: SAINT CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63303
EMAIL: rmorgan@adamorgan.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:13 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Public Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Cuts to Community Specialist (T1016): Fiscal, Human, and Contractual Consequences for Missouri

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Rachel Morgan, CEO and Founder of the Adam Morgan Foundation. I am here today to strongly and unequivocally oppose the proposed cuts to Community Specialist services under code T1016. The decision before you is not simply a budget adjustment—it carries significant fiscal consequences for the State of Missouri, profound human consequences for individuals with disabilities and their families, and serious legal implications regarding the state's existing contractual obligations.

Community Specialist (CS) services are not an optional add-on within Missouri's waiver system. This code is utilized across all waiver programs and serves as a foundational support for individuals with disabilities and their families. Eliminating or significantly reducing this service would have devastating and far-reaching consequences—not only for providers, but for families, individuals, and ultimately Missouri taxpayers.

I also want to address the statement made yesterday indicating that only 300 clients would be impacted by changes to Community Specialist services. That number most likely reflects only those individuals utilizing this support under the Self-Directed Services Waiver. It does not reflect the full scope of impact. Community Specialist (T1016) is utilized across all Missouri waivers, serving thousands of individuals and supporting numerous provider organizations statewide. Limiting the analysis to a subset of one waiver presents an incomplete and potentially misleading picture of the true consequences of this proposal. I respectfully urge the committee to conduct a comprehensive review and ensure that all data across every waiver program is examined before decisions are made that will significantly affect individuals with disabilities, families, and provider organizations throughout Missouri.

If T1016 is cut, multiple small and mid-sized provider organizations across the state could be forced to close their doors. This would result in layoffs of hundreds of workers and destabilize a workforce that is already fragile. Beyond the economic impact, the human cost would be immeasurable. Individuals who are currently living successfully in their family homes may lose the supports that make that stability possible.

Community Specialists provide the education, training, coaching, and real-time problem-solving that families rely on to successfully implement Self-Directed Services (SDS). Without access to a CS, families lose the guidance necessary to navigate complex systems, manage services responsibly, and maintain safety and independence at home. The predictable outcome is that families will be forced to seek more restrictive and more expensive services outside the family home.

This shift does not save taxpayer dollars. It increases long-term costs through higher levels of care—residential placements and intensive services—that could have been avoided with appropriate, lower-cost, community-based supports. Cutting Community Specialist services is not cost containment; it is cost shifting, and ultimately, cost escalation.

Community Specialists also play a critical role in Missouri's technology-first approach for adults with disabilities. However, technology without training and ongoing support is ineffective. When individuals receive taxpayer-funded assistive technology but lack the education and troubleshooting support provided by a Community Specialist, that technology is at high risk of abandonment. Devices sit unused on shelves, while individuals require increased face-to-face staffing that could have been prevented. Without CS services, Missouri risks wasting both the technology investment and the opportunity for increased independence.

It is also critical to address the contractual obligations the State of Missouri has entered into with provider organizations across this state. The Adam Morgan Foundation entered into a five-year contract with the Missouri Department of Mental Health two years ago to provide Community Specialist services under T1016. We have three years remaining on that legally binding agreement. We built our staffing model, operational structure, and financial commitments—including signing a five-year commercial lease—based on the terms of that contract.

Unilaterally eliminating or materially altering the Community Specialist code mid-contract raises serious legal concerns. Contracts are enforceable obligations, not symbolic agreements. Providers entered into these agreements in good faith, relying on the stability and continuity of state commitments. Abruptly dismantling the funding mechanism directly tied to those contracts could constitute a breach of contract and expose the state to significant legal liability.

Beyond the immediate financial harm to providers, failure to honor existing agreements undermines trust between the state and the community-based organizations that carry out its services. Providers cannot responsibly invest in workforce development, infrastructure, and long-term innovation if contractual commitments can be withdrawn without remedy. If existing contracts are not honored, providers may have no choice but to seek legal review to protect their organizations, their employees, and the individuals they serve. That outcome would divert public resources toward litigation rather than services—an unnecessary and avoidable consequence.

This is not simply a budget line item. It represents real families, real workers, real businesses, and legally binding agreements that underpin Missouri's commitment to community-based services.

I urge you to fully examine the human, financial, and legal consequences of this proposal. Preserving Community Specialist services protects families, strengthens Missouri's workforce, safeguards taxpayer investments, and upholds the integrity of state contracts.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Missourians with disabilities and the families who support them.

Dr. Rachel Morgan
CEO and Founder
Adam Morgan Foundation



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DUST'N REYNOLDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am testifying in opposition to the proposed \$26.04 rate caps in the SDS program. This video demonstrates the 13-year success of my independence under the current model:
<https://youtu.be/1qNafGYMNgg>. My flexible rate allows me to live independently for a fraction of the cost of state-operated institutional care. Please protect the program that protects my independence.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ED LOGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My nephew has cerebral palsy and is currently supported by the SDS PA program. He has wonderful SDS PA caregivers who keep him healthy and safe and give him opportunities to go into the community while allowing his parents to work. I ask you to fight against cutting SDS PA's pay rates. In the near future, he may need to rely on a day hab program once school ends. Cuts to these very fragile support systems could prove dangerous to his health and future. Please do not cut services for this very vulnerable population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISE THOMPKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Elise Thompkins and I work as a PA for a 19 year old male in STL County with cerebral palsy. I am writing today to ask you to oppose the budget cuts that would decrease SDS PA wages by over 20%. I love working with this individual and the wage cut would greatly impact my ability to continue to serve him and his family. I provide personal care aiming to keep him in good health and spirits and we go out into the community together as well. With a pay cut this large, I likely would have to consider taking other jobs leaving this family without access to as much help. Please vote against this budget cut.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISSA HARRISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 8:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the Missouri House Budget Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed cuts to Self-Directed Services (SDS) and the reduction in Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages.

My husband and I are the grandparents of two nonverbal autistic grandsons who recently turned 20. With the support of Self-Directed Services, they were able to move into their own home. Although they cannot speak, they clearly showed their excitement and pride by taking us room to room, showing us their space. They have feelings, joy, and a deep sense of accomplishment—just like anyone else. SDS has allowed them to experience independence, dignity, and belonging in their community.

That progress is now at risk.

The proposed cuts to SDS and the approximately 21% hourly wage reduction for DSPs threaten an already fragile system. DSPs are essential, skilled workers who provide consistent, trusted care. Missouri is already facing a severe DSP workforce shortage. Cutting wages will drive experienced caregivers out of the field and make recruitment and retention nearly impossible. The result will be instability, safety risks, and loss of trusted relationships for people with disabilities.

Self-Directed Services matter because they work. SDS allows people with disabilities to live in their own homes, participate in their communities, maintain relationships, and make personal choices. It is person-centered, flexible, and cost-effective. This is exactly what taxpayer dollars should support: independence, dignity, and inclusion.

When SDS fails, individuals are often forced into group homes, nursing facilities, or other restrictive settings—or families are forced to leave the workforce to provide full-time care. These alternatives cost the state significantly more than SDS and lead to worse outcomes for everyone involved. This is not a savings; it is a cost shift that ultimately increases expenses while reducing quality of life.

Please do not balance the budget on the backs of people with disabilities and the workforce that supports them. Protect Self-Directed Services. Maintain sustainable DSP wages. SDS keeps people where they belong—at home, in their communities, with dignity and choice.

Strong communities include everyone. Missouri can and should do better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Elissa Harrison
Concerned Grandparent and Missouri Advocate**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISSA U FISCHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH OBREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Elizabeth Obrey. I am the mother of adult children with multiple diagnoses and disabilities asking you to oppose the HB 10 Self-Directed Support wage cuts. As I have been watching this conversation unfold online, someone posted on social media asking families to reflect on the fact we chose to have children and with that comes risks and the responsibility to take care of them, no matter the cost. What that person neglected to recognize is there is also a fair assumption that these children we chose to have or adopt, would be leaving our homes after graduating and making their own way in the world. If no one chose risk for something greater we wouldn't be here today. We wouldn't be driving our cars because of the risk of getting in an accident. We might not eat our lunch visit with friends, because we might choke. You might not have run for office because you might not have won.

Our family made a recent choice that so many families have made in this program. I gave up guardianship of my oldest son and his grandfather stepped in so I could provide him with the care he was not receiving from others. I left my career, ended my Master's program four classes shy of graduation and became my son's staff. I am now a caregiver to my two adult sons. I have taken responsibility for them, no matter the cost. Not only financially, but at a personal cost. As my last child graduated from high school I was preparing to push forward in my career. But, I could not find care for his brother who does not fit the mold of provider based services. He needs 1:1 staffing and has seizures. There are no plans for him to go into supported living because he is unable to make that choice on his own accord and loves being with his family.

I would like to address the funding aspect of what we are asking you today. By opposing the cuts to the Self-Directed program (SDS) you are keeping in place a system that operates at a fraction of the cost of provider options for those that need direct care staffing. As families are seeing successful outcomes and understanding this is an option they are gravitating to this program. But this shift is influenced by the current wage, making it a viable option for employment. Please understand the actual maximum wage is \$22.88 per hour for a staff person, not the \$26.04 rate proposed. The take home wage after taxes is between \$17.60–\$18.76 per hour. SDS positions offer no benefits, no paid time off, no sick leave, require use of personal vehicles, and provide no reimbursement for transportation during community-based activities. That money comes out of the take home wage. Considering the cuts would impact those presently working for my sons I would have to ask current staff for a 30% wage decrease after they have earned raises through their dedication to my sons and as their skills have grown in this profession.

SDS is intentionally budget-based because individual needs vary widely. My younger son has a significantly smaller budget than his brother. The flexibility of SDS allows families to prioritize

resources, whether that means stretching funds for goal-based community experiences or paying higher wages for specialized support. This flexibility is one of the program's greatest strengths and must be preserved. Self-directed service budgets take into consideration the unpaid care families provide through natural support, unlike most residential placements which provide 24 hour care. In the SDS program most budgets are under \$48,000 per year and those hours are used according to specific and goal-based needs of the client.

There is a very real danger of forcing families to end self-directed support because they will no longer be able to retain staff or attract new staff. Going with a local agency for direct care is not commonly an option due to the lack of staff they have available and the constant turnover leaving our family members caught in a rotation of new inexperienced staff who do not understand their needs and fail to form relationships. This leaves residential care as the only option. For provider based supported living there is most commonly a waitlist forcing families to look at the state option of \$600,000 per year in a state habilitation setting, rather than surrounded by those who are personally invested in them.

Please consider blocking HB 10 SDS cuts by voting no to these proposed cuts.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Obrey
2103 W. Hill St.
Springfield, MO 65803
417-631-3930
elizabethobrey@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH OBREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 8:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express serious concern about the Governor's proposed cuts to Self-Directed Supports (SDS) funded through Missouri Medicaid, specifically the reduction of the maximum hourly rate for self-directed supported care to \$22.88. This results in an average take-home wage of \$17.85 per hour at the maximum rate, with less experienced workers earning an even lower wage.

This proposal reflects a misunderstanding of the essential role a personal aide (PA) plays in the lives of individuals with disabilities and the families who rely on them. As my two sons transitioned into adulthood, I explored numerous care programs, none of which could meet their complex needs or had available staff. Only after SDS wages previously increased was I able to secure consistent, qualified care that keeps my sons safe, improves their quality of life, and supports meaningful levels of independence.

Before the wage increases, the quality of care was often alarming in their younger years. My sons were often supported by a rotation of inexperienced workers with little training. Shifts were disengaged, meals were skipped, safety risks were unmanaged, and unsafe transportation resulted in both a car accident and property damage. Today, because SDS wages are more competitive, my sons are fully staffed by college graduates and professionals in the disability field who provide intentional, skill-based, individualized support.

Reducing the SDS rate would require pay cuts of up to \$6.96 per hour for staff who have earned raises through experience and dedication. Cuts are even greater for those using a medical personal assistant (Med PA). These wages are not excessive. SDS positions offer no benefits, no paid time off, require use of personal vehicles, and provide no reimbursement for transportation during community-based activities. Lowering the wage cap would force starting wages even lower than the proposed \$22.88, once again making recruitment and retention nearly impossible.

In 2024, I attempted to secure care for my oldest son, who is minimally verbal, has medication-resistant epilepsy with frequent tonic-clonic seizures, requires a trained service-dog handler, and needs constant one-to-one supervision. After exhausting all options, I made the difficult decision to leave my career as a family advocate and resource specialist to care for him myself, relinquishing guardianship in the process.

Today, alongside other staff, I provide personal care, continuous seizure monitoring, and intentional support to promote independence, communication, and skill development. Even with his high needs, the cost of his self-directed services is far lower than residential placement, which can cost the state up to \$600,000 per year in state habilitation settings, or nearly \$300,000 in provider-based residential care when rare openings exist. More importantly, he is able to live at home with family. He should not be forced into a residential setting simply because the budget prioritizes reimbursing providers at higher rates rather than supporting the caregivers who know him best. Under this proposal, I face the possibility of a significant income reduction while continuing to pay out of pocket for extraordinary

needs not covered by Medicaid, as well as, loss of staff. I made a choice to walk away from a career I loved to take care of sons I love even more. Under this budget I will never be able to grow beyond \$22.88 an hour. But, my heart will continue to be full as I work directly with my adult sons, even though our family income will be a barrier to our financial security, and greatly impact the quality of our lives. SDS is intentionally budget-based because individual needs vary widely. My younger son has a significantly smaller budget than his brother. The flexibility of SDS allows families to prioritize resources, whether that means stretching funds for goal-based experiences or paying higher wages for specialized support. This flexibility is one of the program's greatest strengths and must be preserved. Self-directed services also account for the unpaid care families provide through natural supports, unlike most residential placements which provide 24 hour care.

I urge you to consider the real-world consequences of these proposed cuts. Self-Directed Supports keep individuals with disabilities safe at home, save taxpayer dollars, and rely on qualified, committed caregivers. Reducing wages undermines all three. I have told my adult daughters to live their lives, work, and pay taxes, believing there would be a system in place to support their brothers in a manner that preserves their current level of care. These changes will not only have immediate impact but will alter family trajectories for generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue affecting Missouri families like mine.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Obrey

2103 W. Hill St.

Springfield, MO 65803

417-631-3930

elizabethobrey@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SAUER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:45 PM

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

Taking away the funds from a group of people that actually need it is ridiculous. The field of disabilities already has so many challenges and added funding cuts on top, is just truly mind boggling.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILIE LYTTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped so many individuals and families in access much needed mental health care and services. As a school social worker in the St. Louis area, I have seen an increase in need for mental health support for students and their families and agencies that provide this support are critical in meeting this need. In my professional role, I have seen firsthand how NAMI Missouri's mental health training services improve understanding, reduce stigma, and strengthen how professionals engage with individuals and families affected by mental illness.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY A BRADSHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello and thank you for your time.

I am a parent of an adult with autism and a provider of SDS. I am also a Speech Pathologist that works with individuals with disabilities both through Missouri First Steps and through the Medicaid Waiver. I have gone to homes for decades to provide services and see first hand how different policies and programs have influence over the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. The Missouri SDS program opened up a much needed avenue for care for individuals that have continuous care needs that may not fit well into day-hab situations or need full time care. Just because an individual ages out of the school program does not mean parents are free to quit their jobs to attend to their adult with high needs. When I first heard of SDS I immediately knew it would be a huge cost saver for the State. These positions are hired by family members or the individual who must do all the employment recruiting and training. The position is hourly with no paid time off, holidays, health care or 401k. Comparable day-hab costs are much higher than SDS service cost. I was very surprised to see a proposed cut in hourly wages for such a successful program. These cuts will ensure a decrease in the numbers of people willing to do these jobs. Cutting day-hab rates further undermines the availability of care for these adults with needs. It doesn't make sense, either for the families, the individuals, the day-habs or the State of Missouri.

Let me talk more specifically about family situations that may be impacted. Adults with disabilities with high medical needs, on a variety of medications, prone to disruption or overstimulation may not do well in an environment such as day-hab, but they can thrive at home with support. Day-hab is a wonderful place for adults with disabilities who thrive within a group environment. In order for these services to work, they must be fully staffed. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that families will lose providers (I already know some who are planning to leave if this bill is enacted without changes). Family members who support their loved ones will not be able to provide for their family's financial needs after already giving up job benefits to provide SDS services for hourly pay. I ask that the committee reexamine these steep cuts to desperately needed programs. This is one program where there is not waste, fraud and abuse.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY HAGE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-361-5900	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FIRST CALL ALCOHOL/DRUG PREVENTION & RECOVERY		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS: 9091 STATE LINE ROAD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64114
EMAIL: emilyh@firstcallkc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As the CEO of First Call Alcohol/Drug Prevention & Recovery, I appreciate the opportunity to share information about prevention priorities that directly affect the health, safety, and economic well-being of Missourians.

First Call is a Kansas City–based nonprofit that has served Missouri communities since 1958. We reduce the impact of alcohol, drugs, and addiction by providing prevention education, overdose prevention strategies, recovery support, and a 24/7 crisis call line that offers immediate assistance and resource referrals for individuals and families affected by substance use disorder.

As the MO DMH Prevention Resource Center for Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette and Cass Counties, we consistently see that prevention is one of the most effective and cost-efficient tools available to communities and the state.

Current budget discussions include the omission of \$2.3 million in prevention funding for Fiscal Year 2027. These funds come from restricted sources—the Opioid Addiction Treatment and Recovery Fund and cannabis tax revenue—not from General Revenue, and are directed by statute and the Missouri Constitution for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery purposes. Research shows that every dollar invested in evidence-based prevention can save approximately ten dollars in later costs related to emergency care, foster care, and the justice system.

First Call leverages this funding to pay for staff to facilitate evidence-based prevention programs to school-aged students, to focus on alcohol prevention in our community, and to deliver recovery support services to justice-involved individuals who are at higher risk of overdose and other adverse events as a result of their addiction.

Overdose deaths in Missouri are steadily falling from 2022’s record high of 2,180 deaths, to 1,948 deaths in 2023 and 1,450 deaths in 2024. These decreases speak to the strength of Missouri’s substance use prevention, overdose prevention, treatment and recovery continuum!

Missouri’s Prevention Resource Centers play a critical role in delivering prevention services statewide, benefiting residents in all 114 counties. Like many public health systems, these services are affected by fluctuations in state and federal funding, which can impact long-term planning and service continuity.

Taken together, these considerations reflect the value of a prevention-focused public health approach—one that addresses risk early and helps reduce reliance on more costly, crisis-driven systems.

Please restore the following funds in DMH budget:

- (\$6,900,000) other funds for Opioid Community Grants
- (\$1,000,000) other funds for Prevention Resource Network

Please restore the following funds in DHSS budget:

- **(\$1,000,000) other funds for Alcohol Abuse Prevention**
- **(\$300,000) other funds for Youth Substance Use**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY HARPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.]

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY PAREDES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter is seven years old. She was born at 31 weeks & had a stroke which caused permanent brain damage. She can only walk with a walker & for very short distances. She goes to school full time and attends a special education program. She needs 24/7 care to get to where she needs to go. She is not independent with everyday routines & requires help with everything. We were just approved for the Missouri Lopez Waiver which will allow us to hire someone to help us take care of her at different times of day. With the budget cuts, this is going to hurt our chances significantly of finding someone reliable and dependable. I don't understand why you would want to cut funds from the disabled. There has to be somewhere else the state can pull funds from to keep from making this horrible decision. As a special needs moms, it is a constant struggle & fight to advocate for my child. The stress is unbearable but I will do everything to protect her. I wish my daughter wasn't disabled, but she is. The state should care about her & all others that are disabled. They are less fortunate but do not deserve any less than the able bodied. Please please please reconsider these budget cuts. Do the right thing & be a decent human being whey empathy for others. Show this next generating that Missouri takes care of the disabled & treats them with dignity & respect. Thank you for reading this. I hope you make the right choice for me & my family.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMMA BLISS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:03 PM

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

As a disabled person cutting any funding for disability services is against what i believe in. This bill takes care givers away from our most vulnerable. This is a disgrace.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIKA LEONARD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-6424	
REPRESENTING: STARLING		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 2046 TRENTON CT			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: Erika@StarlingMissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:29 AM

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

Please oppose the Governor's proposed cut to Day Services for people with developmental disabilities. Rather than implementing these reductions now, we strongly urge the General Assembly to maintain current funding until the Missouri Department of Mental Health and their actuarial contractor can conduct a thorough rate study later this year. We need your continued leadership in making sure the House Budget Committee understands the true impact of these cuts. Reducing funding for DD services will cause harm. These services are crucial for individuals with disabilities, and cutting them would only shift the financial burden to other areas.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN E OWENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Two and half years ago we began getting services for Grey through Self Directed Services. At the time, I didn't know what I would do with another person in the house. Your privacy disappears. Your dirty laundry (literal and figurative) is aired in front of someone else. And to be frank, we just didn't have our shit together, even after 12 years of dealing with Grey's disabilities. We were always exhausted, our bodies hurt from moving him, getting up and down off the ground constantly, dressing him, undressing him, brushing teeth, diapering, bathing, hoisting him in and out of cars, and then hoisting his wheelchair in and out of cars. etc. These are the caregiving duties that we expect of parents when their children are infants. But eventually that should wear down and come to a close, right? Well that wasn't our experience. At 12 years old, Grey still needed someone else to do all of those things.

My husband struggles with chronic depression. We deal with it, but it's another hard thing on the pile—he fatigues easily, can be irritable and quick to anger. I was walking on eggshells trying to mediate and referee between him and two children, one with severe disabilities and the other (my daughter) with anxiety, partly due to being a sibling to a brother with disabilities. It's hard and unfair that all the time and money goes to one child and not the other. When she was little, she asked me, "Would you love me more if I had a disability?" Can you imagine? Looking back now, my heart still breaks remembering her little voice and her very valid question. But at the time? I was angry that she could ever think such a thing. I was so low. My husband and I had nothing else to give, and yet everything we did have still had to go to Grey, because his needs were so great.

Finally, we couldn't do anything else but accept help. I felt humiliated and defeated, that after so long there was so little development. You can put on a smile (for a while) when in public, but as soon as you get home, it comes off. Disability affects everyone in the family, seeps into every nook and cranny of our lives. And you know the thing that keeps gnawing at us, day and night, and has for a decade? What happens when we die, and aren't here to help him anymore?

When speaking to Grey's support coordinator about what to do, we decided that self-directed services were likely a good fit for our family. We would be able to:

Interview potential candidates to work with him to see if they might be a good fit.

See if they could be comfortable in our home.

Customize goals that would benefit Grey so he could make progress in daily living activities, helping him toward greater independence.

Enter Genesis. God gave us Genesis. She's strong. She's responsible. She's patient. She's firm but flexible. She cares deeply about helping others achieve their potential. She's our miracle. I can't tell you how much we needed her. Genesis allowed us to breathe again. My sleep has gotten better. My

husband's mental health has improved. She allowed the two of us to start acting like parents, instead of caregivers. And both our children deserve that.

What you see in the pictures above: Smiling Grey is 1 year old, eyes crossed. What you don't see is that his body is stiff as a board, he spends most of his days (and nights screaming and arching in pain) and doesn't sleep through the night until he turns 2 years old and he is unable to speak any words until he turns three years old. Unable to sit up until he turns three years old. Doesn't crawl until he's five years old. So you see...everything takes so much longer. So much more time.

What you see in the pictures above. A family of 5 posing for a Christmas photo at the in-laws. What you don't see is that dad has stage 4 cancer, daughter's fingers are bleeding from picking her fingers raw from anxiety, mom is barely making it despite the smile. You don't see Grey's wheelchair that he uses because he doesn't stand or walk and you don't see the constant pool of drool because we just changed his clothes (again) and so much more. We are a constantly exhausted family. Even with the help we get from Self Directed Services. I can't imagine where we would be without it.

Just in case it needs to be said explicitly, "WE OPPOSE HB10 that proposes budget cuts to Self Directed Services." We need to work. If our services are cut and we can't find appropriate skilled care for Grey, we don't work. If we don't work, that means that we will be requesting MO services in a different way to support our food, healthcare, etc. I know that those who represent us want better than that for Missouri families.

Thank you for taking time to read a little of our family's story.
Erin Owens



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN GALLAGHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the caregiver of a child (Lucas) with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which his family oversees. I was interviewed and hired by his family and received a thorough training that was specific to his needs. Because of the trusting relationship I have built with the family, we are able to collaborate and problem solve as needed. I feel that my voice is valid and my contributions to his care are appreciated. I have developed a strong and positive relationship with Lucas, which is evident by his excitement to see me and willingness to engage and participate in tasks/activities with me. Through Self Directed Supports, Lucas is able to live a meaningful life at home and be a contributing member of the community.

With the proposed budget cuts, Lucas' family stands to lose qualified caregivers, as we cannot absorb this decrease in pay. His family will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. They may need to rely on agency services. Agencies across Missouri have struggled for years to hire and retain staff. Many cannot accept new clients, cannot fill shifts, or have stopped contracting with the Department of Mental Health altogether. If families lose employees because of these proposals, and agencies cannot replace them, the state is responsible for the consequences.

I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care should remain a priority.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN SUELMANN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-413-2784	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GATEWAY DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1201 HANLEY INDUSTRIAL CT., SUITE A			
CITY: BRENTWOOD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: erin@gatewaydsa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:29 PM	

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

As the Executive Director of the Gateway Down Syndrome Association, formerly the Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis, I am writing to express my deep concerns over proposed cuts to Developmental Disability services in the state budget. The GDSA serves over 2,000 individuals with Down syndrome in Missouri who now or will one day rely on DD services through the state. These cuts, in addition to Federal cuts to Medicaid will result in loss of independence, employment, and inclusion in the community. People may end up in inappropriate nursing home settings, or caregivers will be forced to quit their jobs. Furthermore, staff that are employed at DD organizations would loose their jobs. There is no possible way for organizations to make this funding up through fundraising. We do not want to go back to institutionalized settings, as was the case when my orgs was founded in 1976. The focus on cutting taxes when there is already not enough money in the Missouri budget and the fact that MO is among last in the country for so many vital services is bad for MO citizens. Please fund DD services so that families continue to be supported and to make Missouri a place that these families can and want to live.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ETHAN POLLAK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FAYE VANDENDAELE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 8:57 AM

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

My son is autistic and receives self directed services. He was in an ISL where he got no care and lived with roaches. Please support keeping self directed care and continuing to pay these hard working people appropriately. This allows people to stay in a caring environment with people that really care if they are alive or not. There is no agency in the middle getting fat like with a ISL.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANKIE HOTOP		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE, INC.		TITLE: SPECIAL NEEDS CASE MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 755 S. KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63703
EMAIL: frankie@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:16 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good Morning,

I am writing as a constituent and I am deeply concerned about the proposed FY27 budget cuts to these essential programs.

I have been working for a Non-Profit Independent Living Center called SADI (Semo Alliance for Disability Independence, Inc.) for 14 years. I came into this job with no experience in working with individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. I have come to Love and respect these wonderful people.

We started Day Hab approximately six years ago with only a few consumers. We have since grown to almost forty consumers. With Day Hab, the consumers learn about every day living. They learn to socialize and how to interact with their peers. Day Hab also gives them the opportunity to get to do things that they would not get to do at home. They go bowling, go to the parks, to the conservation center, Library, movies and so many more.

The proposed budget cuts to the 2027 fiscal year would cause drastic changes in the services that is provided. It could mean that family members would have to quit their jobs and stay home to take care of consumers.

I have watched many consumers learn so much while attending Day Hab. We have a lady who was one of our first consumer's to start. She would not talk to anyone and was very shy. She has come so far that now she actually helps and takes care of consumers. She is a Happy wonderful lady who sings and dances and talks to everyone now. I could go on and on about our amazing consumers but that is not the problem.

Please, I ask you today to speak with budget/appropriations leadership and to advocate on behalf of your constituents to NOT cut the budget.

Thank You for your time and consideration on this request. With all due respect, I urge you to vote NO on this bill and to discuss with your committee and the governor's office. This would have a huge impact on our communities and especially the disability.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FREDA LAVON HOLLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:36 PM

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

I am against reducing the funding of these programs. The idea this is even being considered is immoral to me.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GABRIEL CREWS HODILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Julia is a disabled 21 year old who cannot work due to autism and cognitive deficiencies. She needs constant supervision for safety. In spite of services provided for job coaching through Eastereals Midwest (heroes), her parents cannot find a job suitable for her. Her daily care at Developing Potential, Inc. (superheroes) in Lees Summit Missouri is essential to her daily life and basic needs. The funding for day care for her and those like her is not a sink hole, it is not excessive, it is essential. Of the Medicaid services that ought to be slashed, this is not one of them.

Respectfully,
Gabriel



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GAIL LUDWIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 2:15 PM

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

Cutting supports to adults with disabilities is cruel and dangerous. People with disabilities need assistance with their daily lives and struggle as it is. Cutting their funding is harmful.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GAIL PAYNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do not take funding away from disabled individuals. I am a single mother. My daughter has recently become eligible for this funding and she is finally, at 23 years old, been introduced to therapies and programs that are creating a huge difference in her life! Many people with disabilities do not thrive in "institutionalized" programs and/or surroundings. Many fall through the cracks as a result. Life is already a great challenge for them and those who care for them. If funding is cut, it will be devastating. I am a registered voter and I vote according to my and my daughter's best interests. Thank you for reading.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GAYBRIELLE CHINNERY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Gabby, and I am 37 years old. I am writing because I am very scared that someone might cut the pay for my SDS Medical Personal Assistants. I need you to know what they do for me every single day and why I cannot live safely without them.

My SDS Medical Personal Assistant is not a babysitter. They are hired by me, trained by my doctors and by me, and they do all the skilled work that keeps me healthy, safe, and able to live in my home. Without my SDS Med PA, I would have to have strangers I don't know and who don't know me try to help me, but I had that before, and it didn't work. Those people didn't understand me, didn't know how to help me, didn't know what I needed, and some of them were not nice to me. So without my SDS Med PA, I would have to move to a group home or live somewhere I don't want to live. Just because I need extra support to live, why does that mean I can't choose where I want to live or choose who helps me? That is not right.

WHAT MY SDS MEDICAL PA DOES FOR ME

1. Daily Health & Medical Care

- Helps me with all food and drinks, including planning, shopping, preparing, and making sure everything fits my dietary and medical needs like my Crohn's, Diabetes, and other conditions.
- Gives me all my medications correctly and charts everything.
- Helps me with hygiene, dental care, therapy routines, and seizure protocols.
- Watches for medical symptoms and responds if something goes wrong.

2. All Medical Appointments & Communication

I cannot drive, and my Med PA takes me everywhere I need to go. They take me to all of my doctor appointments, including my specialists like my Neurologist, Cardiologist, Endocrinologist, Ophthalmologist, my Dentist, and many more.

They don't just drive me — they go in with me and help me communicate, because sometimes people have a hard time understanding what I'm trying to say. My Med PA helps the doctors know what I mean, and they also help me understand what the doctors are saying, because doctors use a lot of medical words that I don't understand.

My Med PA also:

- Takes me to get my medicines from the pharmacy
- Helps me shop for household supplies and personal items
- Helps me understand medical instructions and follow them safely

3. Behavioral Health Support

- Helps me use coping skills when I feel confused, scared, or frustrated
- Helps me use sensory tools and therapy equipment
- Models safe and appropriate behavior for me to imitate

4. Communication Support

- Helps me communicate clearly with others
- Helps me learn boundaries
- Helps me use my phone, laptop, and technology to stay connected

5. Community Access & Safety

My Med PA takes me to:

- Special Olympics
- Shopping
- Activities, events, and places I want to go
- Community outings where I can be like other people

Just because I have challenges and medical issues doesn't mean I'm not human like everyone else. I still want to live my life.

But I need my Med PA with me in case something happens, like:

- A seizure
- A bad migraine
- Losing my balance and falling
- My blood sugar going too high or too low

My Med PA knows exactly what to do because they are trained by my doctors.

6. Home Safety & Daily Living

- Helps me keep my home clean, organized, and safe
- Helps with laundry, cleaning, and household tasks
- Protects me from accidents, strangers, and emergencies

7. Technology & SDS Employer Duties

- Helps me use my phone and laptop
- Helps me complete my SDS employer responsibilities
- Supports me with all of my medical technology, including my insulin, my Continuous

Glucose Monitor, my heart monitors, my apnea machine, my oxygen machine, my BiPAP machine, and other medical devices I need to stay safe and healthy

- Helps me stay safe with communication tools and technology

WHY I NEED THE SDS IDGS PROGRAM

I also do not want to lose the SDS IDGS program. IDGS helps pay for things I need that I cannot get anywhere else. These items can help me stay healthy, safe, and able to meet my ISP Goals and be more independent.

I also want the IDGS program to help pay for community access expenses, because I need those supports to meet my Goals for Community Integration. Without IDGS, I would not be able to participate in activities, events, or opportunities that help me be part of my community like everyone else.

MY SDS MED PAs GET NO BENEFITS

My SDS Med PAs do not get:

- No paid time off
- No vacation days
- No sick days
- No health insurance
- No retirement
- No benefits at all

They also have to pay all the expenses for using their own car to drive me everywhere I need to go. Cutting their pay when they already get no benefits will make them quit, and then I will lose the only people who know how to keep me safe.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I LOSE MY MEDICAL PA

If the pay gets cut and my Med PA has to quit, I will not be safe.

I will not be able to:

- Manage my medical needs
- Go to my doctors
- Take my medications correctly
- Stay safe in the community
- Live in my home
- Keep my independence
- Participate in Special Olympics or activities I love

I am very afraid of losing my helpers. Without them, I could get very sick, get hurt, or end up somewhere I don't want to live.

**Please do not cut the pay for SDS Medical PAs. They keep me alive, safe, and able to live my life with dignity.
Thank you for listening to me.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GENA TERLIZZI		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-7727	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NAMI MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3405 W TRUMAN BLVD #102			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: gena@namimissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has allowed NAMI Missouri to provide no-cost, family and peer-led education, support, and training services to thousands of individuals and families to help them understand mental illness, navigate complex systems, and remain engaged in treatment and recovery. For decades this funding has been competitively bid. These services have consistently served Missourians who have limited access to affordable, reliable mental health information and support, particularly families, caregivers, mental health care providers, parents, military families, and individuals in rural and underserved communities.

We respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130), which includes:

- Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
- Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
- Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GEORGANNE LUMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:29 PM

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This bill will cost the state more money and the quality of care will decrease.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GEORGIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

SDS Self Directed Support Budget Cut Real Family Impact

The Mueller family is visiting you today to express concerns about the proposed recommendations to significantly cut the already efficient budgets for Missouri citizens with Developmental Disabilities, who deliberately choose to "Self-Direct" their supports, with the help of their families, in favor of the preservation and expansion of the budgets of our counterparts, developmental disability provider agencies. The purpose of Self-Directed Supports, according to the DMH Department of Developmental Disabilities:

"Persons with a DD waiver who live in their own home or with family may choose to Self-Directed Supports (SDS). SDS gives more choice and control over supports." Source <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/programs/self-directed-supports>

Notice, the beneficiary of this service is supposed to be the PERSON with a DD, not agencies seeking to profit.

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS LETS YOU BE IN CHARGE

·Employment authority allows you to recruit, hire, train, manage, supervise, schedule and terminate your employee(s).

·Budget authority allows you flexibility over managing your yearly budget allocation. For example, you may request that more services be authorized in one month and less in another as long as you stay within your annual authorized budget.

Source DMH-DD at <https://dmh.mo.gov/media/pdf/self-directed-supports-brochure>

In addition, the 9 CSR 45-2—DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH pg.6 specifies (All Medicaid waiver and SDS participants had to meet this criteria already.)

1. To be considered for access (to an HCBS waiver) based on a crisis (which tends to be the only way people get waivers these days due to lack of enough funded slots), an individual must be experiencing one (1) of the following:

A. Health and safety conditions pose a serious risk of immediate harm or death to the individual or others;

B. Loss of primary caregiver support or change in caregiver's status to the extent the caregiver cannot meet needs of the individual; or (eventually everyone succumbs to this.)

C. Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the individual.

By definition, anyone who has a Medicaid waiver has already met 1 or more of these thresholds, which

are also used to measure safety and security risks. As the budgets to support the services that work best for each individual shrink, so does the efficacy of the safety net (waivers with service choices including Self Directed Support) that was created to solve the challenges these individuals and their long-suffering families face.

The families of individuals with DD have already sacrificed ALL. A typical example (my family), started when my son was diagnosed with profound, non-speaking autism at the age of 2. Next, we began having to make decisions that seriously impacted our opportunities to support our family. His support needs were and are still so significant that he had to be within arm's reach of a trained, aware adult at all times if he was awake and when he was not awake we still stayed half awake to hear if he was up and possibly in danger. Now he has a seizure disorder so we're extremely vigilant.

While both my husband and I have master's degrees that were pursued and earned before having children, neither of us could gain the support and traction needed to work in our degreed fields of practice. We took turns being the 'stay at home caregiver' and working part time jobs that we were overqualified for. Usually, we just got by and in my case, I changed fields to a job where I could further support my son's needs while earning a living. We have been chronically underpaid and under employable in our chosen fields, thus a very low tax bracket as well. We were in debt until Caleb turned 25 and we paid off a \$77K home over 26 years of refinancing. Eventually, we were able to catch up, which is crucial since my husband is now 64 and I am 58. Thankfully, I can continue working and will do so as long as I possibly can.

My husband is the full-time caregiver and is finally able to be paid enough to start saving for long-term care and retirement, if we ever get a few moments of that. At this point we are grateful to be able to earn approximately \$66,560 a year caring for our son while I continue to do the work of the Designated Representative at an average of 10 hours a week, still uncompensated. We do have to pay for our health insurance through the ACA marketplace. At least I can operate a private consulting business utilizing the skills I have gained, due to my son's needs. I have never had the opportunity to return to my original career and neither has my husband. In general, we have the best adult life we've ever had and are grateful. While things could have turned out more fruitful, at least my son is getting what he needs. On the other hand, a pay cut like we are facing (for Self-Directed Support only BTW. Agencies got ANOTHER raise – that they did not pass on to their employees.), would amount to approximately a 29.5% decrease, specific to how our rate as a parent caregiver is calculated.

Can you imagine being forced to accept a \$18,969 annual cut for no reason, even though you are the best quality person to do the work and the person who will cause NO turnover or costs associated with that?!?!?! Your presence is likely the reason your individual is not living in an institutional setting. They have a good life and can remain with their family, who is earning enough to keep a decent roof over the family's head.

Can you imagine that the current cost of your individual's support is already \$85,000 less than it would cost for him to be served by an agency equivalent. If he were forced to go to an institutionalized setting to live it would cost the state an additional \$202,000 compared to what it currently costs to support him in his home. Why in the world would the state make such cost-inefficient decisions? It makes me wonder if there is something discriminatory or biased occurring. None of this makes sense. The key purpose of a Medicaid waiver, according to the rationale the state used to establish Medicaid waivers to begin with, is that a waiver is supposed to support a person to stay in their community since it is less costly to the state than a 24/7 institutionalized setting, (\$7596/month) which is what my son with ASD-3, seizures, non-speaking would qualify for. The state needs to go back to their calculators, the original regulations, their own principles and their agreements with CMS – Center for Medicaid Services, to be sure they are staying in line with those original commitments.

If the goal is to cut costs, this will backfire. SDS families are caring for the highest need individuals – those with scores of 5/5 MAAS and 12/12 PON. We have already absorbed as much of a cut as we can handle and keep our commitments. If our rates are cut many of us will be forced to take a more lucrative external job in order to simply afford to attempt to live as long as possible and then pay for our bills to die. Let's be honest about the cost of living in our country/state at present. Our family of 2 working adults and 1 dependent (who does come with SSI at \$11,952/year) needs to generate a minimum of \$105K gross annually just to cover the minimum expenses. Through SDS we aren't covered for things like life insurance, health insurance, or retirement savings, PTO – all items that are also not offered to any of our other SDS employees.

A typical family's scenario:

\$66,560 – SDS staff – father max income from SDS full time

\$20,000 – Mom's self-employment gross after expenses

\$11,952 – SSI payments for person with disability

\$78,532 Total family cash flow

\$105,000 suggested gross needed for minimum expenses per www.livingwage.mit.edu

-\$26,468 Shortfall already occurring
Support Comparison Options

Need Level	Group Home/ ISL	Intense Hab	Host/ Shared living	PA-Agency costs*
	PA-SDS-current costs	1.26*	Loaded Rates (pre-expenses, overhead, benefits	

and PROFIT)
Agency \$39/hour

SDS \$33/hour

Highest	\$787K	\$395K	n/a	\$355K	\$289K	Highest - including
medical, mobility support, 24/7 line of sight, 1:1 required.						
Medium	\$787K	\$395K	\$234K	\$278K	\$193K	Medium - need waking
hours covered, line of sight, 1:1, behavior support						
Lower	n/a	n/a	\$234K	\$142K	\$120K	Lower - need sporadic
support through out the day. Can be alone for some time. Support to be more independent.						

Based on the most recent rates published here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/media/file/plannin-and-utilization-review-ur-resource-tool>

Per the data provided by DMH-DD in the above UR Planning Tool link, you will notice that in no case is the cost to provide services under SDS more expensive than an agency option. To clarify, the base expense to the state per hour (loaded rate before taxes, overhead and benefits are drawn off), agencies can pull as much as \$39/hour. SDS users have \$33/hour to use. Various PA options are significantly different in face value pay rates. We're asking to utilize the still efficient rate that matches PA-Agency and at the very least, to keep PA-SDS at the current rate. When you analyze further the difference between the most expensive Group Home/ISL option vs. PA-SDS the difference is a staggering 59% savings for those using SDS-PA at the current rate!!!!

Each level of care will generally support the same client's needs at a huge price differential. Yet, these families just want to keep their loved ones at home with them as long as possible. If they're forced to take jobs outside of the house, the state may be forced to accept and serve many of these individuals as early as 18 years of age when their placement could have been delayed till their parents were unable to continue managing their staff – a potential 30-40 year difference at these enormous cost differentials, as required if the state chooses to favor agencies over families.

Please do the math, not just for today but for the long-term financial health of our state and our families.

Reducing our rates by such a small amount is petty and will significantly impact the approximately 3600 families who are efficiently executing the job at a much lower cost to the state than anyone else in Missouri.

Would the state ever award a contract to a higher cost, less effective bidder?

That would be a serious misuse of public assets and resources. Please don't accidentally endorse an ill-informed investment that will do major damage to this critical infrastructure system, all for very little short-term gain.

Missouri has an average turnover rate for typical DSP's (agency employed not SDS) of approximately 57-60.4% across a year. Parents and other family members don't generally leave until they are unable to continue to do the work. I would like to get turnover rates for Missouri's SDS program but have not been able to locate that information. Maybe you can get them to share that with you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GERI CUTILLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:21 AM

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Adults with disabilities are making great strides because of the support and research that is now available. To cut this funding would be to cut their access to their American Dream.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GINA RUTH COFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:16 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Gina Coffman and I am a lifelong Missouri resident. I am a certified pediatric nurse and mother of three children adopted from Missouri's foster care system.

Two of my children, Shelbie and Teegan, rely daily on Missouri SDS and day habilitation programs. When we first adopted our son Teegan, who is profoundly disabled, we were not aware of how difficult it would be to find after-school care for him. We were so naive. We quickly learned after-school programs and daycares were a hard no, Teegan was too much work.

The few months we had agency after-school care in our home were horrific. Agency workers that we had personally vetted with a meet-and-greet would suddenly quit and next we knew a stranger would be in our home. We'd have to beg relatives to fill in numerous times a month when the agency would call and say no one was coming. Agency workers were impersonal and struggled to build rapport with Teegan. One smoked in our bathroom. We switched agencies but there was no improvement. Teegan's tantrums increased due to the stress of inconsistent care. The only solution was for one of us to work and the other to be home for Teegan.

We spent nearly 10 years of our working lives with only one income because of the difficulties of finding childcare for Teegan.

Only in the last year, through the blessing of SDS, my spouse and I now have enough childcare coverage to hold two full time jobs. Our employee, Mr. Joseph Stryka, is reliable, unwaveringly cheerful and treats Teegan with love and dignity. He is able to take Teegan swimming, to equine therapy, or out for a drive around the lake. They go on e-bike rides in the afternoon which Teegan adores.

Teegan is not easy. He regularly soils 3-4 outfits a day. He needs to be accompanied to the restroom every hour. He has unpredictable tantrums in our home and out in the community. He has a feeding disorder and his caregiver has to follow him around the house with a spoon to encourage him to eat. Mr. Stryka deserves a pay rate which reflects his professional, detailed and person-centered work. Mr. Stryka deserves a pay rate which is a liveable wage and helps make up for the lack of benefits, especially health insurance, which SDS does not provide.

Cuts to SDS will be devastating for our family. If Mr. Stryka cannot continue in his role, it is unlikely we will find someone who is willing to do such demanding work at a significantly lower rate. We will have to go back to one income, back to living almost paycheck to paycheck.

We are a hardworking Missouri family who have dedicated our lives to caring for these children. I beg you to not pass HB 2010.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GLENDA KEETEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a DR for someone who would never be able to live the life he has if it wasn't for his PA. His PA is his mother. She has been unable to work outside of the home, because who would take care of her son? Who would care for him? He is blind, has seizures, has other health conditions and is in a wheelchair a big part of the day, yet is able to stay in his home where he is familiar. He has learned to heat up his own food or make a sandwich, he makes choices about what to eat and what to wear. He does laundry, folds his clothes, makes his bed, and his favorite thing, loading and unloading the dishwasher. He is active in his community, going to hear local bands, going to dinner with friends, goes to the movies, going shopping, bowls with Special Olympics, all with help from his PA.

A reduction in pay is not sustainable. It is impossible for people to live off of the suggested cut in pay. If there is a cut in pay, the PA's will quit. Where would these individuals be if their PA's quit? Nursing homes? Well we all know what happens there, they are some of the lowest paid workers out there. They are the people taking care of the generation before them who made this country, yet they get paid minimum wage. Disgraceful! This is a serious risk! What experiences would individuals get in a nursing home....NONE.

I also have a friend who has three adult children that use this program. She has them in programs that normally they would not be able to be in if she would have to go to work outside of the home. I can't imagine how this family would be changed if these cuts go through.

Do any of you have special needs people in your lives? I myself have a disabled sister. When she was born the doctor said to put her in an institution, she will never amount to anything. Thankfully, my parents weren't having that. She graduated from college, lives on her own and now even helps take care of our mother. You don't just give up on people.

Why is it that you can give people an increase in pay one year and try to take it away a few years later when they are taking care of people. People matter. These are peoples lives and now they will be at risk if this rate cut happens .

Do better!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GLENDA PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 9:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

How can you deny this family assistance? They deserve so much more than a few hours. If only you would walk in their shoes for just one day, maybe then you could begin to understand how important the few hours of help means. They have a community that cares for them. I wish our state and representatives cared too!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRACE ELAINE DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Grace Davis and I am an attorney in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Our firm has been impacted by the pending HB2010 bill. Our front desk secretary, (Donna) who fields all our calls, handles our litigation summaries, and handles several firm business tasks has had to turn in her resignation on 2/8/26 because she will have to take full time care of her brother who has dementia and downs syndrome. Her husband will now be their sole income for three adults, one with very special needs. The elimination of the Missouri caregiver program funds and assistive technology and respite has made it so that, in conjunction with losing day-care services, Donna cannot both work and care for her poor brother. This is very frustrating as a small business owner. Finding good staff is very difficult, and training up new staff takes time and money. In the meantime we are having to pay a temp staffer, and pay many of our other staff overtime to cover the tasks that Donna did. This budget proposal, when it comes to the Missouri Caregiver program, is not just bad for the caregivers, it is bad for rural and local economies and small businesses. Please, do not cut the program.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GREG KAPPELMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Our journey began ten years ago when our daughter was diagnosed with SPATA5, a rare genetic disorder that causes severe seizures, blindness, deafness, and total physical dependence. She uses a feeding tube, is confined to a wheelchair, cannot communicate, and requires constant care. Since her diagnosis, our family has endured countless doctor visits, emergency room trips, ambulance rides, and surgeries. It has taken a tremendous emotional and physical toll, often leaving us questioning why our child will never experience the simple joys of life.

Caring for our daughter is a full-time responsibility that requires immediate and extended family support, as well as nurses and SDS staff—support that is critical due to the ongoing nursing shortage affecting families like ours. Every day begins with fear and vigilance: monitoring oxygen levels, identifying seizures, deciding whether to administer rescue medication, and determining if an ambulance is needed. We must work to provide for her medical needs, but we cannot do this without help. Every day is a constant struggle and, at times, a nightmare.

I will never hear my daughter say “Hi Dad,” feel her hug me, or watch her grow into adulthood. Still, I will do everything in my power to ensure she is safe, cared for, and medically supported. The fear of her not making it through the night—due to seizures, vomiting, or aspiration—is overwhelming. What gets us through is the support of SDS staff. They give our family the ability to live, work, and provide for our daughter while knowing she is safe, loved, and properly cared for.

The SDS staff have become part of our family. They are lifesavers—just as essential as her medication. They notice changes we might miss and provide the care that allows us to keep going. If these proposed SDS budget cuts pass, they will devastate our family and many others. We cannot do this alone. Without this support, families will be forced into impossible decisions: quitting jobs or draining paychecks to cover care out of pocket—something many simply cannot afford. The physical, mental, and financial strain would be unbearable.

We are asking you to listen. We are asking you to put yourselves in our shoes and imagine having a critical part of your child’s safety taken away. This is not the place to make budget cuts. Removing funding that saves children and supports families is not the answer—it will only create deeper crises. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

The Father of Sophia Kappelmann



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HAILEY CHRISTINE MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
It is unfair to families who are affected			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HAILEY QUINN MCLENDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 4:31 PM
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I work through SDS. This is my job, this is how I support my family. I love the individual I work with. I love that I get to help them and their family by providing much needed services. With me working for them they're able to take much needed breaks and get things done. This economy is so hard and this will just make things worse. More families will suffer by not being able to work.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HALEY SIMMONS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:08 PM

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Hold services harmless. Cuts hurt families and caregivers, cuts hurt lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH DITTRICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:10 AM
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My concern for the missouri budget is that the Governor provided a huge tax break for capital gains, and taking funding away from intellectually disabled individuals, including children. This is disturbing, as intellectual disabled individuals as these are the most vulnerable population in our state. As a mother of a child with down syndrome and having to fight for her meer existence... just as an example, she is three years old, non verbal and we were advised that speech therapy and additional physical therapy was not in the budget for early intervention. This is concerning, as the best possible outcome for these children is early intervention... they CAN WORK AND BE A PRODUCTIVE INDIVIDUAL. THE GOVENOR IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WEALTHY, VS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LITTLE TO NO OPTIONS DUE TO SOCIAL SECURITY LIMITATIONS.... OUR MEDICAID WAIVER IS ONE OF THE WORST IN THE COUNTRY... (WE experienced some extreme financial hardships PAYING 20% of HER MEDICAL BILLS INCLUDING HEART SURGERY AT 10 DAYS OLD). Between the 20% and catastrophic cap with a medically complex child is extremely difficult for almost any middle class families. THE MEDICAID WAIVER WAITING LIST WAS NEARLY 5 YEARS LONG... WE JUST HAVE SOME SERIOUS PRIORY ISSUES TO CONSIDER WHEN COMING UP WITH THE BUDGET, AND THE MOST VULNERABLES BUDGET SHOULDN'T BE PENTALIZED FOR A DECISION THAT WAS MADE BY OUR STATE, TO THE WEALTHIEST INDIVIDUALS. This seems completely unfair to medically complex and intellectually disabled children.

Missouri gives 'one of the biggest millionaire tax cuts' this year, report says

This year, Missouri became the first state in the country to tax income but not capital gains. That could present a challenge as the state prepares to face a budget shortfall.

Avatar photoby Ceilidh Kern

Missouri statehouse reporter

ceilidh@thebeacon.media

October 28, 2025



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH WINGO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 1:36 PM
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I am opposed to cuts to personal assistant pay rates within Self-Directed Supports for individuals with disabilities.

My 11-year-old son Gage lives with severe disabilities and epilepsy. It is a unique privilege to be his parent and witness the beautiful and brutal parts of this life. We're blessed to have Gage as part of our family and living in our home. One thing that makes this possible is Self-Directed Supports.

Since 2021, Gage has received Personal Assistant services in our home, which support his well being in so many ways. He has the help needed for daily living tasks and has a degree of independence he otherwise would not. He's able to be safely supervised by trusted adults who know exactly what to do in case of an emergency. The love and care he has received has been top notch. We're so grateful to have discretion and autonomy in finding the best fit of those caring for Gage. Fair compensation for individuals filling this role fosters loyalty from our employees and continuity in Gage's extremely specialized care.

Cuts to Self-Directed Supports will make maintaining good care at home for Gage and others like him exponentially harder. Please consider families like ours when making important decisions about the budget and please oppose cuts to Self-Directed Supports. Sometimes it feels like all the odds are stacked against us. Self-Directed is one area where things are actually working really well, offering help we absolutely need. I plead with you to remember the human component and what's at stake if a population hit hardest by cutbacks are those in the disabled community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HEARLAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:54 PM
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The the members of the House Appropriations Committee,
My 35 year old son Micah Bacuse died by suicide 7 years ago this month. He died WAITING for counseling services because the list was so long.

NAMI--National Alliance on Mental Illness was the only agency to offer support and help before and after my son's death.

People who have ADULT loved ones with serious mental health challenges are left out in the cold, with no help , no support because agencies can bill for those services.

NAMI has a statewide reach to Missourian's all over our state in cities and tiny towns. There are no other agencies who do this on such a small budget and so effectively. The less the \$250,000 you propose cutting can quickly equal the cost of treating ONE person with serious mental illness.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

--Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

--Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

In honor of my late son's life, I ask you to please restore the funding so we can continue to help families of ANYONE who has a mental illness. NO ONE SHOULD FACE A MENTAL ILLNESS ALONE>
Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER LEIGH LEWIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am submitting my testimony regarding HB2010. I am in opposition to the cuts outlined in this bill.

I am a direct care staff for 5 individuals currently, and in my 3 years of self directed service I've assisted 8 different individuals. I love my job for several reasons. I enjoy spending time with these individuals and their family and friends. I love seeing them make progress on their outcomes. I am honored to give relative caregivers a much deserved break or the opportunity to work. I have been blessed to learn so much while working in this position. My life has been forever changed by the relationships I've built and I'm genuinely concerned about what these cuts will do to the individuals I work for, their families, and myself. This job can be fun and full of joy, but it can also be really hard and exhausting work. This job comes with no benefits package but it comes with the benefit of positive human interaction and helping others live their best life. I have two individuals who are able to live independently in their apartments because they have my assistance throughout the week. I have parents of individuals who have gotten to run errands and attend doctor's appointments because I was there to provide care while they were gone. I assist with everything from bathing to budgeting, and from community outings to cleaning up a mess. The care provided is outlined in each individual's support plan which is unique to each person. I've worked for the Department of Mental Health in several roles over the last 19 years, and this type of one on one work through self directed services is one of the best programs I've been a part of so far. Making cuts and changing rules about this program might save the state dollars in one way, but it will have a much greater cost in other ways. If any of these individuals lose their caregivers due to these pay cuts and rule changes, they might have to look into nursing home care or living in Individualized Supported Living with 24 hour staff in a home other than their natural home. I was a Support Coordinator prior to this and let me tell you, some of the budgets I've seen were in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to a million dollars just for one individual for one year. Aside from the cost, the real downfall in either of those options is typically poorly trained staff, a high turnover rate, and staff that the individual did not get to choose and who might not be a good fit for them.

In state budget cuts I know it can be difficult to see past the number of dollars that have to come from somewhere, but I plead with our budget committee to please look for other places to find these dollars. If funds can be reallocated from another source please consider the lives affected by this bill. I read that there are at least 3500 individuals receiving self directed services in Missouri, but multiple that by their number of family members and staff that will also be affected negatively by these cuts. Think of how many fewer dollars there will be going back into the economy.

I want to keep working for my individuals and their families, but I deserve to continue to make what I do

now and not receive a pay cut that's no fault of my own. My individuals also don't deserve a service cut at no fault of their own.

Thank you
Heather Lewis
Springfield MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER UPTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 5:07 PM
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My son has autism and uses sds services to live in his family home where he is safe and comfortable and he also uses sds services to be out in his community. Without these services our family would have to make some tough decisions. SDs services are financially so much better for tax payers and the individuals who use sds services. Institutions are far more expensive than sds services and not what's best for the individuals. Cutting pay will result in families losing caregivers . It also isn't fair to change it to POA or payee of SSI can't be employees. It's bad enough that they can't be guardians. It's discriminating against single parents. I am an employee for my son but also his payee. If this passes I will have to put my oldest son as the payee. I can't work a normal job, I have to be available at all times in case Chase needs me. I have heard some of the legislators talk about natural unpaid resources. Chase uses 35 hours a week of sds and 25 hours a week of day program. That leaves 108 hours that his natural unpaid resources are caring for him. He can never be left unattended. My son deserve to be living a happy fulfilled life at home not locked up in an institution.



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY LEWSADER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:18 PM
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Hello, my adult son has received self-directed services since he was a teenager. If this bill passes & the budget is cut, he will not be able to obtain staff that assist him with being independent in society. Due to having self-directed services & staff he has been able to live on his own, obtain a part-time job, & go out in the community. If self-directed services are cut due to the passing of this bill. He might have to move & not live independently.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOWARD WATSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 3:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a parent of a 25 year old so. Who is non verbal and has limited capabilities this will have a huge negative impact on our family. Our son is not prepared to community living so we are all he has. My wife is his care provider and with the proposed cuts she will need to take a 2nd job and so will I. How does this. Help Damion the same situation?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: INESS PANNI		PHONE NUMBER: 636-448-7199	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD, INC		TITLE: VP OF HEALTH SERVICES, PONY BIRD, INC, JEFFERSON C	
ADDRESS: 1615 VINE SCHOOL ROAD			
CITY: HERCULANEUM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63048
EMAIL: iness@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Iness Panni, I am a Registered Nurse, and a lifelong Missourian. I am Vice President of Health Services for Pony Bird in Jefferson County. We (along with providers across the state) serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our mission is simple - to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities! Pony Bird's services help people with a wide range of developmental disabilities to live happy and meaningful lives. Most importantly, they are among YOUR most vulnerable constituents and need your wholehearted support. The cuts you are proposing in your budget will have devastating impacts to people with IDD who rely on you to care about them as you would care for your own family members. As an advocate for people who cannot fully advocate for themselves, I'm asking you to use your jobs as elected servants for all Missourians (paid for by our taxes) to support Missourians with developmental disabilities! Thank you in advance.



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ISABELLA KENT		PHONE NUMBER: 636-535-3713	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1512 RUE REGINA			
CITY: BONNE TERRE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63628
EMAIL: ikent@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:54 PM

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Pony Bird is a nonprofit organization that serves many individuals and families with disabilities in the Jefferson County area. Ponybird has been voted as best nonprofit organization in the county because of the amazing work that is done. However, this work cannot be done as well if we see the proposed budget cuts go into action. Hundreds of families and individuals with disabilities will lose services or quality of services if these budget cuts are approved. No one should live their life in fear of lack of care.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACOB PAUL ZLOTOPOLSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:38 PM

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These cuts will impact the disabled and their care givers. This group relies on the support provided by tax payers. As a tax payer I am happy to foot the bill to provide a healthy and happy life for the disabled and their care givers. My family has a member with Down Syndrome and this will directly impact our quality of life. Do not pass these cuts. Do not take from those who need our support the most.



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAIME HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAIME SQUIRES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 5:56 PM
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My 17-year old daughter has a rare chromosome deletion (2% diagnosed in the world!), and lives with global developmental delays, quadriplegia, epilepsy, and chronic respiratory disease requiring in-home intermittent oxygen therapy. She is non-ambulatory, fed exclusively through a G-tube, has a tracheostomy, given a multitude of prescriptions, and requires 24/7 care from us her parents and dedicated, qualified aides. State-funded, self-directed services—paid at competitive rates but without benefits—make it possible to staff this level of care safely in our home. This support allows my husband and me to work outside the home and maintain private health insurance for our family. Cutting these services would not reduce state costs for individuals receiving services from SDS PCAs; it would force preventable hospitalizations, increased emergency care, or institutional placement, shifting far greater costs onto the state while destabilizing medically necessary care that is currently being delivered in the most fiscally responsible setting.

The current model is working. Our daughter is safe at home and our family remains employed and insured. However, cuts to caregiver wages would undermine this success. Reducing benefit-free wages will lead to turnover in a workforce that requires specialized skills and consistency. If HB 10 passes, we risk losing the dedicated, qualified aides who know our daughter's complex medical needs, forcing disruptions in care and increasing reliance on emergency services and other state-funded systems. Preserving competitive wages is essential to maintaining a program that is both medically effective and fiscally responsible. Thank you for your consideration in opposing this bill that will negatively affect some of the most medically vulnerable citizens who didn't ask for these life altering diagnoses and disabilities.



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES D. MYERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I do not personally use services provided for individuals with disabilities, I do have family members who use these benefits. Because of that, I see first hand how these services are greatly needed. I truly believe that cutting these dollars from the States budget will actually be both an increased cost and detriment to the State of Missouri. One of these costs would be an increased monetary burden on many, many families already living on the edge of self-sufficiency (i.e. an increased burden upon the state in the form of families would need other Missouri benefits such as SNAP funds just to survive).

Even with current budget problems, Missouri cannot afford to reduce benefits to our disabled citizens. Please do not cut funds from disabled, Missouri residents but search hard for dollars being spent on things that do not directly affect people, people in need and with no place else to turn. No place else!

Thank you for your time and trouble.

James Myers
Email: disciple1@live.com
Cellphone: 816-769-6490



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES METZENTHIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My family has two members receiving Self Directed Services. Without these services my sons would needs would be met with providers at a greater cost to Missouri.
SDS PAs' hourly wage should not be reduced.
It is hard finding PAs as is much less if psy is reduced



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 2:09 PM
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I am providing testimony as the father of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which our family oversees. We have been fortunate to interview, hire, and train our caregivers through this program, as our son would not be eligible to receive care through an agency due to maladaptive behaviors. We have been able to provide them with direct, thorough training needed to work with our son. The turnover rate of our caregivers has been extremely low and once hired, we have been fortunate to retain them for up to 3 years (college students moving on to pursue employment in their field). Additionally, our caregivers report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with our son. The feeling is mutual, as he is cared for consistently by individuals willing to listen, learn, support, and advocate for his needs. He often asks when he will see them again and is so excited when they arrive. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily living. Further, my son has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, our employees will take a wage cut of 25-30%. We will lose our qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. Under Self Directed Supports, we are already unable to provide overtime, paid time off, insurance, mileage, etc. With this cut, they will not be able to support themselves and/or family. I predict we will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. Without these supports and qualified caregivers available, my wife or I will need to leave our employment to care for our son and no longer be a contributing taxpayer in the State of Missouri.

I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care for our loved ones should be the future of healthcare. We should not be moving backwards.

Respectfully,

James Smith

10065 Stonell Drive

St. Louis, MO 63123



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE M KAPPELMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Jamie Kappelmann and I am Sophia's mom. I'm here today not as a policy expert, but as a mother who lives every day knowing her child's life depends on the services you are considering cutting.

Sophia is medically fragile. She cannot speak for herself. She cannot protect herself. She cannot tell me when something feels wrong. Every single day, I wake up with one goal: keep my daughter safe, alive, and at home. The only way I can do that is with the support of Missouri's home and community-based services.

When I hear that HB2010 proposes eliminating or cutting these services, what I hear is this: families like mine are being asked to absorb the risk. Risk that leads to seizures unmanaged, emergencies delayed, caregivers exhausted, and children ending up in emergency rooms or institutions—not because it was medically necessary, but because support was taken away.

Please understand this clearly: cutting disability services does not save money. It simply delays the bill until it is much larger—and much more tragic.

Eliminating services like Individual Directed Goods & Services and Community Specialist Services strips families of the very tools that keep our children stable and safe in their homes. These supports prevent emergencies. They prevent regressions. They prevent crises. Without them, independence disappears and reliance on the most expensive Medicaid services increases.

Rate cuts to Day Habilitation, Self Directed Personal Assistants, Medical Exceptions, and Team Conferences don't just trim budgets—they collapse the workforce. The people who care for our children already earn far too little for work that is physically demanding, emotionally exhausting, and deeply skilled. When rates are cut, staff leave. When staff leave, services stop. And when services stop, families fall apart.

At that point, parents are forced into impossible choices:

Do I quit my job and lose our income and insurance?

Do I leave my child without safe care?

Do I wait until something goes wrong and call 911?

Those are not theoretical outcomes. That is what happens when community supports disappear.

And there is another consequence you must consider. These cuts place Missouri at risk of violating federal HCBS compliance requirements. That risk does not end quietly. It leads to corrective action plans, heightened federal oversight, potential DOJ involvement, and jeopardized federal matching funds. Those consequences are expensive, time-consuming, and completely avoidable.

This bill also hits rural Missouri the hardest. In rural areas, there are fewer providers, fewer workers, and fewer alternatives. When services are reduced, there is no backup plan. Families are simply left alone—isolated and unsupported.

As a mother, I am asking you to pause and reconsider this path.

If changes must be made, there are better options:

- **Delay implementation until an actuarial review is completed**
- **Require the Department of Mental Health and Division of Developmental Disabilities to provide true cost modeling that includes ER visits, hospitalizations, and crisis placements**
- **Partially restore targeted services and rates that prevent higher cost care**

Please do not balance Missouri's budget by taking away the services that keep vulnerable children alive, safe, and at home. These cuts will cost more in the long run—financially, legally, and humanly.

I ask you to oppose HB2010 unless it is amended to protect these essential services. Families like mine are counting on you.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Sophia's Mom

Wentzville, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE SCROGGINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 5:35 PM

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

My son relies on day habilitation services for learning, life, skills, community involvement, behavioral therapy. His routine is so much more. It also allows me as his caregiver to go to work. Please do not cut the budget for the services. They are so needed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAN HAINES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:22 AM

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

I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the Day Program for my disabled son - it is so important we keep the funding and also provide good wages for the workers who keep our disabled adults/children active in the community - and safe. It is vital to keep the funding and even increase the funding as there is a wait list for programs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAN WITHERWAX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has better helped me understand my ill family members and helped me to feel I am not alone in navigating treatment including medication for my loved ones. Resources have been provided. Ideas and strategies have been shared to support loved ones in their journey to recovery and doing the best they can. Please know that mental illness is like any disease that needs recognition, diagnosis, treatment and ongoing support. Those of us who have ill family members are on the front line every day providing services that cannot be duplicated by any agency -- providing the support to make an agency, doctor or hospital effective to our family members. Family to Family reaches to the core of what we do day to day. For example, we are given real life sensing of what it is like to experience "voices" that are similar to what a loved one lives with when suffering from schizophrenia. Valuable insight is provided to others living with family members and sharing what has improved or worked well in approaching our ill family. Healthcare professionals need mental health training to best assist their patients.

I ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

*Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY 27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

*Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

*Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANE A HOLLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). The services affected by any budget cuts actually save the state money in the long run. Those services also help individuals live more independently. Quit planning on cutting taxes and allow people in need of these services to get them. For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANE LEAHY-SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please listen and understand that behind those waiver numbers are families whose safety and independence depend on this program, making it more than just a line item or a policy.

This is our FAMILY- blended through adoption from foster care and biological. Six of our children are currently in SDS. Because of our long experience in this program and in agency-based services, I would like to share several observations and our experience across all programs.

DMH waiver programs and support are vital to our five adult children and youngest for health, safety, and community participation. Our family's long experience with SDS, starting with our son 'D' in 2009, shows how these programs genuinely help families like ours stay connected and achieve their goals. Your support can truly make a difference in families' lives. The thought of cutting SDS, or the proposed restrictive CSR changes to several areas, has put our family in fight-or-flight mode.

We urge policymakers to support policies that preserve and expand SDS, ensuring families like ours have reliable, flexible options for care in their communities and at home. Protecting these services is essential for the stability and safety of families across Missouri. Clarifying how SDS is funded and its long-term sustainability, including specific financial strategies, can reassure policymakers that this vital program will continue to serve families effectively and Missouri stakeholders as the best and most cost-effective option, while providing individuals with the needed support tailored to their needs and goals.

Facts & common misunderstandings

1) Most people, including families like ours, face challenges because many agencies are not required to serve or assist everyone, creating a shared sense of concern and urgency for better support systems.

My son can be excluded from services because of his diabetes and insulin dependency.

SDS accommodates complex medical needs, such as diabetes management, including making care adaptable to a wide range of health and behavioral conditions, ensuring safety and personalized support for all participants.

2) A lot of day programming is based on staffing ratios of 1 paid DSP to 5 or more

individuals. Many waiver participants do not fit into these ratios.

The biggest issue for all participants is in our home. Five of my six are classified as 1:1 by the MO DMH's in-house determination scale. SDS and its oversight are the most effective way to ensure 1-to-1 service, with the majority of payments going to the actual provider of care. Which means the individual participant is better served, goals are met, and a family member is providing significant oversight.

3) And so many forget that individuals' needs and assisted daily living tasks (ADLs) don't stop because an agency doesn't have a "body" to fill your spot. SDS "REQUIRES" a backup to be provided. Agencies often have no capacity to backfill.

SDS allows us to tailor our kids' needs, events, or triggers—for example, during our recent snowstorm. I had a staff member sleep in the basement, so we had help for the two days our roads were impassable. These personal touches show how vital the program is for our family's safety and peace of mind.

Emergencies happen, and being able to call for assistance if you or someone is hurt and have people show up. SDS ensures continuity of care during emergencies, which is a lifesaver- literally-and addresses concerns about the program's reliability and safety in unforeseen situations.

4) Some participants have many needs, and you can tell that when you look at them. Some appear capable but have 'invisible' issues that make it very difficult for agencies or programs to support them.

SDS can adapt to these hidden needs, underscoring its critical role in personalized care while remaining the most economical. It also allows the entire team to pivot when an individual's needs suddenly change, which is essential for providing consistent, effective support that the participant is familiar with.

5) There is a national shortage of people who want to do this job. I don't mean "just show up for a shift". I mean, really do it, do it well, and provide a safe environment with the best intentions to care for their clients in the long term. Pay rates are important for attracting and retaining high-quality people with broad skill sets.

6) We compete against agencies that have PTO/insurance and other benefits. At times, we win because we can offer stability and consistency that the agency model does not, but more often, we lose.

Our participants' caregivers have bills and families of their own- they do not do this for free. Even the family members who serve individuals in this program need a source of income. Cutting our pay below what was recommended in the Mercer study and failing to account for the MO minimum wage increase (s) since that study set all participants up to lose many of our providers.

7) The increase in funding costs and participants was due to DMH "providing this as the only option," and our participants are now happier and doing better, and this is working well on all levels.

For consistency and continuity of care, SDS has proven to be the most effective and least costly option for individuals and Missouri stakeholders, according to MO's own data, underscoring the importance of preserving and expanding these programs.

8) The Mercer study of our SDS wage comparison does not consider that SDS is the only option for many participants to be able to leave their home with staff if not in an ISL.

Most policymakers and families are unaware that the "care agency model" does not always allow staff to take a participant into the community. The ability to do what you want with your staff is dignity, and this program allows participants to participate in activities they want.

So in our case, using a home health agency would not mean my son could shop for his own groceries. Or my daughter participates in community theater.

SDS currently serves 21% of all DMH community waivers. Looking at DMH's own projections for expenditure over the next three fiscal years. On page 87

The information states

"Note: Average annual cost of residential services includes group home, shared living, and Individualized Supported Living (and excludes Intensive Therapeutic Residential Habilitation). Cost includes four consecutive years of provider rate increases, FY 2022 to FY 2025. The legislature increased budgets to fund residential providers at a rate supporting a \$17.02/hour wage for direct support professionals. Data indicate that serving individuals in their homes costs significantly less than serving those in contracted residential settings. The Division of DD continues to promote and enhance its in-home services to provide necessary supports for families and individuals to avoid costly residential placement."

There was no increase in reimbursement for SDS rates in 2023 -2026. And the projections DMH put together show SDS Level through 2028 with no expected increases. If there is a continued increase, it is because more waiver slots were opened; it has nothing to do with the changing needs of the current participants or their levels of support.

Agencies receive less per individual served, serving only 19% of community waiver participants, whereas SDS (39%) and Day programs (30%) serve more. Most families leave the agency model due to service issues, lack of service, or oversight issues.

This highlights the urgent need to support and expand SDS programs to meet the growing demand from residents and stakeholders in Missouri and to continue services for current participants.

Also note that with the proposed Day programming cuts, there will be even fewer options for supporting waiver participants with substantial health or behavioral needs to attend events and participate in their communities.

One other thing not mentioned in any study or DMH brochure.

Probably the most significant to the participant and their representative.

SDS has allowed me to build natural support for my children. That is not their "Immediate Family" as defined by the state of Missouri.

It has assisted me in building a village and bringing in people who provide skills we can't continue to do as my husband and I age. Eventually, my children will need these individuals and the skills and support they have nurtured and worked with them to develop.

Almost every caregiver who has worked for my children and my family since 2009 continues to show up for my adult children.

Whether it be for graduations, holidays, or Christmas... When they're in the hospital, one of them always drops by.

"C" was the best man for one of his staff.

This mode of care allows participants to build real bonds with people who are not always family members.

It gives me hope that there will be someone to fill in for me later when I am not available, thanks to the support network they are developing, which may be the actual point of person-centered care and supported decision-making that we do not realize until it has already happened.

SDS designated representatives, our participants, our family members, and our participants' caregivers are passionate and vocal about this because we know what will happen if we are not successful.

Our family members' lives really do depend on these services.

Jane Leahy-Smith



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANEL K. WITHERWAX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee Members.

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below.

This funding has helped my family through the Nami support groups in Columbia.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10130). For many years this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

. Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.168)..

. Mental Health Training Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations:

\$19,482 (CRD.GV.168).

. Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169).

Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janel K. Witherwax



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET FLANAGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representatives,

My name is Janet Flanagan and I am strongly opposed to the proposed Self-Directed Supports pay rate and budget reduction in Missouri's Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCBS) waivers. Self-Directed Supports have allowed us to provide our son Timothy with a meaningful quality of life where he has dignity, choice, and meaningful relationships. He is safe, happy, and growing. He is known by his community and participates in a variety of activities due to the supports he receives. SDS helps our son to continue living in his natural home with us, his parents, and actively participate in his community.

My 23 year old son is an amazing person who has severe autism (non-verbal) and physical issues requiring 24/7 care, and has been using SDS for several years. He cannot be left alone as he does not understand safety, has balance issues creating a risk for falls, struggles with chewing and swallowing putting him at high risk for choking, and is unable to report pain or injury. Supporting individuals like him to live in their natural homes and access their communities is at the heart of Home and Community Based waivers. The Self-Directed Supports service delivery model is crucial for our family (my husband and I are in our 60's).

We are able to hire, train, and guide support staff to meet the unique needs and life goals of our son. Staff turnover is low, employee satisfaction is high, and our son is happy and has grown specifically because he uses this service delivery model. Reducing Personal Assistant pay would result in a decreased availability of qualified caregivers, increased turnover and job dissatisfaction, and a risk of care gaps, injury, abuse, and neglect for this very vulnerable population.

The Department of Mental Health specifically states in their FY2027 Program Book:

"In-Home Services is a community based system of care designed to 1) support individuals living in the community so family members can continue employment and to give primary caregivers relief, 2) teach individuals skills that promote independence and self-sufficiency in order to live as independently as possible when it is time to move out of the family home, and 3) to help individuals already living on their own learn new skills and build on existing skills in order to maximize their independence and choice to live safely in the community in a cost effective manner." (Page 81, 1b.)

"Data reflects that it costs significantly less to serve individuals in their homes compared to the individuals who live in contracted residential settings. The Division of DD continues to promote and

enhance its in-home services to provide necessary supports for families and individuals to avoid costly residential placement.” (Page 87)

The average annual cost per consumer for Self-Directed Services FY2026 Projected is \$49,505 and for Residential Services is \$229,590. (Page 87) The actual FY2025 average per day, per individual cost for ICF/IID Facilities was \$1686.28, or \$615,492/ year. (Page 136)

In order to qualify for an HCBS waiver, individuals must have 3 substantial functional limitations in areas such as self-care, learning, mobility, etc. with care needs are at the level of a nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF/IID). Obviously this population is at a high risk of institutionalization. Without supports from SDS many families would be forced to move their loved one to the significantly more costly out of home placement. This would significantly increase long-term costs to taxpayers through higher levels of care that could have been avoided with appropriate community-based supports. There are currently 3,767 participants in Self-Directed Supports, all of whom are at risk of losing their staff. If only a small number of existing SDS participants lose their supports and need to move to an Intermediate Care Facility, all of the savings from the budget cuts will disappear.

Please strengthen the HCBS waivers and SDS by rejecting any cuts to Medicaid or to this valuable program! This is the compassionate and fiscally responsible choice! We strongly believe that Missouri is committed to independence and inclusion for all citizens of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to discuss these issues and provide additional information!

Respectfully,
Janet Flanagan
47 Muirfield Point Lane
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-795-0261



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET FLANAGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Janet Flanagan and this is my second written testimony. I am deeply opposed to any budget cuts whatsoever to Self-Directed Services. These services support individuals with high care needs to remain in their homes, and have access to the community on a regular basis. My son Timothy has been using SDS for a few years, and has had some amazing Personal Assistants who have helped him to grow and have developed strong relationships with him. Because of these supports his life is full, meaningful, and satisfying.

I want to share the value of flexibility and relationship in supports for our loved ones. Today (Weds 2/11/26) I was hoping to attend the budget hearings. Unfortunately I received a phone call tregarding a family emergency where I was needed quickly.

One of my son's long time PAs who normally works from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. immediately volunteered to come to our home at 3:30 a.m and stay until normal end of shift. Another PA added an additional shift to her schedule in the afternoon to relieve her. A third PA offered to stay overnight if necessary. This is just one example of the dedication and compassion that my son's staff has for him.

While they care for him deeply and do everything to support him, they would not be able to absorb a pay cut of \$7/ hour and would seek other employment. This would affect his life dramatically (as well as the entire family).

Please choose to reject these budget cuts to SDS and instead support Missouri families who rely on SDS!

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,
Janet Flanagan



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET L SCHAAF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose the \$80.7 million in cuts. My staff cannot take a 30% pay cut. SDS saves the state \$178,000 per person compared to institutions.

Perhaps decision makers should be reminded of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, that "public entities must provide community-based services to persons with disabilities when (1) such services are appropriate; (2) the affected persons do not oppose community-based treatment; and (3) community-based services can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the public entity and the needs of others who are receiving disability services from the entity.

"The Supreme Court explained that its holding "reflects two evident judgments." First, "institutional placement of persons who can handle and benefit from community settings perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable of or unworthy of participating in community life." Second, "confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment." (Source: https://archive.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm)

Voting for the extreme budget cuts that have been proposed seems directly counter to the legal decision made and is likely to be seen as discriminatory. If the "resources available" argument is the most likely argument to be made, let me point out the fallacy of that. The state SAVES \$178,000 per person when looking at the costs of self-directed supports (SDS) versus institutional care. Going beyond the monetary savings, a person utilizing SDS benefits from being cared for by people who are invested in their well-being. The proposed 30% pay cut to personal assistance and 33% cut to day programs (Day Hab) will turn back the clock to the time when harmful institutional care was the only option a family had for care for their loved ones. I urge you to consider this from a moral perspective, not just a budgetary one. It is certainly a legal issue, as I pointed out above.

The proposed cuts are not "modest" cuts, as they are being framed. The current level of pay is finally one at which our family can find competent caregivers who will not quit at the first sign of inconvenience. Without this care, our family becomes another household with at least one member, other than our developmentally disabled son, who cannot full participate in society because the burden of care falls fully on the family. There is already a burden of care that we provide at absolutely no cost to the state - costs of hiring workers and doing required administrative work - that the state would assume if these cuts are made and families are forced to go back to having services provided through

agencies. The "zero overhead" is false - WE provide the overhead.

I urge you to vote against these cuts. Help us retain our loved one's connections to his community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANICE BEHRENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I wish I could be in person. But I can not be due to my health. I am going to copy and paste what I have sent to my representatives and maybe ad lib extra.

I will start by saying I am dissapointed in the officials my household helped to elect and that I didnt think things would gert worse than under Parsons, whom we also helped to elect.

Please disregard any typos. As I mentioned I am unwell in a serious way.

Copy of message sent to Representative Chappell:

Hi Darin! We have spoken before. I vote for you, but I may never vote Republican again. Just a refresher. I am the mother who had to put her son in state custody so medicaid would pay for his treatment. I am friends with the Coles. Jack was my coach for many years, Roye was my 3rd base coach and graduated with my brother, and Erin and I graduated together, played ball together, and she worked at the hospital 2 decades ago after my oldest was born dead. By the Grace of God alone he is still with us and it has been a hard fought life

This is not the son in state care. My oldest is 22, has overcome so much by faith, fumes, advocacy, and sheer will power. I have spend the last couple decades fighting for my sons services. Be it first steps when matt blunt tried to cut it, logan-rogersville school district and using MPACT to fight for the right to an education, and so much more. You see I vote Republican, I believe in Jesus, I believe in community, I believe in doing what is right. That is why when I was raped at the age if 19 abortion was never a choice. I have raised thousands of dollars for National Right to Life, RNC, specific Republican interest, and more

Being a residential of Missouri has been hard as a disabled mom of disabled children. And Now after fighting for my son to receive services in adulthood I have received notice that Republicans once again wish to balanxe the budge at the expense of disabled individuals and families. When on average of one disabled person a day dies in state care I am frightened! When I have seen the horrible treatment my now 18yo has had in state care I am frightened. My son will end up in a skilled facility if HB10 goes into effect. It will cost the state hundreds of thousands more in taxes just for his care alone. There are thousands of families like mine. I would have reached out sooner but I was in the hospital. My family deserves NOT to be pulled apart even more by harmful Republica practices. My son deserves the dignity of staying with his family. He is a tax payer and a registered voter. He also voted for you. Are you going to vote to put him in skilled care facility? Are you going to vote to add to our deficit by putting tax payers in the position to pay hundreds of thousands more per disabled person, ebt and medicaid for previous employees, and wrongful death payout for those who have preventable death in state care? As a household that gave you 4 votes and encouraged others to vote for you I deserve to know if you will represent us or if you will vote to cause us harm? I do not think I can ever vote Republican again. My son in state was being represented by the MO advocacy group due to complete violation of his rights while in state care and republicans defunded that too. How does it benefit us to

vote red anymore?

Copy sent to all area representatives:

I am writing to you, because you serve on the House Budget Committee. I am concerned about the significant cuts Governor Kehoe has proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in House Bill 10. I have called each and everyone of your offices and feel that the staff could not articulate the urgency of my concern. Mr. Chappell, I also facebook messaged you as we have had conversations in the past about my other disabled child and need of advocacy due to Missouri's harmful policies. We voted for you as a household before our move to Springfield, and we voted primarily Republican, but that will change immediately depending on the outcome of this vote. Disabilities hit all families regardless of political affiliation and I know from speaking with other rural conservative families, voting Republican will change for a lot of us. We can not keep shooting ourselves in the foot. We are the parents of the same children that we had to Fight Matt Blunt to not cut first steps for our children 20 years ago and our passion and advocacy skills have only grown.

My son is not an item line budget cut. He is a highly intelligent but also challenged individual. He has cerebral Palsy, epilepsy, autism, and more, but due to SDS services he is finally living a somewhat independent life with proper supports. As his mother I will not be able to provide what is needed if we lose our staff, which we will. He is a very challenging individual and requires a skillset of professional nature and I will not be able to retain my employees at a lower wage. Costco effectively pays more to stock shelves than what you are proposing and they have benefits. One has already cut hours in order to take on employment where she can have benefits, since SDS prohibits such things. Due to SDS services my son has appropriate supports to work 15 hours a week at HyVee, he is taking courses at Empower Ability and Literacy Council of the Ozarks, he is exploring the opportunity for increasing his education with voc rehab and trade school. He is involved in the community as are many with SDS services. He also is finally exploring his own apartment with SDS supports for his success and this is very achievable for him!!!! How exciting, right? Except all of these things will be null and void if you put these cuts in place. My son will end up in a skilled care facility, not a day program (since you guys are eager to cut those too), he will have to quit his job, like many others, and put his hard earned dreams and accomplishments on hold. This will in turn cost the state incredibly more for his skilled care alone not to mention the many others I have spoken to. It will cause jobs that exist to support SDS recipients like job coaches, skill teaching specialists, etc to cut labor. This will in turn increase EBT recipients, medicaid, liheap, childcare assistance, and rental assistance for many homes, prior employees, and families that rely on their jobs provided through SDS. Some of this may be welcome though as both of my employees do not have medical coverage at this point, even though have medical needs, and is illegal for me to provide SDS employees medical at my own expense. At hundreds of thousands accumulating per SDS client on the tax payers dime, how many clients do you think it will take to HURT the Missouri budget? The math is not difficult. Direct and clear cut, less than 200 and that is just directly from SDS to skilled care without calculating in all the indirect expenses. Then let's factor in the legal expenses and pay outs with the ACLU and ADA violations. Human rights violations is also not the way. Please fix your budget elsewhere.

Also, if it matters. In guardianship decisions, my son was able to retain his right to vote. He voted for you lawmakers that are choosing to upend his existence and success. Missouri needs to be disabled friendly, we exist and Olmstead act says we have the right to exist. Now in my sincere Christian Conservative manner I will truly wish you a blessed day.

By cutting these Home and Community-Based Services, many Missourians may end up needing higher levels of services that will cost the state more. Level funding for current services is important, so that Missourians with IDD can stay in their own homes and communities, with their families.

Sincerely,
Janice Behrens

Please consider my son, Eddie, and the thousands who will be upended from their care, quality of life, and community, be it skulled living or a prisoner to their own home due to less services. Even if I were able to physically care for him your guidelines prohibit me and many others on the basis of guardianship, rep payee, or poa.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANICE OTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:24 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please do not make budget cuts to DD Services!! The individuals this would affect are in the most vulnerable population. They deserve the same respect as their peers in the community. I have personally seen what the services do to help the individuals not only as a support staff but also as a family member of an individual with a disability. They depend on these services to continue to grow as active members of their communities. To take funding away would be detrimental to the lives of the individuals we support. We promote a life with meaning and to have these services cut would end their opportunities to live a life with dignity and respect. Please come and visit the individuals to see what the dollars are used for. I am sure you will see how much any cuts would upend their lives.

Thank You for your time!!

Janice



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANIE PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Janie Phillips. I am from Independence, Missouri, and I am the mother to three young adults with Autism. Two also have mood disorders and Epilepsy.

Dianna struggles with her anxiety and social situations. Since her Epilepsy diagnosis in 2019 her daily living skills have declined and her depression has increased. She does not do well in social situations and shuts down. She requires more hands on support than a typical 24-year-old. She requires physical help with her daily hygiene, oversite to manage her medications and all appointments.

Kyle is 23 and requires more support than his sister. He has epilepsy, Autism, and a mood disorder. His epilepsy is very complex. He can have any type of seizure at any time. They do not always look like seizures people see on TV or recognize. He needs people trained to recognize all seizure activity. Kyle is very passionate about many things, and he needs constant support to manage his behaviors and emotions. He has come so far. Kyle was so physically aggressive we had no choice but to move him to an ISL so he could access more intensive support. Kyle lived in supported living for 6 years. With supports Kyle improved and his care in the ISL continued to decline. He had roommates moved in that were not good matches with led to more behaviors, he had missed meds with staff lying about it. He had staff calling him names and staff ignoring him. After Covid we were able to move him home with SDS supports.

Since that time their care has been provided through Missouri's Self Directed Services program.

My husband is their designated representative. I am one of their paid caregivers. The hiring of their caregivers, training, managing schedules are all completed by their designated rep or myself as a paid caregiver. As a result of this program, I have been the main caregiver for almost 2 years now.

That kind of stability is almost unheard of in traditional agency settings, where high overhead, administrative layers, and constant staff turnover are the norm, and where much of the funding never reaches the hands providing direct care.

Before Self Directed Services, Kyle lived in a facility. His yearly budget decreased by over 33,000 by moving to SDS supports.

There are several examples of poor care. Kyle called one evening crying on the phone and was crying for over an hour. I called every emergency contact, and no one was available. Kyle was supposed to be slowing tapered off a very strong seizure medication and it was stopped almost 2 weeks early when asked about it staff denied and management said it was a miss communication. This is the type of med that can lead to death if too much is taken or stopped suddenly.

I could give other examples of the poor care that is a direct result of the lack of staffing nationwide and constant turnover in agencies. Turnover was not occasional. It was constant.

This model makes it possible, for my two family members to have control over their daily lives, to have a choice about their support while being in the least restrictive environment.

I have now been informed that caregiver wages under her plan may be reduced by 25 to 30 percent.

At that rate, I will lose my experienced caregivers, not because they lack dedication, but because they cannot absorb that kind of pay cut and still support their own families. This is not simply a wage issue. It is an access-to-care issue.

When medically fragile Missourians cannot be supported in the community due to insufficient reimbursement, the alternative is institutional placement, which costs the state significantly more per person, per year, than home and community-based care. Recent estimates place institutional care for medically fragile individuals at well over \$600,000 annually per person.

Institutional systems carry built-in overhead, administrative costs, and infrastructure expenses. Self Directed Services reduces waste, reduces bureaucracy, and directs dollars where they belong, to direct care. It is more humane, it is more stable, and it is more fiscally responsible.

Missouri has already lived through the era when people like my children were sent away ... stored, managed, rotated through by strangers, reduced to a bed number. Out of sight. Out of mind. Often out of hope. We should not be moving backward.

Providing safe, accountable, home-based care for our most vulnerable citizens should be the future of healthcare in Missouri, not a relic of the past.

This is not about debating whether care is required. The obligation to provide care already exists.

The question before you is how we structure it. Do we fund bureaucracy? Or do we fund care?

Do we invest in buildings? Or in people?

You have the power to decide which future Missouri chooses.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAZMIN RHODES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 8:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My brother is an individual with special needs Casey is 23 years old, and functions at an 8 year old level. After high school, Casey began going to a program that helps to keep him engaged, and learning. He learns life skills every day, and this helps to make sure that my dad and myself can work. My dad is a single father, and a UPS driver. I work in hospice care. We rely on these programs so we can work jobs. We know Casey is cared for and he continues to learn every day. Cutting any type of funding to individuals with special needs hurts more people than you may think.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAZMINE GAYNOR RMA, SPN-JC, MCC		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Jazmine, and I am an RMA/Student nurse working as the Medical Care Coordinator in a residential setting serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DD services.

Every day, I witness firsthand the profound impact these services have on the lives, health, safety, and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities. These are not abstract numbers on a spreadsheet — they represent real people with complex medical needs, fragile health conditions, communication barriers, and deep reliance on consistent, skilled care.

As a Medical Care Coordinator, I oversee medical appointments, medication management, chronic condition monitoring, specialist coordination, staff training, and health advocacy. My role exists to prevent medical crises, hospitalizations, and long-term complications. Budget cuts directly undermine this preventive care model, increasing the likelihood of emergency room visits, hospital admissions, worsening health outcomes, and higher overall healthcare costs.

Cuts to DD services will:

Reduce staffing levels, increasing unsafe staff-to-client ratios

Limit access to medical coordination and preventative healthcare

Increase caregiver burnout and staff turnover

Disrupt continuity of care

Endanger medically fragile individuals

Shift costs to emergency services, hospitals, and state-funded crisis interventions

Individuals with developmental disabilities often cannot advocate for themselves. Many cannot communicate pain, distress, or early signs of illness. They rely on trained caregivers and medical coordinators to recognize subtle changes and intervene early. When staffing is reduced and workloads increase, these early warning signs are missed — and preventable medical emergencies occur.

Beyond the medical impact, these cuts threaten dignity, stability, and quality of life. Our clients are not

institutional statistics. They are sons, daughters, siblings, friends, coworkers, and community members. They deserve safe homes, compassionate care, and meaningful lives — not survival-level services driven by budget constraints.

From a financial perspective, cutting DD services is short-sighted. Preventative care, adequate staffing, and community-based support cost far less than repeated emergency department visits, hospitalizations, psychiatric admissions, crisis placements, and long-term institutionalization. Investing in DD services saves taxpayer dollars in the long run while preserving human dignity.

From a moral perspective, these cuts represent a failure to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.

As professionals working directly in this field, we already operate with limited resources, high emotional demands, and increasing responsibilities. Further budget reductions will worsen workforce shortages, increase burnout, and drive skilled staff out of the field — deepening the crisis in care.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider these proposed budget cuts and instead invest in sustainable, community-based DD services that protect health, safety, independence, and quality of life.

This is not merely a budget issue. It is a public health issue. It is a workforce issue. It is a human rights issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this perspective and for considering the real-life impact of these decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF DOTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have seen firsthand the impact that Day Services has for people with disabilities. To cut funding for these special people, would be a tragedy. If anything, we should be looking at ways to try to increase funding to serve this very vulnerable population. Please consider the impact that these cuts would have on these special individuals.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY D. BRADSHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 5:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to ask you to oppose the proposed reduction in Self-Directed Services (SDS) pay rates. I am the parent of an adult who relies on SDS, and these supports are essential for daily living — including meals, medical appointments, transportation, budgeting help, and community participation.

SDS allows individuals with disabilities to remain safely in their homes while choosing their own caregivers. It is also far less expensive for the State than residential placement, saving tens of thousands of dollars per person each year.

Reducing the maximum rate from \$33.00 per hour to \$24.00 per hour would severely harm this program. SDS providers receive no benefits, and a pay cut of this size would make it extremely difficult to recruit and retain reliable caregivers, especially during a time of rising costs and inflation.

Self-Directed Services is a successful, cost-effective model with high satisfaction and strong staff retention. I respectfully urge you to oppose any cuts that would weaken this critical support system for Missouri families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY F MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:39 AM

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

Opposed to taking \$ away from adults with disabilities. This money goes to making our communities better for everyone.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEN RANKIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:20 AM

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

Support adults with disabilities please.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BOLLINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Jennifer Bollinger and I am mother to my amazing son Jackson. Jackson is currently 1 of 29 individuals born with GRIA2 neuro developmental disorder. Jackson is full care, meaning he is significantly physically and mentally disabled. He is tube fed, and non verbal. He requires suctioning of excess secretions constantly and has horrific epilepsy that often requires rescue medication. Caring for Jackson is a full time job, and finding dependable care has been HARD. Financially, it has been an extreme struggle for our family. My husband is in his 60s and still working as many hours as he can weekly. I have tried to work and it has been impossible to keep a position as home care is not always dependable, frequent hospitalizations for Jackson and just his regular specialist appointments. Jackson turned 18 in December and we have finally been at the point for where we can apply for a waiver with sds services for it to in talks of budget cuts. This is absolutely devastating. Jackson is soon to graduate, and it's going to be even harder to find care for him. Myself being his care giver will mean a bit of financial stability for my family and knowing that Jackson is being cared for appropriately. There are no day cares for adult men with his level of need. What are parents like myself to do?!?! Please consider cuts from other sources! At one point I tried working midnight shift at Ponybird, a residential home for individuals like my son. I sadly lost that job due to my sons needs, but I know that residential homes as such are going to be the only options for families like mine. We want to keep our children home where we know they are safe, loved and cared for correctly. We don't want to turn our kids care over to the state, but that is sadly going to be the case for so many! It saves the state money for us to keep our kids home. Please reconsider! We wanted to come in person, but sadly today Jackson had 11 significant seizures and driving a few hours to Jeff City would not be safe to do alone at the moment. Please help us!



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Supports, specifically Community Specialist services and Personal Assistant hourly rates. I am a parent of a child with a disability who will be accessing these services in the future, and I know a local family whose adult son, Andrew, relies on Self-Directed Supports to live safely, independently and with dignity in his community. Through my relationship with this family, I have seen firsthand how these services are not optional enhancements, but essential supports that protect health, mental well-being and long-term stability. These proposed cuts would negatively affect many across the state who depend on Community Specialists and Personal Assistants to remain safely housed, mentally healthy and actively engaged in their communities. When these supports are weakened, the consequences are increased crisis intervention, emergency room visits, institutional placements and long-term costs borne by taxpayers. As a parent and a community member, I urge you to consider both the human and fiscal impact of these proposed reductions. Preserving Self-Directed Supports and Personal Assistant rates is not only compassionate policy, but also sound, preventative and fiscally responsible. Thank you for your consideration and time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER KNIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:17 AM

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

As a woman that has dedicated her life to making those with disabilities have the best life possible this bill is just wrong. How dare anyone take for granted being "normal" and not even consider those that struggle.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER LASKIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER SINGLETON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are asking that you vote "no" on reducing the budget for services affecting people with developmental disabilities.

At age ten, our daughter was diagnosed with the rare brain cancer ATRT (Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor.) We are forever thankful that she is alive today, but the cancer and treatments left many medical and intellectual late effects. To be very simple- her body and brain are damaged. Now at twenty-three, she is happy and loves life, but is intellectually similar to a second grader. For Sarah, life will never include higher education, a job or living independently. She has many medical and intellectual needs and can't be left unsupervised.

As part of Sarah's weekly routine, she gets to spend 3-4 days at the SADI day program aka "SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence Day Hab" in Cape Girardeau. She loves her days at SADI and her friends there. When I try to describe SADI, I explain that it's like all the best parts of school- daily routine, friends, lunchtime together, outings, learning, and a place to belong. It's an adult day program for the developmentally or intellectually disabled, but quality Day Programs go beyond just supervision. SADI has a well qualified, loving staff and quality programs. They take trips to the grocery store to learn about shopping and groceries, make recipes, visit the library, attend weekly Zumba classes at the community center, go to the park, talk about safety, have lessons on self care, and practice household skills. We are so thankful for SADI's quality and loving staff, because they make all this possible. As her parents, Day Hab gives us peace of mind that she is in a safe and enriching environment. And we love that each day she wakes up eager to go to SADI and how much purpose and meaning it gives her.

Please vote "no" to any budget cuts that could negatively impact the number or quality of Day Habilitation staff or programs.

Very Sincerely,
Sarah's parents
Phil and Jennifer Singleton
Jackson, MO
State House District 146

Apologies if this is duplicated. I did not initially receive an email confirmation and resubmitted to be sure that I had not mistyped my email address.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER STEWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am opposed to any cuts to the Day Services rates for the FY27 budget. Why is this vulnerable population chosen? These services are needed as most of the individuals either can not work, their parents work and they can no longer attend school. This is wrong and needs to be evaluted thoroughly. Maybe take a closer look at the Department of Mental Health and their leadership as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER UHLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am strongly opposed to any cuts to supports for persons with a disability (or multiple disabilities) in Missouri.

My son as well as many others rely on the supports that SDS services provide in order to live a fulfilling and safe life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER VESTAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Working for an SDS family comes with sacrifices with no healthcare, no retirement and no paid time off , no holiday pay. The proposed budget cuts make it nearly impossible to continue to work with these individuals. These cuts are forcing these families to have to place them in residential or Nursing homes, instead of living with their loved ones. Take a min and ask yourself, would you want to live at home with your family, or in a nursing home or residential home if you were unable to support yourself on your own? I think we know that answer already. I have worked for SDS clients for 9yrs. I work an average of 88hrs weekly, EVERY WEEK , with the current budget hourly wages to make ends meet. If these new wages go into affect , I will not be able to continue to support these individuals and have to seek other employment opportunities, as these new hourly wages purposed are not sustainable wages for myself. I am a single parent with no other financial assistance.

I understand that budget cuts may be needed for the State of Missouri but cutting funds for services that support our Missourians with disabilities should not be allowed.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Vestal



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER ZENTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

There is zero reason to cut any portion of DD Services, the amazing people have so little as it is, if anything they need WAY more funding, NOT CUTS. As parents who struggle daily to keep things moving to make sure our loved ones are taken care, to pray for amazing day schools and programs for them become more readily available, to then find out the few we do have are facing more hardship because DD Services are in jeopardy is infuriating. This needs to be stopped. Now.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA BOHL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am an RN that works for Pony Bird in De Soto Missouri. We have waiting lists and the needs are already bigger than what we can accommodate. To hear about cuts that will take even more away from our community and the people we serve is just devastating. Please reconsider the cuts. Our individuals with disabilities are dependent on our programs to live their best lives possible. Our individuals did not ask for their disabilities. Please don't let them suffer at the hands of budget cuts. They are already at a disadvantage and suffer from things like traumatic brain injuries, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, gene mutations, and many other medically complex diagnoses. Our programs help them have an abundant life in a world that has sometimes been very cruel to them. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Please reconsider!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA HAYNES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 4:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Members of the Committee. My name is Jessica Haynes. I am writing today as a mother from Raytown, but also as my son's hands, his voice, and as his Personal Assistant. I am writing to speak for the 'Save Our Choice' village—a movement of over 1,000 Missouri families who are currently holding their breath, waiting to see if the state will protect the homes we've built for our children. My son AJ is 21. He is Level 2 Autistic, living with cognitive and executive functioning impairments, and significant speech delays. He is a bright, determined young man currently finishing high school through Acellus Academy, but his success is a fragile thing. The Self-Directed Supports program is what allows me to be by his side every hour of every day. Being his PA isn't just a job title; it is the lifeline that lets me navigate his world with him. I am the one who understands his unspoken needs when his speech fails him; I am the 'external brain' that manages the executive functioning he lacks. Because I am his mother AND his caregiver, AJ has stability, he has safety, and he has a future. By doing this work, I save the state the staggering costs of turnover and crisis care. But this budget—specifically the wage cap and the loss of our Community Specialist—threatens to pull the rug out from under the life we have fought so hard to build for him. I am a member of Abundant Life Church, and we are called to be 'living proof' of God's love for the vulnerable. We urge you to look at this budget through a lens of compassion, not just spreadsheets. Director Hunes admitted on the record that these cuts will have an 'impact' on families, but he stopped short of describing it. Let me be clear: The 'impact' is a mother having to choose between her son's safety and her family's survival. It is the forced displacement of 1,000 children from the homes where they are loved into \$600,000-a-year institutions where they are simply 'managed.' That isn't a budget adjustment; it is a heartbreak. AJ is 'the least of these.' He is a son, a student, and a Missourian. I urge you to restore the 1.7% COLA, protect the \$29/hr PA wage, and keep the Community Specialist Program whole. Please do not ask us to pay for the state's budget on the backs of our most vulnerable children. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PATRICE JOYCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my deep concern about the significant cuts proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), specifically Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), including day habilitation and self-directed services. Cutting funding for programs that support our most vulnerable citizens is not only harmful, but it is inconsistent with the values of Missouri families and fiscally shortsighted. If these proposed cuts move forward, families like mine will experience immediate and severe consequences.

My son, Will, is 11 years old and has Down syndrome along with multiple other diagnoses that affect his daily functioning. He currently receives services through HCBS, which allow him to live at home with our family and participate in his community. Through day habilitation services, my husband and I are able to enroll Will in a program specifically designed to meet him where he is developmentally, help him build independence and daily living skills, and foster meaningful social connections in a safe and structured environment.

Because of these services, Will is learning critical life and social skills while remaining integrated in his community rather than segregated in an institution. Without HCBS support, my family would be forced to pay approximately \$90 per hour out of pocket for comparable services, a cost that is completely unsustainable for us. If these services are reduced or eliminated, I would no longer be able to work full-time as a middle school teacher, because there is no safe, affordable after-school option in our community for a child with my son's needs. That loss of income would affect not only my family, but also Missouri's workforce and tax base.

I understand that HCBS represents a significant portion of the budget. However, balancing the budget on the backs of Missourians with disabilities and their families is not the solution. Cuts to HCBS, including self-directed supports, will not save Missouri money in the long term. Instead, they will push individuals into higher-cost, more restrictive settings, increase caregiver burnout, and force families out of the workforce. These outcomes ultimately cost the state more while diminishing quality of life for people with disabilities, people like my son.

Maintaining at least level funding for these services is critical so that Missourians with IDD can continue to live in their homes and communities, supported by their families. I do not want my son to be forced into an institutional setting because the supports that allow him to thrive at home are taken away. He deserves dignity, care, and opportunity. Those are only possible with adequate community-based supports.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject proposed cuts to Medicaid funding for HCBS, day habilitation, and self-directed services, and to protect the programs that allow families like mine to remain employed, engaged, and contributing members of our communities. My son deserves a chance to grow his skills, build independence, and engage in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA ROTHENBERGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:46 AM

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

I work in a large Special Education company that runs schools for students who are not successful in their public school environments. These kids come with the worst situations and stories and **ALREADY** there is not enough resources to keep them not only safe, but able to grow. Let's not take what little they have, no? What is the purpose of preying on the vulnerable? This is strong language because this is an **IMPORTANT ISSUE**. The way the government as a whole is taking from us, killing us, ridiculing us, makes it so so so hard to feel any positivity about this life we're forced into. Don't further that by harming our community members who need the most support.

I am pro-matriarchal in approach to how power should be used to **CARE FOR** others. Now is the time to change and fight for what's good and right. It's never too late to change your beliefs in life. Every little change starts at the top- change the culture. I am inspired and reaching out to many leaders, but I don't have that seat of power.

You do.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SCHWALBERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA YEHLE RIX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Jessica and I am the mom of 3 amazing kids. My oldest son is 20 year old and is profoundly disabled, he functions as the level of an 18 month old. He requires assistance in every aspect of eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, safety and all activities. As a single mom, without assistance in caregiving I would be unable to work to provide for my 3 kids. My son is homebound, he has not attended school in over 5 years, leaving me fully responsible for his care 24 hours a day. If you reduce the wages to personal assistants, it will become more difficult to retain staff. I currently provide all financial support to my children, without any assistance from the state. If SDS budget is reduced and wages are decreased or hours are cut, I will be unable to fully support my kids. We will become dependent on social safety net programs. That would create a larger financial drain for the state than SDS. It is your responsibility to make choices that benefit all Missourians, with a cut to SDS services you will create a larger community of persons reliant on social safety net programs. This is neither an efficient or fiscally responsible decision. I implore you to reinstate the funds to the SDS budget and continue to support individuals and families of the most vulnerable. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL M OTTO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:09 PM

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This will cut funding to many of the most vulnerable of our state. Please reconsider this and don't pass. The citizens of Missouri need common sense rulings and this is not one of them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JIM SQUIRES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 6:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a working father of a medically complex daughter with a rare chromosome deletion. She has severe developmental delays, quadriplegia, epilepsy, and chronic respiratory disease. She has a trach, is fed through a G-tube, and needs skilled care around the clock.

State-funded, self-directed care makes it possible for her to live safely at home and allows my wife and me to keep working and carry private insurance. That's better for our family and far less expensive for the state than hospital or institutional care.

This system works—but only if we can keep qualified caregivers. If HB 10 cuts caregiver wages, we'll lose the aides who know how to care for our daughter. That kind of turnover puts her at risk and ultimately drives up costs through emergency care and other state services. Please consider opposing budget cuts to SDS funding and PCA rates.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JIMALEA HOPPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 5:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To the committee,

I am writing as a Missouri parent, taxpayer, and advocate for people with disabilities — and most importantly, as the designated representative for my daughter, Brooke, who depends on self-directed services to live safely and with dignity in her community. I urge you to protect self-directed services and reject any proposal tied to HB 10 that would cut pay for self-directed caregivers.

Self-directed services are not a convenience — they are a lifeline and a civil right. This program allows Missourians with disabilities to remain in their own homes, supported by people they know and trust, rather than being placed in institutional or agency settings that are often more expensive, less personalized, and more isolating.

For Brooke, this program is the difference between stability and crisis. It keeps her in her own home, surrounded by familiar caregivers, family, and close friends who understand her needs and respect her humanity. I serve as her designated representative pro bono because I believe deeply in this model and in her right to live a meaningful life in the community.

Self-directed services are also fiscally responsible for Missouri. Compared to agency-based or institutional care, this model reduces administrative overhead, prevents unnecessary placements, and saves taxpayer dollars while delivering better outcomes. It is both more humane and more cost-effective — a rare win for families and the state budget alike.

Cutting pay for self-directed workers would undermine this success. These caregivers are not optional; they are essential. Reducing their wages will drive workers away, increase turnover, destabilize families, and ultimately push more people into far more costly institutional care — increasing, not decreasing, state spending.

As you consider HB 10, I respectfully ask that you:

- Protect self-directed services as a core option for people with disabilities
- Ensure fair and sustainable wages for self-directed caregivers
- Preserve Missouri's commitment to community-based living

Families like mine depend on your leadership. Please stand with us and protect a program that keeps people safe, dignified, and in their homes — while also saving Missouri money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully,
Jimalea Hopper
Parent and Designated Representative for Brooke
Springfield, Missouri**

**Contact info:
jimaleahopper@gmail.com
417-299-3806**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOAN HAVEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped my sister get help to care for both her husband and her son, who have suffered from bipolar illness and depression. NAMI has been a lifesaver for my sister's family. I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Healthcare or education professional: In my professional role, I have seen firsthand how NAMI Missouri's mental health training services improve understanding, reduce stigma, and strengthen how professionals engage with individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Advocate / community member: I have seen the impact of NAMI Missouri's services on families in my community, particularly those who have limited access to affordable, trustworthy mental health information and support.

Military / veteran family (Homefront adjacent): As part of a military family, NAMI Missouri's family education services provided practical tools and peer support that addressed challenges unique to service members and their loved ones.

General option: This funding supports programs that provide free, evidence-based education and support to Missourians who often have nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for helping us keep these programs and services available at no cost to all Missourians in need.

Sincerely,

**Gena M. Terlizzi
Executive Director, NAMI Missouri
National Alliance on Mental Illness
573-634-7727**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JODI SAMMARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 6:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cutting Human Infrastructure while funding 1-70 expansion is a moral failure.

My name is Jodi Sammari. I live in Crystal City, MO. I have a 23 year old severely autistic son, Sami Sammari, that utilizes Self Directed Services (SDS) and a day program for his care. Sami's mental age is that of a 2 to 5 year old, yet he is the size of a line backer (6'1, size 15 men's shoe). Sami has a fantastic smile, makes everyone laugh daily, and loves all people. If you are kind to Sami, he gives love back ten fold. A true angel. Here is our family's story:

I have a career, not just a job. I have worked for one of the top ranking banks in the United States for over 20 years. I rely on Self Directed Services and day program to meet my son's care needs so I can keep my career to support my family. Without Self Directed Services and the staff I have hired and trained, I would not be able to keep my job. Without my job, I would be relying on the state for even more funding like food stamps and Medicaid. SDS services allows me to keep my job and retain control over my son's care. Do legislators voting to cut SDS services realize that without SDS services and day program services, parents/guardians can't keep jobs without sending their disabled loved one to a group home or an institution? Please allow me the opportunity to share Sami's experiences with institutions and group home care thru agencies and why they are tragic options that are significantly more expensive than SDS services.

My son was in two group homes from the ages of 15 to 21 thru Easter Seals Midwest and Arc of the Ozarks prior to the utilization of SDS services. In group homes, staff for my son had to be paid 24 hours a day due to elopement and other safety issues such as fire hazards, etc. The 24 hour staffing requirement alone causes the costs of agency care to skyrocket versus in home SDS care. In addition to significant cost increase, abuse and neglect is rampant. My son's first group home experience thru Arc ended with me hiring a St. Louis civil attorney to have him removed from the ARC group home due to neglect and abuse. He lost a significant amount of weight from staff not shopping and keeping food in the home, and staff also left him alone in the home on multiple occasions leading to his elopement. His last elopement was to a gas station because he was starving and looking for food. A police officer was called to the scene because he was eating snacks out of the gas station and couldn't respond to the owner or pay. My attorney had him removed and he was sent to Webster Groves, MO to Great Circle. At Great Circle he was put on Thorazine without my knowledge or consent (and I never gave up my rights) and had a child biting his arms removing flesh. I visited him one day and saw bandages and scars and asked what was going on and they responded they were having biting issues with another resident. I asked for an immediate separation, but it took another month for that to happen. I can show you the scars that are still on his arms to this day. If you aren't familiar with Great Circle's past, just Google stories about the abuse and neglect and arrests that took place regarding that institution. I then had him moved to a group home thru Easter Seals Midwest. They promised 24 hour care. Staff again left him alone in the group home and he was eloping into the neighborhood. I received a phone call in

July 2023 from St. Louis County Police to either come pick him up and take over his care in my home, or he would be arrested for property damage from elopements. Police stated that staff at the group home were not monitoring him, leaving him home alone, and it had happened too many times for police to allow it to continue. I took an emergency leave from work and Sami's case manager assisted me with getting SDS services set up and finding a day program. My experience with group home care and institutional care was horrendous. Horrific hygiene, neglect, abuse - all incidents were reported to hotlines, case managers, and DHM directors but absolutely no action was taken in any regard until I paid a civil rights attorney to take the case and start the legal process. You may think this is a one-off nightmare, affecting just one disabled person, but it's not. Several families can attest to similar experiences. Hence the need for SDS services.

Since bringing Sami to live at home in July 2023 and utilizing Self Directed Services and a day program for his care, Sami is healthy, happy and thriving. No more elopement issues, no more property damage, no more hygiene issues, and a healthy diet. I train his staff and can supervise his care on a daily basis. He is progressing with speech and hygiene. Please do not vote to cut SDS services pay rates or day program services funding. Sami and others are our most vulnerable Missouri citizens. People that cannot take care of themselves or speak up when they are abused or neglected. They need staff that support and respect them. Being responsible for the full care of another human being is not an easy job. Families must find staff that can care for and respect the disabled person while closely monitoring that care. Please help us respect and care for staff in return by not drastically cutting their pay rate. Please remember that staff paid thru SDS services do not have paid vacation time, sick time, or any medical, dental or vision benefits. Pay cuts scream "Missouri doesn't value the job you are doing" and "Missouri doesn't care about our most vulnerable receiving quality care". Constant staff turnover due to pay rate cuts results in families leaving their own jobs to care for their loved ones, which only results in more cost to the tax payers of Missouri. Cuts to pay rates and services are not the answer!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN R. BLASER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped many in our community. As a volunteer for NAMI and it's outreach programs for many family members in need of information and support helping rural areas where healthcare professionals need support for their patients. I therefore have respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:
Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN B GALE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:09 PM

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

These proposed budget cuts will adversely affect the quality of my son's life. Please find other ways to save money.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE A STEFANCIK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have had the blessing of working in this field since 1987, and working for two wonderful organizations. I have seen individuals grow and learn to thrive . To see the excitement on their faces when they achieve their goals and start reaching for the next one . I've seen their families in tears because of their achievements. Please don't take that away from these precious individuals or their parents. These individuals work hard to prove that they can contribute to society, and they do it with excitement.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUAN CHAVEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Albert Camus once said, "One must imagine Sisyphus Happy." This is one of the many quotes that I am reminded of from working with the IDD community for the last 4 and a half years. Everyone is pushing a rock up the mountain that is life. For a person who doesn't have a disability, life is already hard, trying to push the rock, but for someone with IDD, pushing that rock is extremely difficult. Since the landmark passage of ADA in 1990, people with IDD have finally getting the resources and having barriers removed that made it easier to push the rock up the mountain of life. Day programs allow individuals to learn skills next to their peers and face the hardships of life with a smile. It will be a great shame for the "Show Me State" if cuts to day programs stop individuals from continuing to learn life skills that teach them that life is purposeful, regardless of how much struggle. Day program teach that life is beautiful when you find something that you are willing to do every day next to your peers. As a society, we must continue to push forward and not let go of the giant rock that we continue to carry towards a better future that our posterity will live in.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDY AND HARRY BEYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:27 PM

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Please reconsider voting for this. Our friends desperately need the day care program for their disabled family members. It is either go to work and earn money to pay for a roof over their heads or stay home with their adult sons and daughters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As elected leaders in a state governed by those who profess Christian values and a pro-life commitment, it is imperative that you uphold these principles not only in word but in action. This requires unwavering support for individuals born with developmental disabilities throughout their entire lives and the full funding of both community services and special education programs in the State of Missouri.

To reduce or inadequately fund these essential services would represent more than a budgetary decision—it would signal a profound abandonment of the moral, ethical, and faith-based responsibilities that you publicly claim to uphold. Neglecting these vulnerable populations contradicts the very foundations of a pro-life stance and undermines the moral credibility of our state's leadership. Missourians are watching, and the choices you make now will reveal whether our government's stated values are genuine convictions or merely political rhetoric.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA CHANEY-FAUGHN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Do NOT cut services or pay rates for the disabled.

Do not cut caregiving salaries under Personal Care- daily support. It costs substantially more to keep disabled people on hospitals or nursing homes personal caregivers do not have health insurance so they must pay for many of these own expenses out of their own pocket. It's almost impossible to find caregivers other than family because the salary is now so low. Do not cut these services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE BLACKMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Julie Blackmon. I am from Springfield, Missouri, and I am the mother and legal guardian of my daughter, Grace.

Grace is profoundly disabled. She is nonverbal, bedridden, and medically fragile. She requires 24-hour skilled care, feeding tube management, Hoyer lift transfers, constant repositioning, and caregivers trained to recognize the smallest medical change before it becomes an emergency.

For the past two years, her care has been provided through Missouri's Self Directed Services program.

I hire her caregivers.

I train them.

I manage the schedule.

I oversee her medical care.

And in more than two years, I have not lost a single caregiver.

That kind of stability is almost unheard of in traditional agency settings, where high overhead, administrative layers, and constant staff turnover are the norm, and where much of the funding never reaches the hands providing direct care.

Self Directed Services removes that middle layer.

The program minimizes administrative and corporate overhead and directs the vast majority of funds to direct care.

There is no profit margin flowing to a nursing home or staffing agency.

The funding goes directly to the people providing hands-on care.

Before Self Directed Services, Grace lived in a facility.

Because her needs were so complex and often unmet, she spent much of her day crying in pain. She had repeated urinary tract infections. She suffered severe muscle spasms. Staff did not know what was wrong.

I was told her crying was disruptive to other residents, so they moved her to the bedroom furthest from the main living area. I walked in more than once to see staff wearing earplugs while they bathed or

changed her. Many times, the caregiver assisting her had just been hired that very day.

Turnover was not occasional. It was constant.

Within one month of bringing her home and building a trained, consistent team, everything changed.

The crying stopped.

The infections stopped.

The spasms came under control.

Her health stabilized.

Not because her disability changed.

Because her care did.

That is what this model makes possible.

I have now been informed that caregiver wages under her plan may be reduced by 25 to 30 percent.

At that rate, I will lose my experienced caregivers, not because they lack dedication, but because they cannot absorb that kind of pay cut and still support their own families.

This is not simply a wage issue.

It is an access-to-care issue.

When medically fragile Missourians cannot be supported in the community due to insufficient reimbursement, the alternative is institutional placement, which costs the state significantly more per person, per year, than home and community-based care. Recent estimates place institutional care for medically fragile individuals at well over \$600,000 annually per person. (this number came from DMH FY27 Budget Book)

Institutional systems carry built-in overhead, administrative costs, and infrastructure expenses.

Self Directed Services reduces waste, reduces bureaucracy, and directs dollars where they belong, to direct care.

It is more humane.

It is more stable.

And it is more fiscally responsible.

Missouri has already lived through the era when people like my daughter were sent away ... stored, managed, rotated through by strangers, reduced to a bed number. Out of sight. Out of mind. Often out of hope.

We should not be moving backward.

Providing safe, accountable, home-based care for our most vulnerable citizens should be the future of healthcare in Missouri, not a relic of the past.

This is not about debating whether care is required. The obligation to provide care already exists.

The question before you is how we structure it.

Do we fund bureaucracy?

Or do we fund care?

Do we invest in buildings?

Or in people?

You have the power to decide which future Missouri chooses.

Thank you.

**Julie Blackmon
1254 E. Meadowmere
Springfield, MO 65804**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE BUSCHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 1:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the mother of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which I oversee. I have been fortunate to interview, hire, and train our caregivers through this program, as our son would not be eligible to receive care through an agency due to maladaptive behaviors. I have been able to provide them with direct, thorough training needed to work with our son. The turnover rate of our caregivers has been extremely low and, once hired, we have been fortunate to retain them for up to 3 years (college students moving on to pursue employment in their field). Additionally, our caregivers report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with our son. The feeling is mutual, as he is cared for consistently by individuals willing to listen, learn, support, and advocate for his needs. He often asks when he will see them again and puts himself on 'door duty' when he knows they are arriving soon. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily life. Further, our son has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, our employees will take a wage cut of 25-30%. We will lose our qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. Under Self Directed Supports, we are already unable to provide overtime, paid time off, insurance, mileage, etc. With this cut, they will not be able to support themselves and/or family. I predict we will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. Without these supports and qualified caregivers available, my husband or I will need to leave our employment to care for our son and no longer be a contributing taxpayer in the State of Missouri.

I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care for our loved ones should be the future of healthcare.

Respectfully,

Julie Buschmann
10065 Stonell Drive
St. Louis, MO 63123



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE CLEVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:23 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This budget cut would make it extremely difficult to hire and retain good employees and provide crucial services to Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.

I have two very close friends who have children who will be majorly impacted by this proposed cut.

If Missouri is truly a pro-life state, then I imply the lawmakers to find another way to and protect this citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE DONOVAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:34 PM

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This funding is important to disabled individuals. Missouri has an obligation to its disabled residents and their families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE HUME		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter is 22 years old and nonverbal. She is very intelligent and communicates with a board. She has no social interaction except for her family and her day program at Developing Potential in Lee's Summit. The people there are incredible and have been helping her with life skills and to become more verbal. The issues and challenges people like my daughter have don't automatically disappear when they age out of the school district. This program is a lifeline for my daughter and it helps us be able to keep her at home. She requires 24-7 care as she elopes quite often and also can't be safe on her own in our home. I know so many people in the same situation as I am and your budget will make it less likely that our kids will get the help that they need. I'm shocked that taking funds away from some of our most vulnerable and needy citizens is how you are deciding to take care of budget concerns...



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE KLUCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our son benefits from SDS services. He is 18 years old, has IDD and Cerebral Palsy. This condition effects his entire body. He will not be able to live on his own without help. His body has spasticity which prohibits him from being able to move like a typical person. He relies on someone to dress him, prepare his food, transport him to therapies; assist him in walking, toileting and all daily activities. The SDS program allows us to find hand-picked individuals, who are trained by me to fill his needs. The personal Care Assistant (PCA) can make a better wage than with an agency, but they don't get health insurance for themselves, nor paid time off, nor sick leave.

A PCA allows our son to stay in our home where he is safe, loved and included in the community. He is a happy guy despite his disabilities (or aka different abilities). Agency personal have a high turnover rate. This causes frustration and anxiety for families, in having to start over with training each time. Many agency workers don't want to work with individuals who need higher care.

Home and Community-Based Services are essential for a good life, which everyone deserves.

Please do not cut crucial funding to those who need it the most.

Sincerely,
Julie & Doug Kluck
Kansas City, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE MISSEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you regarding Governor Kehoe's proposed funding cuts to the Self-Directed Services and the Day Services Program rates. Both of these cuts would severely affect the most vulnerable population of individuals with disabilities in Missouri, including my 19 year old son James who has Down syndrome and autism.

My husband and I spent almost 2 years, filling out many rounds of paperwork, sending in every financial statement and medical evaluation possible to finally qualify James to receive a self-directed services waiver through the Missouri Department of Mental Health for James. This is not a service that is being abused or given out without extreme vetting of the needs of the person receiving the waiver.

Before receiving the waiver we were struggling to sufficiently attend to James's needs as two working parents with four children. My husband is a high-school teacher and I am a self-employed digital retoucher. I could very rarely get in a full day of work, trying to cram it all in while the kids were at school. But having a child with special needs is a full-time job in itself. There are always other things taking me away from working; scheduling and going to doctors appointments, therapy appointments, programming augmentative communication vocabulary, school meetings, filling out forms for financial assistance, summer programs etc. Not to mention attending to James's personal needs, feeding, bathing, dressing, managing behaviors etc.

When James is at home he needs one on one attention and cannot be left alone, he requires the same amount of attention as a toddler. He is non-verbal, has a severe fine motor deficit, and does not understand basic safety. Before we had the ability to hire Personal Assistants with the waiver, James spent a lot of time staring at an iPad or banging on a drum. He would get bored and his negative behaviors would increase, and he would often try to elope out the front door or be destructive to property.

In the past year, since we have had the PAs coming in to work with James almost daily, he is progressing and thriving. He loves the one-on-one attention and is visibly so much happier. He is engaged and becoming more social. He is learning to do so many independent living skills and is getting to attend activities he loves in the community. His PAs take him to Special Olympics basketball practice, high school basketball games, Special Olympics bowling, swimming and TASK social club. He is learning to do chores around the house, simple cooking, and self-care skills that will help him to be more independent. His behavior has improved dramatically. He is smiling all of the time and his communication is improving. These services have been life changing for our entire family!

It took us a long time to find the PAs who were qualified to work with James and to train them on how to help with his individual needs. The PAs do not get any benefits, no paid time off, no paid sick days. I cannot imagine now telling them that we cannot pay them at the rate we hired them for. We will likely have to start all over again to find and train new PAs, that is if we can even find qualified people willing to work for the reduced rate.

We are also extremely concerned about the proposed 33% cuts to Day Habilitation Services. Since James is 19 he has almost aged out of the Special School District and a Day Program will be the next step for him. If the recommended budget cuts are implemented, many Day Programs will be forced to close and we could be left with no options for James after school ends. These programs enable individuals like James to meaningfully be a part of their communities. They offer job or volunteer assistance, socialization and community based activity. We are depending on James being able to attend a Day Program to keep him engaged and doing work he enjoys and is meaningful to him.

It does not make sense to cut the budget to the SDS and Day Habilitation Services programs. These cuts would significantly negatively affect the lives of the most vulnerable Missourians. Please vote to fully fund both of these services in the upcoming budget!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE THOMPkins		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Thank you to the representatives who carefully considered the testimony from families and caregivers today who expressed concern about the cuts to SDS PA and day hab rates. My son and family's story is similar to many shared today in greatly benefiting from SDS PA services so I just want to echo and elaborate on several points made today.

I appreciated the opportunities that representatives gave families to expand in answering thoughtful questions. One question that was asked was how much of a financial impact families experience. I echo several families who shared today that a big portion of the cost to consider is the years of lost pay. Until my son received SDS PA support and we built up a team, I was not able to work full time outside of the home. There are many years of missed income when we had no options outside of school hours. If SDS PA rates are cut, we will not be able to find qualified caregivers and this will impact my husband and my ability to maintain employment.

Reducing SDS PA pay rates undermines one of Missouri's most cost-effective care models. When in-home supports fail, the state ultimately bears far greater financial and human costs through emergency care, hospitalizations, or long-term institutional placement.

I also wanted to elaborate on testimony given at the end of the day regarding DMH's proposed changes to the Code of State Regulations regarding SDS PA services. This is 9 CSR 45-3.080 in which two major changes are proposed. One is to no longer allow someone who is a power of attorney or representative payee to be an employee. This change will disproportionately impact participants who have communication and cognitive needs that require this assistance, as well as those with limited support networks. It limits care provision from those who may know the participant's needs the best. The other major change is to no longer have SDS PA rates in sync with agency rates. This opens the door for the discussion of this pay rate decrease.

Thank you for all of your time today and I ask for your assistance in helping us oppose these cuts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE WILIMECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:55 AM

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Thanks for this opportunity to make my voice heard in opposition to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DD services. Many people with special needs benefit from this and lead a better life with these services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTINE EDWARDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justine Edwards, and I am the mother of 21-year-old non-verbal autistic twins, Isaac and Elliot. I am writing today to strongly oppose HB2010, which proposes devastating cuts to the pay rates for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) program. These cuts, which would reduce maximum hourly pay to \$22.88 and slash budgets to 93% of the lower limit from the last rate study, represent a reduction of over 21% in compensation for the skilled caregivers who make independent living possible for thousands of Missourians with disabilities. This bill threatens the dignity, safety, and community integration of vulnerable individuals like my sons, while ultimately increasing costs to the state by forcing many into more expensive institutional settings.

Let me share our family's story to illustrate the human impact of these proposed cuts. Isaac and Elliot rely on SDS services to thrive and live lives of dignity in our community. With the support of their dedicated DSPs, they are active participants in everyday life, building skills and relationships that foster independence and reduce long-term reliance on public systems. Just last week, Elliot, while grocery shopping with his DSP, reached up to help an elderly woman grab items from a high shelf—a small but profound act of kindness that highlights how he's growing and contributing. Every day, both boys work toward goals like improving communication and self-care, with the aim of needing less intensive support over time.

Isaac, in particular, has discovered a love for iced coffee and has become a regular at our local QT gas station, where he proudly gets his daily "joe." The staff there know him by name, and these interactions—being seen, valued, and included—are only possible because of the consistent, compassionate care provided through SDS. Their DSPs don't just assist with daily tasks; they enable community engagement, skill-building, and personal growth in a way that honors their humanity.

But I would be negligent if I sugarcoated the realities of their lives. Elliot is still working toward independent toileting, with accidents occurring more than half the days in a month. Frustration can lead him to scratch his skin until it bleeds, requiring immediate, skilled intervention to keep him safe. It takes caregivers with commitment, expertise, and compassion to meet his needs—qualities that are already hard to find and retain at current pay levels. Cutting their pay by over 21% is unacceptable and will drive away these invaluable professionals.

Isaac, meanwhile, is just beginning to flourish again after the isolation of the pandemic triggered years of severe self-injurious behaviors. His DSPs implement a tailored behavior plan to protect him and themselves during challenging moments. The SDS model's emphasis on fair pay and close training has

kept staff turnover low, allowing Isaac to develop coping skills in the supportive environment of our home. These cuts threaten to unravel that progress, forcing us backward just as we're gaining momentum. As his mother, I cannot stand idly by while policy harms him again, as COVID-era restrictions did.

If HB2010 passes, we will almost certainly lose our DSPs. This would severely limit Isaac and Elliot's ability to live fully—curtailing outings, skill-building, and community ties. For many families, the alternative would be institutional care, which is not only less ethical but far more costly to taxpayers. Studies show that self-directed services like SDS reduce unmet needs, improve health outcomes and quality of life, and offset higher upfront costs through decreased reliance on expensive institutional and long-term care facilities. In fact, when programs are well-designed, self-directed care costs no more than traditional agency-provided services while promoting independence and community integration.

There are falsehoods circulating about SDS—that it's inefficient or that these cuts will save money without harm. The reality is that SDS is a fiscally responsible and ethical solution for Missouri's most vulnerable. State spending on SDS has risen not due to waste, but because the number of users has grown by 40% since 2017 as families recognize its benefits over outdated models. These cuts single out SDS unfairly, ignoring its role in preventing costlier alternatives like group homes or nursing facilities, which can cost two to three times more per person annually.

Moreover, the federal administration has emphasized safeguarding Medicaid for people with disabilities. As stated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding recent federal changes: "The One Big Beautiful Bill removes illegal immigrants from eligibility, implements work requirements for able-bodied adults and safeguards Medicaid for the vulnerable populations it was created to serve, pregnant women, children, low-income seniors, people with disabilities and struggling families." Yet HB2010 directly targets this population, contradicting that commitment and exacerbating Missouri's projected \$11-18 billion loss in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade.

In conclusion, HB10's cuts to DSP pay will devastate families like mine, erode community-based care, and balloon state budgets through increased institutionalization. SDS is not a luxury—it's a smart, humane investment in Missouri's future. I urge you to reject these cuts and protect the progress we've fought so hard to achieve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN GROVE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If you have a child with DD or know someone that does you would see the importance of day services for those individuals. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and to belong in the community. Cutting funding would negatively affect the Individuals as well as their families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN RYAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:17 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am waiting as a parent of my adult daughter Abby. I am her paid PA. Our daughter lives in our home. I have taken on the role and responsibility as her caregiver. Abby has an intellectual disability of Down Syndrome. She is not capable of driving. I drive her to her doctor appointments, communicate to the doctors and nurses. I drive Abby to her Special Olympics activities. She lives in our home and is safe, clean, loved and happy. I work on life skills, cooking. Laundry, reading and writing and personal hygiene. It is important for her to maintain those skills that come easily to her peers. Thank you for listening, protecting and support people with development disabilities. Please know that your actions have a direct impact on families like mine.c



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARI KIDD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 9:56 AM

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

My sister Shelly Carsten has Cerebral Palsy our brother is her caregiver. Shelly also attends CC Rising Day Center. If these cuts happen she will lose her community of people she loves and adores. CC Rising is her community. Our brother that takes care of her while I am at work will not be able to afford a \$14,000 a year pay cut. He will have to quit and move to where he can live. So at that point what will my Sister have. No community and No one to take care of her during the day. I think the state must look closer at the budget and find cuts some where else. With all the cost of living rising this bill will put a lot of families unable to live.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KASSANDRA ANDERSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing as a constituent who cares deeply about services for Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Governor Kehoe's proposed FY27 budget includes significant cuts to an essential program, and I urge you to speak with the Governor's staff as well as House Budget & Senate Appropriations leadership to STOP proposed cuts to Day Services in HB2010 in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Budget (page 6 of the MO DMH FY27 Budget Request Appropriation Book).

These services provide individuals with developmental disabilities the support they need to participate in their communities, give families vital relief, and this funding sustains the dedicated direct support workforce. Cutting these programs would have a real impact on the lives of people in our community who rely on them every day.

Thank you for protecting your local service providers by telling your colleagues: No cuts to DD Services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KASSIE ANDERSEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-525-6000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEVELOPING POTENTIAL INC.		TITLE: QDDP	
ADDRESS: 251 NW EXECUTIVE WAY, SUITE 200			
CITY: LEES SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64063
EMAIL: kandersen@developingpotential.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:40 PM

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

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE STEELE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Kathy Steele. I live in St. Louis County, Missouri. I am the parent of a disabled adult who has relied on Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) for over 10 years.

My son Brian is is developmentally disabled. He is nonverbal and requires round-the-clock supervision and trained staff to assist in all areas of daily living.

Under Missouri's Self-Directed Services program, the state does not pay administrative costs:

We hire his caregivers.
We train them.
We manage the worker's schedule.
We oversee his appointments and medical care.
We submit state required paperwork that goes with this program.
We maintain low worker turnover.

The same workers have been with him for over 2 years, and one has been with him for over 5 years.

One worker is a teacher for a local school district; one is an Occupational Therapy student; one is a Speech/Language student; one is a Mechanical Engineering student, one volunteers with the Special Olympics.

This combination of quality and stability is a direct result of the Self-Directed Services model.

However, I recently learned that my son's caregiver wages are at risk for a 30% rate reduction!

If allowed to pass, loss of his caregivers and destabilization of his care will follow.

Lower quality care options come at a higher cost to the state of Missouri.

Self-Directed Services is fiscally responsible.

Self-Directed Services reduces the administrative cost and costly turnover.

Self-Directed dollars go directly to the cost of care by eliminating administrative costs.

Self-Directed Services is a program Missouri can be proud of.

Please support this program that has worked so well for my son for over 10 years, as well as over 3500 other individuals across the state of Missouri.

I respectfully ask that you vote against any cuts to the Self-Directed Services and continue our state's investment in this fiscally responsible, home-based care program as an option for Missouri's disabled individuals.

Thank you.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN HARNETZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing as the parent of a 21-year-old son with significant intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities whose health, safety, and dignity depend on continued access to day habilitation services now at risk of being eliminated. When I consider the question, "What do you want for your child?", my response is the same for both my sons despite the fact that they are uniquely different. My vision for my children is that they will live a fulfilling, happy, healthy life that offers them safety, security, and independence through self-sufficiency, resilience, and emotional well-being. Attaining this life is certainly dependent on many things, not the least of which is an individual's own ability. Unfortunately, not every person has the potential for independence despite effort and aspiration.

My husband and I have been blessed with two amazing sons, Jack and Jace. We have lovingly raised them with the same values, encouragement, and support to guide them into becoming independent men. Jack is a loyal, determined and kind-hearted man who has the capabilities to forge his own path while consistently striving to build his future. While his dad and I will continue to encourage, love and support him - our goal is the same as his - for him to lead a self-sufficient life. For Jace, however, our support has had to evolve to adapt to his unique needs as an individual with disabilities. While our strategy looks different for our two sons, the goal remains the same - health, happiness, fulfillment, and as much independence as possible.

Jace is the most joyful human being I have ever encountered. When people meet him, or even pass him, they are greeted with an openness and warmth with his big smile and welcoming countenance. For someone who is non-verbal, he exudes his feelings so clearly his emotions are easily understood. Jace uses a wheelchair for mobility and has never stood or walked independently. He has strong receptive language skills and loves interacting with others by hearing what they have to say. His keen sense of humor often takes people by surprise when he reacts instantly to sarcasm or irony with his knowing look of amusement and a laugh.

Warren County Pathfinders has helped bridge the gap between what we imagined for our son and what reality has given us. The routine, structure, and assistance from the caring and capable staff has given Jace the opportunity to build social connections to peers as well as the professionals he works with. By providing safety, supervision and support, the day habilitation program staff gives Jace the opportunities to participate in meaningful activities that afford him social connection, growth in life skills, community inclusion and adaptive recreation. As parents, we have witnessed improvements in Jace's emotional regulation and frustration tolerance which are obvious benefits of the behavioral support he has received from staff who have been given ongoing training from a certified behavior analyst (BCBA) as part of a support plan. His physical strength has improved because of the

opportunity to use a stander while closely supervised by a direct support professional (DSP) which also benefits his circulation, digestion, and overall health.

The day habilitation program is so much more than just a place for Jace to go to, or a setting for him to be supervised in. Jace experiences companionship, love, encouragement, kindness, safety, enjoyment, meaningful interactions and opportunities to learn, grow, and be a part of a community designed to welcome him in. The real world simply does not offer anything comparable for Jace and individuals with disabilities in general. Can he get a job and make friends in a typical environment, through social outings or conversations? No. Is he able to care for himself independently for basic daily needs including toileting, feeding, dressing? No. Is the day habilitation program he attends an opportunity for him to lead as fulfilling a life he possibly can by being offered the supports he requires that are necessary for his basic survival? Yes.

My husband and I will remain lifelong caregivers for Jace in addition to being parents who love him and strive for him to have the best life possible. We continue to work hard, be financially responsible, take care of our own health, and gain skills and knowledge to offer Jace everything we can to enhance his well-being. The truth is, despite our very best efforts and intentions, Jace requires more than we can hope to provide him with to truly live the life he deserves as an individual born in our great country and loving family. Without the day habilitation programs that support individuals with the level of need that Jace and others in his position require, the emotional toll on family members as well as the program participants will be significant. Consider when someone has a job loss, or a social connection is cut off or someone is left more isolated, (think 2020) and the impact this has on mental and physical health to the community as a whole. The practicality of replicating the level of specialized support for Jace at home or in the community without the day habilitation program is simply not feasible.

The reality of Jace's situation is not specific to our family, our community, our state, or our nation. The importance of the opportunities that have been afforded to the clients of community based services like Warren County Pathfinders support an individual's dignity and offer equity to a population incapable of advocating for themselves. Cutting services to these programs disproportionately harms the individuals who are already vulnerable and have no choice but to rely on others to make responsible decisions to protect their rights.

I am asking on behalf of every individual who receives day habilitation services that you carefully consider how budget cuts will impact the lives of each individual involved along with their families, communities, and our world as a whole. As you consider cost-saving measures and fiscal responsibility, I urge you not to do so at the expense of essential services that form the foundation of support for individuals who depend on them. I ask this on behalf of individuals who deserve our deepest consideration and our commitment to what is morally, ethically, and humanely right. Finally, I ask that you make decisions that protect those who are incapable of protecting themselves. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critically important matter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Harnetz
Mother, Constituent, and Concerned Citizen



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN HARNETZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:05 PM
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I am asking on behalf of every individual who receives day habilitation services that you carefully consider how budget cuts will impact the lives of each individual involved along with their families, communities, and our world as a whole. As you consider cost-saving measures and fiscal responsibility, I urge you not to do so at the expense of essential services that form the foundation of support for individuals who depend on them. I ask this on behalf of individuals who deserve our deepest consideration and our commitment to what is morally, ethically, and humanely right. Finally, I ask that you make decisions that protect those who are incapable of protecting themselves. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critically important matter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Harnetz
Mother, Constituent, and Concerned Citizen



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN M. BASI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To be clear: I am specifically speaking today to opposition to cuts to disability services in the Governor's proposed budget. As pro-life people, we say we believe in supporting life "from womb to tomb." To remove these supports from people is to undercut their human dignity and to impoverish their lives and the lives of those who take care of them. Who could afford to work as a personal assistant under the proposed limitations? Who could afford to run a day program? Deep budget cuts to these services available to people with disabilities would mean fewer of them available, and more people left without community and without support, increasing the burden on caregivers who are already overstretched and on persons with disabilities themselves, who have limited income. There is nothing, I repeat NOTHING, pro-life about this proposal. I remind our legislators and our governor of a Scripture passage they apparently need to be reminded of: "whatsoever you do to the least of these, you did to me."



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 6:08 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN MELTZER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:17 PM
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Since 2020, I've spent at least six months of every year in Lee's Summit, taking care of aging parents. After my mother's death in 2023, I became my baby sister's guardian. Here's how much time I'm here: I get my hair cut in Lee's Summit.

My baby sister Nancy is 60 years old. She was born with cerebral palsy and profound intellectual deficits. She is loving and kind and instantly honest, in ways I can only aspire to. If the rapture happened tomorrow, Nancy would vanish and I'd be looking around wondering Where'd everybody go?

I'd like to share how important SDS has been to my family. Nancy's care is a family affair. Our brother is her rep payee. Our middle sister Susan is her primary caregiver. Nancy also has a second caregiver, Steffi, who will also speak today. Susan and Steffi are paid by the Self-Directed Services program.

Missouri's SDS program allows Nancy and thousands of other people with developmental disabilities to live with their families and participate in their communities. With the exception of a few years that Nancy lived in Jackson County's first group home for women, an institution my mother helped create; Nancy lives today where she has lived since 1975: in our family home

Nancy is part of the Lee's Summit community. She has an excellent day program at Developing Potential Inc. or DPI. DPI far surpasses any program I've seen in the Bay Area. DPI should be a model for day habilitation programs nationwide. I hope you're proud of that. Nancy volunteered for years at local nursing homes, delivering meals and gentle hugs. She volunteers at the Lee's Summit animal shelter. Whenever we go out, to Culvers or Perkins, to Kohl's, to the Lee's Summit Symphony, at least one person, a stranger to me, will recognize Nancy and come to get a hug. Nancy always remembers them.

My mother Judy Green is the reason Nancy has such a good life. She encouraged the legislature to develop many of Missouri's support programs like SDS. She and Nancy attended hundreds of political events to educate candidates about developmental disabilities. And my mother crossed the aisle without hesitation. If a candidate agreed to make developmental disability services a priority, she would hold fundraisers and campaign for them hard. Because she understood that programs like SDS are not a partisan issue. People with developmental disabilities don't care about politics. They care about their families and friends.

I want to explain how the SDS program really works for real families like mine. Families who are part of

the SDS program, such as my caregiver sister Susan, will never be in a position to take advantage of capital gains exemptions and tax cuts. Susan can't work outside the home because there is no job she could get that would pay enough to cover the cost of another caregiver. SDS is her sole income. If her SDS pay is cut by a third, she will have to seek help from other social services. This is true for SDS families around the state.

The SDS program represents Missouri at its best, a true expression of family values. It keeps families together. The proposed cuts will force families who depend on SDS into such financial hardship that they will likely have to institutionalize their developmentally disabled loved ones.

Families will be broken apart, their loved ones sent to live out their lives in nursing homes - and not the nice private pay ones. They will end up in the ones that got Missouri ranked 47th in the nation. Facilities without sufficient staff or resources, and in some cases even the will, to provide adequate care and protection to the patients they already have. The cost to the State of Missouri: over \$600,000 per person per year. The average cost of SDS is 48,534 per person per year and allows families to stay together and out of poverty.

\$48,534 dollars per person per year, or over \$600,000 per person per year. Hm. These proposed cuts don't seem to make financial sense. And they don't make sense in other ways.

Developmental disabilities includes a wide spectrum of conditions. Nursing homes are not equipped to deal with autism or sensory issues. Nursing homes are not equipped to deal with healthy people who, despite their disabilities, are used to living active lives.

Furthermore, people with developmental disabilities have civil rights, protected by law (Olmstead v. L.C., 1999). Upon admission to any nursing home, they will lose their rights to privacy and self-determination, to come and go freely, and to work.

The proposed cuts will make institutionalizations inevitable. If one tenth of SDS families are forced to institutionalize their loved ones, say just a few hundred, the cost to the state of Missouri will be well over \$200,000,000. Plus the additional burden to the social services system.

Furthermore unnecessary institutionalization is clearly unlawful, so add in the cost of lawsuits for civil rights violations. The State of Missouri will also be party to the failures of the nursing homes themselves.

All Missourians will bear these costs. Ask your constituents if they think breaking up families and stripping some of our most vulnerable citizens of their rights is what family values means. Ask them if condemning those people to a life of poor care and neglect and paying 12 and a half times more to accomplish that is a good idea.

I am old enough to remember when institutionalization was standard care. I worked in a residential facility in Jackson County where restraints were common and cattle prods were used to "teach" autistic children and punish noncompliant people with cerebral palsy. The few who could went AWOL and went on to live useful lives in their communities. I went back one night, to see my favorite resident who was not one of the lucky ones. She asked me to kill her.

The proposed cuts are a step in the direction of the bad old days. They are short-sighted and anti-family. The calculus of constructing a budget is impossible, but in this case the moral solution and fiscally responsible solution are the same.

Please eliminate the cuts to SDS and all other programs and support for developmental disabled Missourians. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today.



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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY GRAWITCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:17 PM
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Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped thousands of with these services . I have participated in several of the programs for families. These programs and support groups have given me hope and strategies to help my loved ones. I also volunteer my time to facilitate three of the programs. I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY S JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped with advocating for better policies for people affected by mental illness

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY WILLIAMSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in opposition of decreasing pay rate for personal assistants. I have supported differently abled individuals for 55years as a special education teacher with a master's degree, a job skills coach, started several agencies and as a direct service provider. It didn't matter what role I had-what mattered was to discover the potential and contributions differently able people bring to our community and how they can make our community a better place to live. I was around when the State began Self Directed Supports. That's right-many people I support were encouraged by the state department of mental health and case managers to apply for this program. It not only reduced the residential waiting list, but SDS was the least restrictive environment for individuals. Living in their own home with their own family and experienced PA's is where people thrive. Families need support. Those of you making budget decisions who think it doesn't matter that people live in congregate living or hab centers or institutions-I have only one question to pose to you:

When you grow older, lose your cognitive abilities, or are not able to physically care for yourself- is your end of life dream to live in a nursing home? Don't think for a moment that people who are marginalized and unable to speak for themselves want to be housed in a home where people don't know them, love them and because these places are so understaffed, they don't have the time to bring out the best in them. Please remember that you, too, are only a moment away from losing everything you are able to do. But by the grace of God, hopefully that will not happen for a long time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAYLA KENNEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a young single mother who gave up a career in special education to become a self-directed provider. After doing my student teaching during COVID, I realized that the politics of the education system do not line up with my passion, which is caring for individuals with special needs. I found out about self-directed services and that I could have a meaningful career that benefits these special individuals and the families that care for them so much. I gave up the benefits that accompany working for a school district in order to make this change of career. I also continue to have the burden of my student loans. Although I am a single mother, I have still managed to avoid using state funded aid to provide for my daughter and I. However, I cannot afford a pay cut. A pay cut would mean that my daughter and I would have to access Medicaid and other state aid. Which would counterbalance the money you are trying to save. When people look at the wage for self-directed services, they think it is high. But in reality, we do not receive any benefits. There is no travel reimbursement, paid time off, paid sick time, health insurance benefits, holidays, maternity leave, or vacation days. There are no benefits at all. When all of those things are subtracted from our pay, we are practically making minimum wage, which Missouri keeps raising to the detriment of taxpayers and small businesses. In addition to lack of benefits, the tasks we perform are far in excess of those of home health agencies and consumer directed services. We help to integrate our clients into the community. We help them participate in activities of daily living and learn new skills. We provide a higher level of service to improve their quality of life. We do this because we have big hearts and are dedicated to helping them live the best life they can live. We cannot afford the pay cut that is being proposed in addition to the cost of living and healthcare increasing.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEELEY RAQUE DANNENMUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed 33% reduction in rate for Day Habilitation (day hab) services in Missouri. This level of reduction would have a devastating impact on our program and, more importantly, on the individuals we serve.

I am a constituent of Missouri, specifically of Scott County. I am a Social Worker serving individuals with Developmental Disabilities. I have worked at SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, Inc. (SADI) for 14 years. I currently service as our Director of Special Needs Services.

We opened up a day program in September 2019 right before the start of COVID. We have had many ups and downs since that date. We have dealt with staffing shortages, less-experienced and underqualified workers, high turnover and burnout for staff. And this is not a population you want any of those above issues for. It's a vulnerable population that needs consistency in their life and staff that is experienced, that understands behaviors and how to de-escalate them before crisis occur.

With the current rate, we can hire staff at a competitive wage and maintain long-term commitment. We provide staff with health and dental insurance, life insurance, a 401K we contribute to, paid vacation and sick time, etc. Although day hab is a 1-6 ratio, we keep a 1-4 or 1-3 ratio. I currently have 9 day hab staff employed full-time with a max of 27 consumers a day. I started operating our day hab this way to improve the overall quality of the program and to be more effective with the consumers we serve, not including both the safety of our consumers we serve but the staff also. We are able to take a consumer to the bathroom and change their depend without a fear that no one is watching the other 5 consumers. Under DMH regulations, consumers that attend day hab must have 2 exits available at all times, so that means a consumer could potential walk out of the building if a staff is alone with just 6 and their attention is taken due to many things but toweling is one.

At the current rate, we are able to buy and maintain many accessible vehicles to provide transportation to and from day hab and go into the community. To be able to pick up consumers throughout our area we drive 4 morning routes and 3 afternoon routes. Our day habilitation services support community integration by providing supervised outings 3 to 4 times per week, reducing isolation and promoting safety, independence, and quality of life.

We can safety explore and learn in our community. Taking our consumers to Wal-mart to pick up items for a cooking class, while working on our budgeting skills with no worry when one consumer sits in the isle and refuses to move. While some of our other friends are becoming anxious and need to continue with the current task. We have enough staff to manage the group. I could give you example after

example of why we staff at a lower ratio for the safety of this vulnerable population. And if you want to see for yourself come visit us! Please! I would love to show you the work we do here.

We give our consumers experiences they don't often have a chance at. Things that we may take for granted. It can be little things to big things. Most of our consumers have never been to a pumpkin patch until they came to us, they never have been to the movies or exercise classes. These things we do with them to integrate them into the community and provide chances for socialization they do not get with other programs. We purchased adaptive bikes for our consumers. This costs over \$15,000. One adaptive bike was \$10,000. We can ride a bike while our consumers are safely positioned in a seat in front of us. Something most of our consumers could never do or experience. But why? Why do we do those things? These things eat at the rate. Because we give the most vulnerable population a better quality of life by teaching them independent living skills, giving them socialization opportunities and helping them gain independence.

We felt strongly that there was a need in our community for a day hab and we were right. Since then we have grown to serve many individuals with special needs ranging from Perry county to Scott county. Expanding and pouring money into our day hab spaces to fit the needs of our consumers as they have grown and needed more things here at their day hab. SADI is their day hab, not mine, not my staff, it's their day hab. A place they go every day that provides a safe, learning environment for them.

These potential cuts would likely result in:

- Reduced staffing levels, increasing safety risks
- Limited programming and community access for consumers
- Loss of experienced, consistent, trained professionals due to unsustainable wages
- Increased isolation and regression for individuals who rely on consistent services
- Greater strain on families, emergency services, and long-term care systems

For many individuals, day habilitation is not optional. It is critical service that supports independence, routine, and overall well-being. Reducing funding at this scale places consumers at risk and undermines the intent of supporting individuals in the least restrictive and most inclusive environments.

Day habilitation services fill a critical gap in our community by ensuring individuals with disabilities have safe environments, meaningful daily engagement, and the supports necessary to maintain their quality of life.

Please consider the real and immediate impact this decision will have on vulnerable individuals and their families who depend on these services every day.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELI HOUSTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:37 AM

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

ALL citizens deserve the supports to lead as independent lives as possible. Cuts to individuals and families while cutting taxes for the wealthy is unconscionable. Protect and support the vulnerable.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLI MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to voice my opposition to funding cuts for the people who need it most. I teach art at a day habilitation program. It is so important for individual with IDD to have funding to have a meaningful life. It is so important for these individuals to have a safe place to go during the day as well as have good supports at home. As someone who spends each day with these individuals, I want them to have a day filled fun activities, learning opportunities and to feel safe and loved. Funding is so important to keep these programs available and with good staff to run them!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEN WARRICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the grandfather of a 23-year-old young lady with significant disabilities. Gracie is completely blind and has cerebral palsy. She is significantly cognitively, physically, and developmentally delayed. She requires total assistance for all daily needs.

In her younger years, my daughter April (Gracie's mother) was somewhat selfish, albeit driven and dedicated to whatever she did. She was an intelligent young woman with a promising future. At 27-years-old, she gave birth to Gracie 14 weeks early. She was told she was having a miscarriage. She lived in a hospital room for the next 4 months staring at the pulse oximeter, praying for Gracie to live. Ever since then, I have seen a complete transformation in April. She has become completely selfless and has dedicated her life to making sure Gracie is safe, healthy, and has the best life she can live. She has fought for services at every level. She has sacrificed her own dreams. She is willing to sacrifice the rest of her life to make sure that Gracie is not neglected or abused. She maintains a relationship with her ex-husband and chose her next husband to continue making Gracie's needs a priority. Her mother suffered from multiple sclerosis for April's entire adult life, and in addition to caring for her daughter, April committed herself to helping care for her mother, who we were also able to care for her entire life at home instead of putting in a nursing facility due to the commitment of myself and our family. April continued in her mother's footsteps by making sure all holidays and get togethers were how her mother would have wanted them.

As a productive tax paying citizen of Missouri, I am asking that you take a hard look at where the actual waste in the budget is occurring and don't put Missouri's most vulnerable, deserving citizens at risk.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNEDY L YOWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.]

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNETH GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:55 AM

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

I have friends who have a disabled son who is getting necessary, or better put, essential help from these services and the family, hard working parents, will be drastically effected in the most harmful of ways. Vote NO!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNETH SCHRUM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 6:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cutting human infrastructure is a moral failure. I work with severely autistic people daily. It's very hard to believe that anyone could choose a highway over human lives. I know there's kindness in most of your hearts for these good people that are dependent on you directly and indirectly. Defunding self directed services and pay cuts would be extremely harmful to most of these beautiful souls. Care takers do not have the easiest jobs taking care of special needs all day but it truly is our calling to do so. I left trucking to work and help special needs folks. We don't have insurance, time off or vacations or any other type of benefits that come with the job, but we all love to help keep these human beings alive and out of harm. We are their protection and we want to believe that our government cares for people the same. Please do not defund their programs. Please do not cut our pay. There are so many other ways to cut spending. I dedicate my life to this but we all need to eat and pay the expenses. And most importantly we all must take care of the ones in need with no fault of their own.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KERRY COLOMBO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:20 AM

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

It is incredibly audacious and cruel to remove this funding. This is critical to quality of life for those who receive the services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KESHIA PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:31 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
DD cuts will affect individuals and their care needs and not just employees!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM LINDEMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM STUART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:13 PM

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

STOP TAKING PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AWAY FROM FAMILIES!!!

These people are human just like you and I. We need the mental health services for our families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY BRAGADO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have personally benefited from NAMI Missouri's education and support services, which provided understanding, support, and guidance at a time when I was struggling and felt alone. I regained my wellness and was a NAMI volunteer. This valued experience led to employment and self-sufficiency.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIRSTEN HEBERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below.

This funding has helped my adult child and my husband and myself as caregivers access invaluable assistance in grappling with multiple mental health issues at a time when services were near impossible to access in any other way. I cannot overstate the desperation we have felt at times and how NAMI has come to the rescue. It is such a small amount of money that does immeasurable good. The Family-to-Family program kept us intact - I am not exaggerating when I say it saved my marriage. If you are truly pro-family, you will support this funding.

This funding directly supports services my family relied on when a loved one was diagnosed with a mental illness. Programs like Family-to-Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, and a place to ask questions we didn't know how to ask anywhere else.

As a parent navigating the mental health system on behalf of my child, NAMI Missouri's education and parent support services helped me understand my role, advocate effectively, and feel less alone during an overwhelming time.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kirsten Hebert

Kansas City, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORY WILCOX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 1:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Missouri House Budget Committee:

My name is Kory Wilcox. I am writing on behalf of my son, Asher, who is 7 years old and a current recipient of the Missouri Children with Developmental Disabilities waiver (MOCDD / Sarah Lopez Waiver), through which he has received Self-Directed Support hours (SDS) as a part of his Individualized Service Plan (ISP) since 2019. His case is administered by our local SB40 Board, CC Links, in Christian County. We're a native Nixa family represented by Rep. Titus, and I've also been fortunate to spend time meeting with local Reps. Gragg and Whaley, as well, regarding his needs and safeguarding children in Missouri with high and complex medical needs.

Asher loves pop music, dancing, copybaras, car washes, Disney movies, Blippi, Bluey, going to the zoo and aquarium, trains, and so much more. He is creative, comedic and empathetic - and occasionally a little sassy. He loves going to school and learning with his peers. He has quite a medical history, but has learned to face each challenge head-on. This is thanks, in large part, to his consistently high level of staffing - often a rarity for kids with his level of complexity.

There is so much more I can tell you about Asher, but what I need to convey today is the incredible impact that his Medical Personal Assistant (MPA) SDS Staff has had on his life, as I make a plea to you to reject Gov. Kehoe's proposed rate cuts to these essential services for Asher and so many Missourians like him. I must beg you to protect our ability to hire and reasonably compensate his Staff - and it is not difficult to make the case that leaving the current rate caps unchanged (or raising them instead) is actually the more conservative choice for our state finances.

COMPARATIVE COST SAVINGS IS VERY LOW WHEN INSTITUTIONALIZATION IS THE ALTERNATIVE

I would love the opportunity to speak to any or all of you about how just one or two days without competent staffing during an acute illness, like the respiratory virus stacked with pneumonia Asher has been recently recovering from, costs MO HealthNet more in hospital PICU bills - \$4,000 to \$12,000 per day - than the \$6,000 to \$7,000 per year that might be saved from the pay cuts we would be required to dole out to Asher's MPA Staff this year, should the committee choose to include the Governor's recommendations in the FY27 budget appropriations bills.

In addition, the Governor's proposed cuts would eliminate the Community Specialist (CS) position from our staffing structure, which takes away our ability to concurrently train our MPA Staff with one of Asher's licensed medical practitioners (most recently our CS has been one of Asher's long-time

overnight nurses, an RN, who is exceptionally familiar with Asher's day-to-day medical needs and emergency care). The removal of the CS position without any sort of added provision for any other concurrent-billing trainer option eliminates a layer of safety and support from our team and throws best practices to the wind. There is currently no other way for our SDS Staff to be trained by any other team member or practitioner without committing Medicaid fraud.

Asher was finally back to school on Monday this week, after two weeks at home recovering, avoiding a lengthy, costly hospitalization thanks to the extra shifts our MPA Staff were able to pick up. Were it not for having them, paid and trained well enough by us and our CS to be willing to work and remain confident in their skills when the risks are high, the most likely scenario is that we would have been compelled by our doctors to admit him before the snow storm hit last week, another scenario where we risk many days without access to extra supports or diagnostics.

My wife and I often say "we run a PICU at our house." And that's because we do. We aren't compensated to do this, but we consider ourselves as the Executive Directors of Asher's care. We work to make our home such a worthwhile work environment that people want to stay for the long haul. As you can imagine, even with adequate staffing, decisions like the ones we are faced with during a critical respiratory illness or adverse weather event are sometimes a precarious balance, but the level of care available to us at home is what tips the scales.

Competitive pay for our team makes Asher's case far more likely to provide Missouri taxpayers with long-term and proactive savings, rather than to straddle Missouri taxpayers with pockets of unpredictable and reactive spending.

This is a real, poignant, tangible example of how the smaller comparative savings offered by a pay cut and cap to essential services like SDS Staff are shortsighted, especially in cases like Asher's and the other Missouri children like him who receive the MOCDD Waiver. I implore this committee to remember the significant cost differential that services rendered in-home consistently provide, when placed against equal levels of care in a hospital or other institutional setting.

HIRING MORE EXPERIENCED STAFF IMPACTS INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES IN MONEY-SAVING WAYS

I would also love to tell you the story of Ms. Laura, a retired SLP and long-time family friend from church, who we hired as one of Asher's MPA Staff when he was a toddler. Ms. Laura was an experienced hire, the kind of person we would want to pay more than someone with less experience. She deserved more than what we could offer at the time.

Ms. Laura didn't just want a job; she wanted to repurpose years of professional experience to change Asher's life. She used part of the SDS pay she received to purchase her own professional courses and subsequently became single-handedly responsible for teaching Asher how to speak safely using a Passy-Muir Valve over his tracheostomy. As a result, Asher has excelled as a communicator, maintained a peer-level academic track and stayed on-pace at school, despite his mobility challenges and having to miss many days for surgeries, illnesses and interventions.

The amount of lifelong productivity gained and functional expenses reduced by completely eliminating the need for Medicaid-billed communication interventions as a part of his K-12 public educational supports far exceeds the money to EVER be "saved" by capping the MPA pay rates for his Staff.

I could put a pencil to it, but the reality is you that already know that what I'm saying holds weight. It's a remarkable example of the best policy in play: enabling individuals and families like ours to attract and hire the best-suited people to provide care, be it for themselves or their children, as we did with Ms. Laura for our Asher.

This plea also has a solid "business 101" foundation. Individual SDS employers frequently have the need to hire someone more experienced, such as Ms. Laura, or to hire someone to work during a more competitive timeframe, such as weekends, or for a needs-intensive shift that has been unexpectedly vacated. Good employers of every kind need a pay structure and rate range that allows this staggered approach when hiring, and that leaves hires of all experience levels room to grow, such as performance raises and seasonal rates.

The rate cap levels being proposed by the Governor's budget recommendations will lock us into "Walmart up to Costco Cashier" territory. It limits our range and takes away our ability to compete earnestly with the general market - let alone the specialized market. It creates a revolving door for

inexperienced or "stepping-stone" Staff. And it clamps the reasonable pay scale - putting the top at just a few dollars above what has been our typical base pay rate.

The proposed caps will also be a sharp slap in the face for our long-term MPA Staff who have been given well-deserved raises over the years and who already exceeding the proposed cap. Maybe you would like to be the ones to write that letter to them? "Sorry Noelle. Sorry Alli. Please stay with your special boy even though we voted to pay you less than your employer had already determined you deserved for your dedication, experience and exceptional quality of care. The Governor thought it would be a good idea, and he's the expert now!"

The prospect of losing experienced caregivers alone is a non-starter for Asher and should be a point of shame and contention for this committee. I can't do anything to help you understand this, but only having the option to hire less experienced, less qualified in-home caregivers to take the place of experienced long-term Staff we could lose as a result of these budget recommendations, is a costly, detrimental, and unnecessary process, and not one without notable risks to Asher's health and safety. Even more so for our adult neighbors utilizing SDS who are facing the same potential cuts; it's typically far easier to find someone to learn complex care for a child than to learn similar care for an adult. Adults utilizing SDS are terrified that they will lose their most competent Staff. This is simply not right.

We hire across the pay scale - sometimes it does make sense to hire younger, experience-seeking caregivers. In contrast, I shared the story above because it illustrates how the most impactful hires we have ever had are the hires like Ms. Laura, who stayed for years, bringing related experience, and investing in Asher's ISP goals as well as his care. In this way, I believe maintaining a wide and flexible range of available SDS pay rates promotes long-term cost savings for Missouri taxpayers through increasing positive social and personal outcomes for kids like Asher, outcomes that drastically reduce his need for future institutional and costly therapeutic services.

THERE IS A PRESSING OPPORTUNITY COST, AND THAT COST IS GOING TO BE MORE DRASTIC THAN THE PROPOSED RATE-CUT SAVINGS

I would also love to invite you into our world as a high-achieving family raising high-achieving children, to understand the relevant benefit of our having the ability to be parents first and nurses second - rather than being required to live the other way around.

I would tell you about my being able to say yes to things like being the Cubmaster for Cub Scouts Pack 200, or about my wife having the ability to say yes to using her professional experience and NASP national certification to re-norm Academic Tests for Pearson using a pool of diverse Missouri students, or about my incredibly talented 13 year old having the ability to say yes to being cast in competitive community theatre shows at Springfield Little Theatre, or about my tenacious 9 year old having the ability to join a bowling league at Century Lanes, or about Asher being able to try roller skating at Skateland or go to his friend's bubble bash birthday party, or about our entire family being able to take vacations to Branson together to ride the Train at Silver Dollar City, or go fishing on Table Rock Lake -- all because we have competent, well-trained, and loyal MPA Staff to meet Asher's complex needs and help our life be simply life... American, free, in pursuit of happiness, like we all wish to be.

Without our Staff, our tentative yes becomes a definitive no. You don't just lose Asher from our community - you lose our entire family! To put it another way, the opportunity cost of a reduction of any amount in the quality or quantity of Asher's MPA Staff - the losses of our family's individual productivity, community involvement, self-determination, professional enrichment, contributions to society, and use of our resources to support Missouri businesses, Missouri students and Missouri infrastructure - is simply immeasurable and should not be discounted in the slightest by this committee.

A society where the least of us can thrive is a society where everyone can thrive, at every level.

RATE STUDIES IGNORE THE THREE CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE

Rate studies that include only pay scale to pay scale comparisons, with limited to no evaluation of the kinds of cost/benefit trade-offs, opportunity costs, or long-term financial impacts like those I have outlined here undermine a consistently conservative approach to budgeting.

The functional trade-offs - especially those related to the alternative costs of institutional care - must

be a part of the broader budget conversation. It cannot simply be a numbers game based on short-term rate reports that support one administration's expense-slashing plan or another administration's service expansion plan. This goes beyond the Ds and Rs.

Rate studies have a place. They are great at showing averages across national scales, comparing sectors and job descriptions. But rate studies are poor at comparing real-life applications of real-life Missourians and are horrid at including rate-independent employer-by-employer offerings, such as insurance benefits and paid leave, as part of the comparison.

Asher deserves more than spreadsheet-based decisions. And Asher's Staff deserves more than I can offer them. If I could provide benefits to our Staff in addition to their pay, I would. But individual SDS Employers in Missouri cannot provide their Staff with insurance or other benefits that the same Staff might receive working as an agency PCA or as a hospital CNA. In fact, I often offer to cover the cost of our Staff's required CPR and First Aid training out-of-pocket, because I think it's egregious that our program won't cover that expense for them!

So, this leads me to ask... should agency PCAs and hospital CNAs really be the kinds of jobs and categories used to stand up against Missouri's in-home SDS Staff in rate studies? I'm curious if you think so. I think I know what the Governor's budget team would probably say, or else I'm really not sure how they would have arrived at such drastic recommendations.

I feel like this committee has the creative vision to see past rate studies and into the actual lives of your constituents.

BACK TO BASICS: HCBS WAIVERS EXIST BECAUSE THEY SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY, BOTH IN PRINCIPLE AND IN FACT

Here's where I am. As a parent of a child with a significant disability, as a resident, as a citizen, as a caregiver, as a Missouri native: it would behoove us to get back to basics. Anyone can become disabled at any time for any number of reasons, and be thrust into this realm of taxpayer-funded support programs. This was not our family plan, but it's our family reality. I don't expect everyone to understand the impact of these programs the way I do. But, I've learned a lot, and I know I can honestly, clearly, and faithfully speak the truth about what should matter most to our legislature and how to arrive at what is a truly cost-effective set of appropriations for taxpayers supporting SDS recipients like Asher in our state. Cutting and capping rates is definitely not it.

HCBS Waivers like those providing SDS budgets exist in the first place because it is much more fiscally viable and responsible to taxpayers to provide Medicaid-reimbursed services at home where individuals also have access to natural supports than it is to provide those services in an institution, whether it be a hospital, residential care facility, group home, rehabilitation center, or otherwise. This has been proven time and time and time again. It is true, measurable, and very data-driven without bias, which is why U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt included provisions in the OBBB Act appropriating federal funding for the expansion of state HCBS Waivers and with the goal of eliminating waitlists!

Why in the world would our Governor want to cut the most basic state funding to HCBS programs that we are being actively invited to expand by one of his own state's Republican Senator?

The argument is not new. Missouri DMH presents the comparative data on HCBS Waivers during the budgeting process every year. And every year it is the same. It hasn't changed and it will not change. It costs 4-8 times more taxpayer money, on average, to pay for an individual's institutional care as it does to pay for his or her at-home care. Last year, this year, next year.

This data should take priority over any rate study data that lacks viable context for individuals or families acting as employers.

This data also underpins and supports every argument for, at minimum, maintaining the current SDS rates for MPA staffing or, boldly, increasing the rate caps, a move which thereby increases the independence, personal choice and freedom of Missouri residents living with a range of disabilities and complex care needs.

ASHER NEEDS YOU ON HIS TEAM FIGHTING TO PRESERVE SDS PAY RATES AND TRAINING STRUCTURES

We often refer to Asher's SDS Staff, along with his doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers,

paraprofessionals, and even grandparents and brothers, as Asher's team - his family of support. You are a part of that now, whether you want to be or not. You are welcome here.

I hope you will side with Asher and the thousands of Missourians who are counting on you to strike the SDS rate reduction and capping recommendations, as well as the CS removal recommendations, from any current or future appropriations bills. It is not just the right choice, it is, in fact, a defensible and conservative choice.

Please stand with Asher. Please don't let the short-term pressure to cut costs eclipse your long-term work for the good of all people in our state.

BACKGROUND

At 1 month old, Asher was diagnosed with a genetic, progressive muscle weakness disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), with a lethal typology of Type 1 (on a scale of 0 to 4). A decade ago, this disease and type was well-known as the #1 killer of infants among genetic conditions. Most children - even with ventilator support and the variety of medical interventions needed to sustain any quality of life - died before age 2.

Asher's story is quite different and sometimes feels miraculous, as he began receiving advanced genetic treatments at 5 weeks of age, and those treatments had only been FDA-approved 20 months before he was born. In the course of the disease progression, before these treatments began to help him unlock strength and make progress, Asher lived at St Louis Children's Hospital and, afterwards Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital. During that span, he almost died twice - he coded before our eyes, each time failing ventilator extubation to a BiPAP mask. Ultimately, we chose to place a Tracheostomy tube for Asher, as well as a Gastrostomy tube, and from that point forward, with treatments beginning to show a positive impact, Asher made his way out of the hospital and home.

In Asher's first 8 months of life, 6.5 of those were spent hospitalized. We have documented this journey in detail on his "Super Asher vs. SMA" Facebook page. I resigned from my Director-level position at a local nonprofit in 2019 to become his stay-at-home parent, caregiver, and care team manager. I call myself the "CEO of Super Asher vs. SMA." We have no regrets about this decision, and God provides adequate strength. It's incredible the things we can do when we must do them.

Today, Asher continues to thrive at home in Nixa with his two older siblings, Caedmon and Dominic. All three kids attend Nixa Public Schools and are on track to be fourth-generation graduates. Go Eagles! My wife of 17 years, Elizabeth, works as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist for Ozark Schools at Tiger Paw Early Childhood Center.

We're an open book. Our story could be anyone's story. Please don't ignore us. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRAMER GAIL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:01 PM

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

Let families continue to care for disabled family members. So many programs in MO are broken and frankly scary.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTA KENDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The cuts to day habilitation services and self directed services will be detrimental to the lives of individuals with disabilities, their families, their communities and the professionals who dedicate their lives to serving the community. This would be a step backwards in the progress the state has made in the inclusion and care of persons with disabilities. These cuts would directly effect the people I work with and the individuals I serve. This is our livelihood and our individuals lives that would be effected in the day to day. Keeping staff is vital to maintaining health and safety. These cuts are targeting the most vulnerable of our society. Oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTAL BERKBIGLER-FRIESE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE, INC.		TITLE: SOCIAL WORKER	
ADDRESS: 755 S. KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63703
EMAIL: kristal@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 3:26 PM

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed cuts to Day Habilitation Services. I have seen first hand the benefits these services provide to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Day Hab programs allow parents/guardians to work, care for other children, and complete day to day necessary tasks knowing their family member is cared for, enriched, and loved in a Day Hab. Day Habs provide learning, socialization, community engagement, and many other benefits to the attendee. Day Habs also provide employment to persons who staff Day Hab programs. These cuts will harm all involved in Day Hab programs and ultimately persons with disabilities will suffer. Without the opportunity to attend Day Hab, many persons are at risk of being placed in full time residential care due to care giver burnout, lack of appropriate community based supports, and will lose their independence.

There is a need for more transparency in the upcoming rate study. There are many factors that should be considered including reasons for staff absences, careful consideration of safe and appropriate staffing levels, and the tasks that the staff is completing with participants each day. Day Hab staff perform nothing less than miracles for participants with programs on hygiene, money management, emergency preparedness, peer support and so much more.

Day Hab Providers and family members of Day Hab participants should be given an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process for the program. Providers and families are truly the front line for participants and have the daily experience of witnessing the many ways in which Day Hab programs change and improve the lives of persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Finally, I would ask that careful consideration of the many benefits DD services provide to persons with disabilities in Missouri given and how these cuts affect them. These persons are often some of the most vulnerable of our citizens. They are also some the biggest joys I encounter in my work.

While I can understand the need to maintain a budget and make cuts, I don't believe making cuts on the backs of persons with Developmental Disabilities should even be a consideration. I would invite you to visit our center. A few moments with the wonderful people we serve, their families, and the exceptional staff that serve our Day Hab and these cuts would no longer be a consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI MIEREK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:16 AM

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

Cuts to day program funding will be detrimental to those who receive (and need!) those supports and to those that give them. I have seen first hand the importance of giving individuals with disabilities a purpose. To take this away is dehumanizing and saying that their needs do not matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI WINEGARNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 11:54 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Kristi Winegarner and I am writing to you to ask for your help in preventing major cuts to the MO SDS funding, effective 7/1/26.

As a caregiver to 4 individuals (one of who receives funding through this program) and a mother to an adult son on the autism spectrum, I have seen first hand how broken our system has been for those living with physical/mental challenges. A major issue has been the historically low wages caregivers earn. Prior to the last increase in funding, the turnover rate and inability to find adequate staff was a never ending problem for my client. Finally, with a livable wage that matched our training/skills, my client, Shelly Shetley, was able to build a dedicated team that has been in place almost two years now.

This bill indicates that I and the others would have to take an almost \$7/hour pay cut. With rising costs of health care/food and other goods, I don't see the current staff being able to afford to stay on. You are asking us to take a 21+% pay cut! Would YOU or your colleagues be willing to take that kind of a pay cut? Please think of these MO residents living with disabilities that deserve the best care and those of us who provide that by taking this bill off the table.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIE JEANES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I want to share how these HB 2010 will affect one of your citizens. Her name is Olivia Jeanes and she is an autistic 20 year old woman who appears to be maybe 13 when you meet her. Olivia used to have many interests, would laugh and smile, and she was quite the artist. However, she became very depressed after graduating high school. Our family began working with her service coordinator to apply for a state funded waiver that would give her services to get her back into her community and help her continue to grow towards a more fulfilling life. As we've waited for approval, we've watched Olivia become even more anxious and depressed and even begin talking to herself because, according to her, she doesn't have friends "like her" anymore. After two long years, we have just received word that Olivia has been approved for a waiver and now we face that being stripped away. One day, we are looking for service providers that will absolutely turn this young woman's life, our darling daughters life, around, and the next, we learn there may not be funding starting in July. You can't imagine the devastation that news brought.

These cuts will also have another effect for me and moms like me across the state. The last two years I've been unemployed, having staying home to care for Olivia. Without a waiver, we can't afford day programs, and finding care for a special needs adult is not only expensive but nearly impossible. That waiver we waited for was also going to open the door for me to find employment to help support our family. We have struggled for two years as a one income family and I was looking forward to a little relief.

Our little family has a little voice that's hard to hear all the way from Jeff City. Even so, we are hopeful you will hear us. We hope you will hear the voices of the young and old disabled citizens of the state who rely on you, their representatives, because they rely on you as much as they rely on their caregivers, their doctors, and their therapists. And today, they are relying on you more than ever.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIE LYN HEAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Michael is my 33 year old autistic son who has little language and communication skills and still loves Disney toys and movies, Thomas the Train, and Winnie the Pooh. He's a 6'4", 270 lbs man whose 'Mama' still brushes his teeth, washes his hair, and his favorite activity shaves his face! Michael attends a DayHab 3 days a week, and I use SDS so that I can go to work at Fredericktown Alternative School where I serve our town's At-risk students. Michael will never marry, hang out with friends, get a job, buy a house, have children, or pay taxes. He is, however; safe, secure and loved in our home and it's heinous that his life could be ruined with the stroke of a pen. Where is the priority for some of the most innocent Missouri citizens? My husband and I have always paid our fair share of Missouri taxes and expect them to be spent wisely. Caring for the vulnerable and continuing to fund Day Habs and SDS is wise!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIN DONZE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed budget cuts to DMH Disabilities Services. My 23-year-old son, Nathan currently receives day program services and self-directed services through his DMH Waiver. These services allow him to have access to resources and support in the community and working on goals to be more independent toward his good life. Without these services, he would be homebound and solely rely on family to access community resources. These services not only benefit Nathan, without them I would not be able to work full time to support our family. These supports also help support me in giving me the relief and burn out prevention I need from being the sole caregiver since Nathan requires 24 hours care.

You might think that these services might not apply to you because you don't have a family member with a developmental disability. Well, I didn't either. Nathan was born a healthy child with no medical issues. All that changed in matter of seconds when his babysitter (who was on MO Care Registry) decided to shake Nathan. As a parent you quickly learn that private health insurance does not cover the cost and expenses of care for child/adult with a disability.

Cut in these services, are going to harm so many families and individuals. It will actually cost state more money if families don't receive the support they need for their family members. In-home supports cost the state less money vs placing their love ones into a group homes, ISL, nursing home and other unnatural support settings.

Please do the right things and support Missourian with disabilities.
Thank you,
Kristin Donze



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTINA HAGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If funds are decreased, our most vulnerable are going to be cared for by people who are significantly less credentialed.

Or... Our most vulnerable will have to move into facilities for Care as opposed to staying at home

The average cost of providing care for somebody is at home is approximately \$50,000 per person. The approximate cost of providing for care for somebody in an institution is typically greater than \$800,000 a year.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLE EAGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm writing to urge you to oppose cuts to services for Missourians with developmental disabilities (MO DMH-DD Division Budget: HB2010). These program are essential for helping people in your district live independently, build skills, and be part of their communities. Reducing funding will have a devastating impact on the people who rely on these services every day.

Cuts to services for people with disabilities not only harm individuals but will lead to higher costs for the state down the road. Access to services today help to reduce crisis situations and keep individuals out of more costly and intensive services in the future.

Please stick up for your constituents with developmental disabilities and their families. Tell your colleagues on House Budget to protect the funding for DD services. We're counting on your leadership to safeguard essential services for people with developmental disabilities and uphold Missouri's commitment to quality care.

Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLIE SANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm against this bill, my 29 year old brother has Autism and ADHD and is able to live independently due to these services. Without it he may have to be placed in a group home setting, costing the state more & negatively affecting his quality of life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA MUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 7:20 PM

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

I am the legal guardian of a 12yo boy with level 3 autism. I am opposed to the proposed cuts to the SDS pay rate. He had absolutely no services before SDS because agencies in my area either do not serve children at all, or had no staff to send.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY LEIP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To The Honorable House Budget Committee members;

I am writing you today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 mental health funding I describe below. This funding has helped me personally. I attend the NAMI Missouri Family to Family support group in Jefferson City. I have an adult daughter with serious mental health conditions. At times, I struggle with how to relate to her and help her in her mental health journey. The support group I attend always helps me deal with these issues. Sometimes it is a specific suggestion on how to address a particular problem. Oftentimes it is just support for me as I navigate this difficult journey of our lives together.

She and I are able to deal with her issues, relate more closely, and live better lives because of this Family to Family group. Without this support group, and the many others like it across our state, I, and others like me, would have a much more difficult time coping with the struggles of living with a family member dealing with mental health conditions.

I respectfully request that you please reinstate \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

- Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
- Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
- Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

These programs are vital to the mental health community and the persons who rely on them.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Larry Leip



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY OPINSKY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA GUNNELS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Families, caregivers, and providers for Missourians with severe disabilities have enough to deal with already. Please reconsider any cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation. These programs are a lifeline for Missourians with severe disabilities and help seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA LYNN STEARNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped us as a family with loved ones who have mental health conditions. Through NAMI Missouri programs, I gained practical support and access to tools to help me keep my family safe in a situation that could have become dangerous. Mental health is a topic that matters. We need more tools, more funding, more psychoeducation. Lives are positively impacted through NAMI Programs and I worry that without these valuable resources lives will be negatively impacted.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA MCCLELLAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I work for a company that will be greatly impacted by this bill. I pour my heart into my work with individuals with IDD, many of whom stand to lose vital services. These individuals like any individual with IDD or without deserve to remain with their families and friends they have made through services. I work at a day program with many, I do not make much more than minimum wage. I manage to scrape by paycheck to paycheck supporting myself and my family without government assistance. The individuals that I support at day program need to continue to attend and work towards their life goals at their own paces. Day program for some is the only time their families can work outside of their homes because their loved ones are safe with us. For many of these individuals it's the only socialization they receive outside of their families and home. For some day program is a life line when they are being shuffled through group homes and foster families, day program remains their consistent. The individuals that we serve are unique in personalities and the day program provided a community of their peers. Some want to learn to read some want to learn to draw and some just want friends. Day programs are important not just for individuals with IDD but to the communities they are in. We take our individuals into the community and participate in making the whole community a better place for everyone. Some of the individuals I serve helped sow and plant a community garden in the last few years. They ask about it throughout their weeks. They go visit it and pull weeds. They helped to pick vegetables and shared those vegetables with many people throughout the community. Several have learned to do crafts, wreaths, corn hole boards and participated in community tournaments and craft fairs. They have family and friends in their community and attend football games, basketball and other local sporting events. They also most importantly look out for one another emotionally. They worry about the families of their staff and the families of their peers. They make sympathy cards, birthday cards and just happy to have you in their lives cards. Individuals with IDD are just like everyone else, they have compassion and caring for everyone. I also support individuals with IDD with employment services. They work hard as they can and they take pride in their work. Not only will you be taking needed supports from many individuals with IDD you will be taking many individuals source of employment. I find joy in my employment at the day program and with employment services. The individuals I serve bring me joy and I hope I return that for them. I personally do not have many job options in my community that provide joy in work and that works around my family life as I work around the lives of the people I serve. I hope that everyone will go visit the day programs and other services in their respective communities and meet the same individuals and the families those services support. They deserve more support not less support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill cuts funding for Missourians with disabilities. These cuts are too drastic for individuals and families to absorb. Missourians with disabilities will suffer needlessly and they and their families will struggle to get the support needed to thrive.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a parent of a special needs individual and with these cuts my child would not have a routine that he thrives on daily he wouldn't have anywhere else to go except to his day hab and I as a parent would not be able to work please just don't do this look at other ways to make this cuts Thank You Mrs White



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA ZINK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:51 PM

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

I oppose reducing funding for programs that help our most vulnerable citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURI SCHINZING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To take money from the budget that helps so many individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families live a life as close to people who are able bodied, to help them live as people typically do is just wrong, these special individuals deserve to live in their natural homes just as much as a typically person. These individuals have dreams and goals they want to achieve and it's important to them and their families that they have the support they need to have the outlet to work, strive and achieve these goals and dreams. The people who are lucky enough to be called to work in the field of to be able to help them and their families are better off for having known them, watching them work so hard to overcome so many obstacles requires a special strength that only few people have and to watch that strength in action is a honor for me. For the past 20 years it has been an honor for me to be employed to support individuals in there own homes, the first job I had 20 yrs ago 3 men just moved into there own home from being institutionalized! It was amazing to watch them enjoy making their own decisions and going out to around their neighborhood saying hi to their neighbors. Going to the gas station on the weekends to buy a coffee and a donut, the cashier knew them by name and looked forward to seeing them. They had to get used to being able to decide what time they wanted to shower at night, no one was going to tell them when to do things now they got to make there own choices! All of these things most people dont think about or most people take for granted. We can't go back to that! Please don't cut the budget!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURIE CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURISA BALLEW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 2:50 PM

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

Proposed pay cuts to Self Directed Supports.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEAH SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LEE TRANKLER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-475-4108	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEARTLAND SUPPORTED LIVING, INC.; HEARTLAND ADULT DAY CENTER		TITLE: CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 731 YORK DR.			
CITY: SIKESTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63801
EMAIL: lee@heartlandsl.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:17 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a fairly new provider of day habilitation services, we have seen the impact of how this service has increased independence for the people we support. Several who attend have learned better traffic awareness, have improved their reading and writing skills and recognizing money and money counting skills. They also give back to their community by helping at a local blood drive, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas and volunteering at a local animal shelter. They want to be seen as valuable members in their communities and are striving toward that goal. Cutting the funding for this service would be detrimental to the independence and community connections they have already gained. Cuts could cause us to decrease the rate of pay for our workers or lay off workers, which would cause us to decrease the number of people we can support. Therefore, I am asking that there be no cuts in funding for DD services. The natural support opportunities for people with DD are so limited especially in rural areas. Every dollar toward DD programs supports an individual's dignity, stability, connection, health, safety, independence, belonging, and ultimately their ability to lead a full, self-directed life in their community. We have to make sure they have what is needed to strive for improvement and thrive with the skills they already possess. Thank you for carefully considering my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEEANNE VEST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My grandson is mentally disabled and this bill would drastically impact his independence and the overall quality of his life. There are many others in this state that would be greatly impacted. Please stop this bill that would hurt the weakest among us.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE BURKERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:36 PM

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

I oppose any cuts to DD services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE JOSLYN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:49 PM

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

This funding directly supports services my family relied on when a my wife was diagnosed with a mental illness. Programs like Family-to-Family gave me lots of information and tools that I couldn't find anywhere else. It also was a resource for answers to questions I didn't even know to ask.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LILA OZLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Day Habilitation services are much needed for many individuals in the IDD population. Cutting funds would limit access to these services and effect thier physical and mental health. I know a couple individuals who currently use these services, and it is something for them to look forward to each day rather than sitting at home watching TV.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA BRIGGS-HARTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:46 PM

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

We MUST support our disabled, including seniors and others. Do not cut funding!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA K. SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped to support my own personal experience (and that of my family) in understanding and dealing with the mental health challenge of my oldest daughter. From support to classes to educational resources to advocacy, NAMI has been a lifeline for people like me. In addition, classes such as "Family-to-Family" help us by providing accurate information, practical tools, and a place to ask the questions that we did not know how or where to ask.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA LOGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:01 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My grandson has cerebral palsy and is currently supported by the SDS PA program. He has wonderful SDS PA caregivers who keep him healthy and safe , giving him opportunities to go into the community while allowing his parents to work. I ask you to vote against cutting SDS PA's pay rates. In addition, he will need to rely on a day hab program once school ends for him. Please do not cut the present funding for this vulnerable population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA S RAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in opposition to the funding cuts to Day Programs for Individuals with Handicapping Conditions. I have worked in this field of service for over 40 years first as a Special Education Teacher and now as a Direct Service Provider. We give these individuals the supports they need to become contributing members of society. To cut any funding would be a travesty against these individuals, families, businesses, and employees who work with these individuals. Cutting funds would be detrimental to all who are associated with receiving the needed funds for the continued growth and success in these individuals every day life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA SEDRICK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-686-2074	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BUTLER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING(NORTHSIDE NUTRITION)		TITLE: ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	
ADDRESS: 506-E HAZEL ST.			
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63961
EMAIL: northside@tcmax.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:42 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am asking each and every Committee Member to please consider to continue to support funding for meals and home-care services for Seniors/
These programs are critical to help sustain them to be able to stay in their homes. It is much less costly for these programs to exist instead of placing them in nursing homes or other places. Seniors want to stay in their homes. The majority Seniors have worked all their lives and paid Taxes. The just want to be Independent and keep their dignity in a place called home. I am a Senior Citizen who has worked many years helping Seniors. These programs are Critical to them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDSEY BARNHART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 2:25 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a Missouri constituent, Personal Assistant (PA), and Community Specialist to respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed changes in HB 10 that would eliminate Community Specialist services and reduce Personal Assistant pay under the Self-Directed Services (SDS) Waiver.

This issue is deeply personal to me and to the individual I support every single day. I serve as both a Personal Assistant and a Community Specialist for a young adult with a disability. These services allow him to live safely, communicate effectively, and participate meaningfully in his community. The supports funded through SDS are not luxuries — they are the reason he can live with dignity, purpose, and inclusion rather than in a more restrictive setting.

The proposed pay cut would be devastating to self-directed staff. We do not receive employer-sponsored health insurance, paid time off, mileage reimbursement, or paid holidays/holiday pay. My wages allow me to purchase my own health insurance, cover unpaid days when services cannot be provided, and pay transportation costs that make community participation possible. A reduction of this size would force many dedicated providers out of this field — not because we don't care, but because we could not afford to stay.

When caregivers leave, individuals with disabilities do not just lose staff — they lose stability, safety, and trusted relationships. Families are left scrambling, services go uncovered, and the risk of neglect increases. These are real human consequences, not abstract budget numbers.

Eliminating Community Specialist services would cause even greater harm. These professionals ensure that Medicaid-funded assistive technology is used effectively. Without proper training and ongoing support, devices that give individuals a voice and greater independence often go unused. Cutting these services wastes taxpayer dollars and strips people of the tools they need to thrive.

These changes would also directly impact organizations like the Adam Morgan Foundation, which provides technology-based supports that promote independence and communication. Community Specialist services are the backbone of these programs. Without them, progress made by individuals and families across Missouri will be undone.

The SDS model works. It keeps people in their homes, connected to their communities, and supported in ways that are both person-centered and cost-effective. Cutting Community Specialist services and

reducing PA wages will not save money — it will shift people into more restrictive and far more expensive systems of care.

I urgently and sincerely ask you to protect Community Specialist services and ensure fair compensation for self-directed staff. Missouri families and individuals with disabilities deserve stability, respect, and the opportunity to live full lives in their communities.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of the very real people affected by this decision.

**Respectfully,
Lindsey Barnhart
Personal Assistant & Community Specialist
Adam Morgan Foundation**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:44 PM

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

Please stop limiting funds for those who need it most. Having a child with special needs is already expensive and emotionally exhausting. Most families cannot afford the needed services and adaptive communication aides without the support of these agencies.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA DUNAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Lisa Dunaway and I am a personal assistant who provides full time daily care for a medically fragile individual through Missouri's Self Directed Services program. I have worked in this role for over 2 years and over a decade as a Caregiver to medically fragile clients with special needs. I am trained to support complex medical needs including but not limited to g-tube feeding and port changes, medication administration, seizure care and close monitoring for health changes that can quickly become serious.

This work depends on consistency, training, compassion, commitment and trust. The person that I support relies on her caregivers who understand her medical routines and needs, her non verbal communication and who are able to quickly catch early warning signs of illness or complications that can arise quickly.

As much as I truly love my job and my client, the proposed wage reductions would make it nearly impossible for me to continue in this work through the Self Directed Services program. Like all other Personal Assistants working in Missouri's Self Directed Services program, I receive no benefits. No health, dental or vision insurance. No sick pay, PTO or vacation time. No 401k, retirement or even mileage reimbursement. I am also unable to obtain any overtime to supplement my income due to the 40 hour per week max time allotment. A pay cut of this magnitude would leave me unable to afford these very necessary and critical things for myself or my family.

The proposed pay cuts would force most Missouri Self Directed Service Personal Assistants to leave their clients and find work elsewhere, leaving the states most vulnerable without their caregivers. When experienced long time caregivers are forced to leave their clients Missouri families often struggle to replace them and individuals with complex medical needs can be left without safe and reliable home-based support. A loss of experienced caregivers puts the health and safety of our communities most vulnerable citizens at risk.

As a Personal Assistant who has had years of experience working in residential facilities as well as Missouri's Self Directed Services program I can say without any doubt that the quality of life is immeasurable for these clients when they are able to stay in their homes and receive one on one supports from dedicated, consistent caregivers. The turnover rates are incredibly low and the rates of abuse and neglect are almost nonexistent.

I chose this work because I believe people with disabilities deserve to live safely and with dignity in their homes. I respectfully ask you to consider how these changes will affect the caregivers who make

community-based care possible as well as the long-term impact on both families and the state if this workforce cannot be sustained.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:50 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a state DMH employee who has served so many families with children (or adult children) with physical/neurological/developmental disabilities, this proposed cut would hurt SO many families & consumers who NEED some many supports & services. I strongly oppose this proposed & unnecessary budget cut to those who need it most.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA LONG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The proposed budget cuts to disability services will be devastating to many people on many levels. Just for starters, the day programs are not only a source of life skills and social learning, they provide so much in mental health to the people who need the programs. Additionally, the day program services allow an opportunity for the caregivers to work. Removing the day program services will force people to quit their jobs, thus forcing them into poverty. This will add financial strain not only to those families, but to other government programs such as Medicaid and SNAP. Unfortunately, this bill not only cuts day program funds, but also self directed services. This again, will force many more people into poverty, again increasing the strain on other programs and resources.

In short, the proposed cuts will force more people into poverty, while decreasing the ability of individuals to function in society, all while taking away jobs. Every cut to services like these puts a greater burden on the state, as well as hurting the economy. (Less people working means less money to be spent means less going into the economy). Please don't take away these much needed services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA NICHOLS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We have a special needs daughter We are concerned about the proposed cuts in funding. Cuts will undermine the independence and community of people with disabilities. In addition, we believe that cuts now in funding will end up costing more in the long-run. We are asking you to reconsider these cuts in the budget. Thank you - The Nichols family



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:57 PM

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If DD cuts happen it can affect the individuals with disabilities as well as the employees that work with them daily. They deserve to be able to learn just like any other person without disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PUCHALSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:05 AM

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

Do not cut any funding for support staff for disability adults!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PUMMILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:33 PM

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As a nurse at a Day Habilitation Program, I feel that budget cuts will negatively affect the individuals we serve and the quality of their lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA WALKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:25 AM

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We are not in favor of the budget cut. Our individuals are very much in need of these funds. Please consider this in your decision making.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LOIS MANS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:05 AM

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

I strongly oppose this! We do not want our disabled to have cuts and cost more money to our government.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORI HOLBROOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom It May Concern,

Our daughter, Hannah Holbrook, has been benefiting greatly from SDS Medicaid services. She is able to live her best life by services provided, from her personal assistants, by volunteering in the community, attending all of her extracurricular events, socializing with friends, attend summer camps, etc. These services allow Hannah to live at home yet still be an active member in her community. Hannah requires 24/7 care, between her natural family supports and her PA's. Without everyone working together, as a successful team, life would look different for Hannah. However, with these services, Hannah has a meaningful quality of life, a person-centered model, that is an important necessity to her daily life!

Please see below for the purpose of this email!

It was recently brought to my attention that the 3,527 Missouri families who use the Self-Directed Support (SDS) Medicaid service have been expecting cuts in the Governor's proposed budget, given the impact of OBBBA, but were not expecting that our SDS program would be singled out with extreme reductions. The SDS families are clearly being targeted disproportionately. The Governor's budget targets those families who are providing this care with the help of paid caregivers that they find, hire and train on their own without the added expense of a home health agency (providers). The providers are not receiving cuts to their PA services, but are receiving cuts to day habilitation programs.

In short, the \$6.96 effective hourly rate reduction (\$29.04 to 23.88), regular SDS PA families will LOSE THEIR EMPLOYEES and not be able to hire new ones. We don't want to lose the amazing PA's we currently have! The CSR for these services for the past 10 years states that SDS will have the same rates as providers for these identical services. Three years ago, the DMH ignored this CSR and did not provide the legislated increases to SDS. The following year, they filed with CMS to freeze the SDS wages without a rate study or CSR in agreement. The Mercer rate studies completed over the last 2 years confirmed the PA rates to be within range for both SDS and Providers for the SAME JOB. DMH has now informed that they are going to change the CSR to meet their current financial needs, calling for public comment next week on undisclosed language.

SDS is the most effective use of funding for providing services to Missouri's most vulnerable citizens. The proposed budget ignores this fact. Unlike the provider model and the habilitation centers, SDS staff turnover is extremely low, budgets are routinely minimized, abuse and neglect are nonexistent, and client satisfaction is extremely high. We have had some of our PA's for years! Not only is this

important to us but to our daughter to have consistent supports! And this service enables families to stay together in their natural homes, have jobs, and be productive taxpayers for this Great State.

The proposed budget will not reduce the spending on this state's most vulnerable population. Rather, it will dramatically increase the future financial burden by forcing these families to stop using the service and seek other ways to keep their loved ones safe and healthy. This could be by attempting to use a local provider for in-home services. However, there is no capacity for the existing providers to absorb these families in their PA service, nor is there any provision in the budget to provide for this expansion. This would then force families to separate and send their loved ones to a residential service provider. However, there is no capacity in the residential provider network, nor increased budget for them either. The only outcome this budget suggests is institutionalization in the state's habilitation centers at a cost of over \$600,000 per year per client. We don't want this for our daughter! Having her at home, as a family, is very important to us! The proposed changes are ethically and fiscally irresponsible.

As a member of Self-Directed Supports-MO, the only group that is comprised entirely of families and individuals using self-directed supports, I implore the legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly affected. Agency providers are currently shielded from cuts in PA services but have proposed cuts for their day habilitation services. We seek equity across all services, for SDS and Providers, as has been the existing governing CSRs for 10 years.

There must be other ways to keep our families together and to help with balancing the state budget for FY26 more equitably and humanely. Medicaid cuts of any kind do not represent the population of the Show-Me State, we can do better.

Thank you for your time!

Lori Holbrook



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORIE PERDIEU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LUCAS MIGUEL CAVLOVICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:09 PM

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

This bill is looking to cut my income for no other reason than to benefit one of their partners on th back end.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LUCY BROOKS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE, INC. (SADI)		TITLE: NURSING SUPERVISOR	
ADDRESS: 755 SOUTH KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63703
EMAIL: lucy@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 5:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Lucy Brooks and I am a nursing supervisor with SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, Inc., located in Cape Girardeau MO. Our Independent Living Center serves five counties: Perryville, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Scott, and Mississippi counties. We run a day program in our facility for adults with developmental disabilities, among other services, for those living in the communities we serve.

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed FY2027 Budget Cuts outlined in House Bill 2010 that will significantly affect funding for the day services for individuals with developmental disabilities. I would like to take this opportunity to plead with you to stop the proposed cuts that will severely impact the day program for these vulnerable adults and restore the \$21.8 million in revenue to protect this population as well as families and the workforce.

As a staff member who works in the office, I have personally witnessed the growth of our day rehabilitation program from the moment of its inception to where we are now in 2026. I have personally interacted with many of the consumers, whom we call friends, participated in social events with them, and conducted exercise programs as well. The growth in confidence and sociability of these friends have been astounding. They now have a sense of purpose and many have become leaders in their own right.

Having worked as a paraprofessional in a Learning Center at a local elementary school in Cape Girardeau, I have the pleasure and privilege of welcoming some of the students I have worked with in kindergarten through the third grade to the SADI day program as young adults. To see them blossoming in the day program is utterly rewarding. I only wish you could see that for yourself to understand how important this program is and how funding cuts will drastically and tragically effect the development of these young adults.

Many who came to us as non-verbal, low-functioning adults now have the social skills to follow instructions and interact with others. Those who are higher functioning have become leaders or “buddies” to friends who need a little extra help. This sense of belonging means the world to them and they all look forward to attending our day program activities every day.

Our center provides varied activities, both within our building as well as in the community. They enjoy outdoor activities, visits to various places like a fire station, and a weekly Zumba session at one of our local community centers. They learn a multitude of life-skills like cooking, cleaning, handling money, emergency preparation, and many more. The staff and consumers sometimes prepare a meal for staff on pay-day week. They have even sang Christmas carols at our local mall in December. During Thanksgiving week, they help distribute food packages to consumers.

The day program also allows their care givers to become productive contributors in the work place. If the cuts are made, many of these adults will have no place to go during the day, thus limiting the number of people in our workforce.

The one thing that is most important in my opinion is that they discover they can be productive, live with a purpose, in a society who sometimes think they are non-contributing members. This is such a valuable lesson and needs to continue.

I urge you and your colleagues to visit our facility and spend some time with our friends. A budget cut is all about numbers but these are real people who will be affected and their lives will be changed for the worse for a long time if not forever.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I plead once again that you would stop these cuts and restore the funding to the day program in Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNN ANNE BROOK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-395-9375	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SERVICES		TITLE: DAY PROGRAM DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2644 METRO BLVD			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: lbroom@bis-stl.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Lynn Brook, and I serve as the Director of a Day Program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Earth City, Missouri. I appreciate the opportunity to share the fiscal and human impact of the proposed 33% reduction to Day Program reimbursement rates and to urge the Committee to maintain funding at its current level.

Day Programs are a cost-effective, community-based service that supports Missourians with IDD while preventing reliance on significantly more expensive systems of care. Our program is not a “day care.” We provide habilitative services that include life and job skills development, post-secondary education support, community immersion, socialization, and ongoing health and behavioral monitoring by trained staff. These services are essential to maintaining stability, independence, and community integration for individuals with IDD.

A 33% reduction in reimbursement rates would render many Day Programs financially unsustainable. For providers, personnel costs represent the majority of operating expenses, and such a cut cannot be absorbed without eliminating services or closing programs entirely. The loss of Day Programs will not eliminate state costs — it will shift them to higher-cost alternatives, including increased reliance on institutional care, crisis services, emergency departments, and inpatient behavioral health settings.

Equally important is the economic impact on Missouri’s workforce. Day Programs enable thousands of family caregivers to remain employed. When these services are reduced or eliminated, parents and caregivers are often forced to leave the workforce or significantly reduce their hours, resulting in lost tax revenue, reduced economic productivity, and increased reliance on public assistance. Maintaining Day Program funding directly supports workforce participation across the state.

Day Programs are also employers. A reduction of this magnitude would result in widespread layoffs of direct support professionals, nurses, and program staff — trained workers whose expertise cannot be easily replaced. At a time when Missouri faces ongoing workforce shortages in healthcare and human services, destabilizing this sector will further strain the system and increase turnover-related costs.

From a return-on-investment perspective, Day Programs produce measurable outcomes that reduce long-term state expenditures. Our program has successfully supported individuals transitioning out of high school into adult services, assisted an individual in reintegrating into the community following incarceration, and helped many participants reengage with community life after prolonged isolation following the COVID-19 pandemic. These outcomes reduce recidivism, prevent regression, and

decrease the likelihood of higher-cost interventions.

Day Programs are a preventative service. They stabilize individuals, support families, and reduce demand on more expensive state systems. A 33% cut to reimbursement rates would undermine this stability and result in higher costs over time, not savings.

I respectfully urge the Committee to consider both the immediate and downstream fiscal impacts of this proposal and to maintain Day Program reimbursement rates at their current level. This funding is an investment in community-based care, workforce stability, and responsible stewardship of state resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNN MILYO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members:

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding.

I took the Nami Family to Family course when my son was hospitalized with a mental health crises. The Family to Family program was crucial to provide support and information on mental health illnesses and how to obtain services and negotiate the mental health system that is terribly difficult to negotiate. It also provided me much needed emotional support to have a parents who live in similar circumstance teach the class and share their stories and information.

Had I not taken the Family to Family course, I'm very doubtful my son would've gotten the care he has needed to understand and improve his illness. Please do not cut this important program.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNN PEINE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 8:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are stripping away the rights of our most vulnerable people in this state. Taking away their rights to stay in their homes and be supported by the ones that advocate for them the best. We have three of our adult adopted foster children that have SDS services. We have great staff that help with their needs and will likely lose them if these cuts take place. They work with no paid holidays, no benefits, no retirement, no insurance, no vacation time. With a pay cut this will likely cause hardships for them let alone the uncertainty of having consistent staff for our kids. It will cost the state more money to put them in residential placements than what it cost to staff them through Self Directed Services. We are asking you to please not take these steps backwards, but forward allowing us to continue to provide safe, accountable, home-based care for our kids. They need to have stability the same as anyone else. At home they get that and more. So we ask you to please continue to fund the SDS program without cuts.

Thanks for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE SCHLERETH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:06 AM

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

I am an opposition for cutting support for adults with disabilities!!! Horrible that you would even consider this and institutions these wonderful humans and ur will cost you even more money !!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MADISON HOWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAIA CHEYENNE KINSLOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 11:32 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If SDS pay rate are cut, I cannot continue providing the service I have provided to families who desperately need the assistance I provided ad a skilled worker in this field. I will be forced to find other employment. While it may seem current rate is "highet than industry average for this region:. There are no employee benefits available to me and I must account for things like health insurance, retirement on my own making my actual wage. If the pay is lowered this would not only do a disservice to the employees, but the children and families as well. This will make routines for each child/ family inconsistent due to roating coverage from lack of staff. This is would also significantly impact the children's / individual's mental well being from loosing their connection with other staff members or lesser staff as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAKENZIE SHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed elimination of funding for NAMI Missouri's family peer support services outlines in HB 2010.

I am a mental health professional working on an inpatient psychiatric unit in Missouri, and I see firsthand the critical role that education, family support, and community-based mental health resources play in stabilizing individuals and preventing repeated crises. Programs such as Parent Ombudsman and Education Services, Family-to-Family, and Mental Health Training for Healthcare Professionals directly support the work being done in hospitals and communities by equipping families and providers with evidence-based tools, understanding, and advocacy skills.

When families are informed and supported, patients experience better continuity of care, improved outcomes, and fewer emergency hospitalizations. Eliminating funding for those services does not reduce need. It shifts the burden onto already strained emergency rooms, inpatient units, and crisis systems. As someone working inside that system every day, I can say clearly that these programs are NOT optional; they are preventative, cost-effective, and lifesaving.

I respectfully urge you to reinstate the \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). This funding has supported essential services including the Parent Ombudsman and Education Services (\$43, 005), Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals (\$19,482), and the Family-to-Family Program (\$60,000). These programs strengthen families, support providers, and improve mental health outcomes across Missouri.

Thank you for your time, your services, and you consideration of the real and lasting impact these programs have on individuals, families, and the mental health system as a whole.

Respectfully,
Makenzie Shaw
Park Hills, MO 63601



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY GOBET		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I, Mallory Gobet of Lee's Summit, Missouri, would like to express my concern for this bill. I support a nonprofit agency serving adults with developmental disabilities in my area through grant writing services and have the privilege of seeing the great impact of their work. Under this bill, they risk having to close their doors. A budget cut of this size is detrimental to an organization who serves some of the most vulnerable in our community. Many of these individuals with developmental disabilities also have co-occurring medical conditions and would not be able to receive services anywhere else if it were not for day services agencies like this. Please, I ask that you reconsider this bill and the impact it would have on your constituents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCEE DOUGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me on personal and professional levels. As a Certified Peer Specialist and a Registered Nurse Case Manager, I utilize the training from multiple NAMI resources every day to help Missourians regain mental stability and learn essential coping skills. Personally, I have used these skills to help myself, my family and my loved ones in times of trial. Without the knowledge gained through NAMI courses and ongoing support, I have no doubt that many Missourians would be in dire straights at this time.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services: Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167) Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168) Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169) Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARGARET SHETLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 11:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello,

My name is Margaret Shetley and I am writing today to ask for your help with the proposed budget cuts in HB10, specifically as they relate to the MO SDS funding. I understand that the job you do is a difficult one to allocate the state's limited resources to all programs that request them. I would appreciate your full consideration of the harm that would come to those Missouri residents living with mental and physical issues who depend on the monies they receive through the SDS program.

As a mother of one of these residents, I am deeply concerned about budget cuts that will most definitely negatively impact my daughter's health and quality of life. Shelly was in a car accident at age 2, resulting in major physical limitations and the use of a power wheelchair for her mobility. From that point (50 years and counting), I have been working tirelessly with Shelly to advocate and obtain the necessary resources to allow her to live in her home with her family and live the best life possible. When the state allocated more funding for staffing/community specialist and other services for SDS a few years ago, Shelly was finally able to hire the most qualified personal assistants that she has ever had because she could finally afford to pay staff what they were worth based on their training and skills. She now has in place a dedicated team that has been able to keep her happy, healthy and also active in her community. Consistent care has resulted in much less stress for Shelly as she is not having to constantly search for quality caregivers to hire and terminate those who don't show up for work or don't provide the care she needs.

I am 73 years old and I have spent most of Shelly's life advocating for her to be able to stay in her own home with her family and stepped in to provide care when other past caregivers haven't been there. I have confidence in this team's ability to continue to care for her moving forward. I do NOT want to see that going backwards. It most certainly will adversely affect Shelly's quality of life/health if funding is cut and a decrease in pay causes her to lose any SDS services and results in her employees leaving to seek jobs with a livable wage.

Please vote for Missouri's residents living with disabilities by saying NO to these proposed cuts. They deserve to be able to live their best lives just like everyone else.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARGIE NATION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:55 PM

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

My daughter has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair. She is 33 years old and is very limited in what she can do. She goes to Blue Sky Community Services 5 days a week and really enjoys it and learns so much! Please vote no



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA MARZUCO		PHONE NUMBER: 573-883-6865	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GATEWAY DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION		TITLE: SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PROGRAMS & SERVICES COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 1427 THOMAS DR.			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63701
EMAIL: maria@gatewaydsa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you, because you serve on the House Budget Committee. I am concerned about the significant cuts Governor Kehoe has proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in House Bill 10. I have a twin brother with Down syndrome who used to utilize Self-Directed supports and the Day Programs in my local community. With these supports he was able to have 2 jobs within the community. Unfortunately, 3 years ago my brother and I were in a traumatic car accident and he passed away. Everyone in my rural Missouri town knew my brother, and loved him dearly. Before he passed, it was my life's mission to serve people with Down syndrome, but now it is even more so. I am so grateful for the job I have now, as Programs and Services Coordinator for the Southeast Missouri Chapter of the Gateway Down Syndrome Association. With this job, it is my personal and professional life's work to best impact all those with special needs I can. On a weekly basis I aid families of loved ones with Down syndrome to find services, and to best serve, support, and celebrate their lives.

By cutting these Home and Community-Based Services, many Missourians may end up needing higher levels of services that will cost the state more. Level funding for current services is important, so that Missourians with IDD can stay in their own homes and communities, with their families. I always say people with special needs are better than those without; they teach us how to love, and live simple, beautifully joyous lives. With health issues along with societal stigmas, they have it hard enough as it is. Please reconsider the cuts being made- don't make their lives more difficult. Support those who need it most, the best of our society. If you have not yet interacted with someone in the IDD community, I strongly encourage you to do so. It will change your life for the better. I would be so happy to communicate further with you on this topic, as stated previously it is my personal and professional goal to love and serve as many people with special needs that I can. Whatever I can do to showcase the importance of this matter, I will do so happily.

Please follow up on this with the Governor's Office and with other House Budget Committee Members.

Thank you and may God bless you.
Sincerely,
Maria Marzucio

1427 Thomas Dr, Cape Girardeau, MO, 63701

maria@gatewaydsa.org
(573) 883 - 6865



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIE KINDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

am writing as a Missouri constituent to urge you to oppose HB 2010. I am especially concerned about the proposed cuts to funding for self-directed services that support individuals with disabilities.

I previously worked as a caregiver for an adult with profound disabilities named Ron. He required full support with daily living — using the toilet, bathing, walking, eating, and nearly every other aspect of personal care. Because he had consistent in-home support through self-directed services, he was able to live in a familiar environment surrounded by people who loved him.

That care did more than meet basic needs. It allowed Ron to flourish. He built friendships, participated in his community, and remained a valued and connected member of his family. The stability and dignity provided through in-home support made an enormous difference in his quality of life.

Cuts to these services would not just reduce hours on a schedule — they would deeply impact real people and families across Missouri. Without adequate funding, individuals with significant disabilities risk losing the ability to live safely at home and remain part of their communities.

Additionally, the costs for housing and caring for these individuals in state run facilities would skyrocket. And this would be more expensive for MO taxpayers.

Please protect funding for self-directed disability services and oppose provisions in HB 2010 that would weaken this vital support system. MO is a pro-life state. Funding these services is a pro-life vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN L. CUMMINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped and continues to help our family as we support a family member with severe mental health issues. Programs like Family-to-Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, and a place to ask questions we didn't know how to ask anywhere else.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

This funding supports programs that provide free, evidence-based education and support to Missourians who often have nowhere else to turn.

For the good of all Missouri citizens and communities, these funds need to stay in place so that these life-saving services can continue to help Missourians who suffer from mental illness have the support and safety they need and deserve. These programs can help reduce the number of unhoused individuals in our towns and cities, as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN LOUISE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please reinstate funding for HB 2010 funding. These funds have helped me learn how to relate to my mental health grandchild in my care and made resources available to educate me about resources locally as a caregiver



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARITZA A AEDO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the Legal Guardian and primary caregiver for an adult with profound developmental, medical, and behavioral disabilities who receives Self-Directed Services (SDS) through the Missouri Department of Mental Health. I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed cuts to SDS Personal Assistant (PA), SDS Medical Personal Assistant (Med PA), and SDS IDGS services. These cuts would directly endanger her life, health, safety, and ability to remain in her home.
For privacy, I will refer to her as Miss M.

Who Miss M Is

Miss M was born with severe congenital conditions, including Pierre Robin Syndrome, severe Intellectual and Developmental Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, cleft palate, club feet, and multiple lifelong medical complications. At birth, her life expectancy was estimated at 18 months. My parents adopted her, loved her, and fought for her survival. Because of their dedication, she is now 36 years old.

Both of my parents have since passed away, and her care was entrusted to me over a decade ago.

Her Group Home History: A Documented Pattern of Harm

Miss M's placement in group homes began while her mother was dying of cancer. Each placement resulted in trauma, danger, or documented harm:

1. Group Home #1: Staff attempted to sexualize Miss M.
2. Group Home #2: Another resident started a fire that nearly burned the home down. Miss M barely escaped alive.
3. Group Home #3: There was ongoing, substantiated abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and theft of her clothing and personal property. She was not allowed into the community for years.
4. Group Home #4: After our mother died, I placed her in a home advertised as "excellent." Instead, she was again isolated from the community, her medications were missed, her enteral feedings were skipped or given incorrectly, she was left in urine-soaked bedding and furniture, she was abused by roommates, and one roommate threatened to kill her.

These are not hypothetical risks. These are documented events that occurred in licensed settings. Today, Miss M lives with me — her sister and Legal Guardian — in a safe, loving, stable home where she is finally thriving. This stability is only possible because of the SDS Med PA workforce that supports her.

Her ISP Outcomes and Goals Require Skilled, Trained Med PA Staff

Miss M has an approved budget for 24-hour, 7-day-a-week medically-skilled support. Her ISP Outcomes and Goals require staff who can:

- Administer medications safely and accurately
- Perform enteral feedings and enteral medication administration
- Monitor for aspiration risk, respiratory distress, and feeding intolerance
- Implement behavioral supports and crisis-prevention strategies
- Assist with all ADLs, mobility, hygiene, and safety
- Support communication and comprehension
- Provide transportation in their personal vehicle
- Accompany her to medical appointments and communicate with providers
- Maintain documentation and follow physician-directed protocols
- Ensure her safety in the home and community at all times

These are skilled medical and behavioral responsibilities — not basic caregiving tasks.

Missouri Law Requires Her Staff to Be Medically Trained

Under 19 CSR 30-84.010, Missouri requires that any unlicensed individual administering medications in a DMH-funded program must complete Level I Medication Aide (LIMA) training and maintain ongoing competency.

This includes:

- Medication administration
- Enteral medication administration
- Enteral feeding
- Documentation
- Ongoing competency checks

Every SDS Med PA who works with Miss M must be LIMA-certified by law and must be trained in her specific medical protocols.

The Workforce Is Already Fragile — Cuts Will Collapse It

Even with current rates, it is extremely difficult to find employees who are:

- LIMA-certified
- Comfortable with enteral feeding and enteral medication
- Skilled in behavioral support
- Able to manage complex medical needs
- Willing to work in a home setting with high responsibility

The proposed cuts — including nearly a \$10/hour reduction for SDS Med PA — would make it impossible to recruit or retain qualified staff.

No one with the required training, responsibility, and liability will accept these positions at the reduced rate.

If these cuts pass, Miss M will lose the supports that keep her safe at home and will be forced back into institutional care — the very environments where she was previously abused, neglected, financially exploited, isolated, and nearly killed.

Structural Policy Failures Must Also Be Addressed

The crisis in SDS is not only about rate cuts. It is also about structural policy failures that have already destabilized the workforce.

1. SDS PA and Med PA Rates Must Increase Annually With SSA COLA

SDS PA and Med PA rates have not increased in three years — not with the SSA Cost-of-Living Adjustment, and not even with the 18% inflation during that period.

Every cost associated with providing care has risen, yet wages have remained frozen.

A trained, stable workforce cannot exist without mandatory COLA adjustments.

I am requesting mandatory budget language requiring SDS PA and Med PA rates to increase annually with SSA COLA.

2. Missouri Must Align Its LRI Policy With CMS to Expand the Workforce

Missouri's current Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) policy is more restrictive than federal CMS rules under the 1915(c) waiver.

CMS already defines who may be employed under self-directed services. Missouri's refusal to align with CMS has artificially restricted the eligible employee pool, preventing individuals from hiring:

- The people who know them best
- The people already trained in their needs
- The people who are most reliable and consistent
- The people who are often the only safe option

Aligning Missouri's LRI policy with CMS would immediately expand the workforce and stabilize care.

I am requesting mandatory language requiring DMH to align its LRI policy with CMS definitions and allowances under 1915(c).

3. Allow SDS PA and Med PA Employees to Work More Than 40 Hours at Regular Pay

Federal labor law already permits in-home caregivers to work more than 40 hours at regular pay when the employer resides in the home and when the employee is eligible and willing.

Missouri's SDS policy prohibits this, even though:

- The workforce is too small
- Many individuals require 24/7 staffing
- Employees WANT the additional hours
- Families NEED the additional hours

This policy change costs the state nothing.

I am requesting mandatory language permitting SDS PA and Med PA employees to work beyond 40 hours at regular pay if eligible and willing.

4. Increase SDS IDGS Funding to \$3,000 Per Person

SDS Individual Goods and Services (IDGS) funding is essential for individuals to obtain the specialized items and supports required to meet their Individual Support Plan (ISP) Goals.

Under federal HCBS regulations (42 CFR § 441.301), states must ensure individuals receive the supports necessary to achieve their ISP outcomes.

The current IDGS funding level is insufficient and has not kept pace with inflation or need.

I am requesting that IDGS funding be increased to \$3,000 per person.

5. Add Mandatory Language Allowing IDGS to Cover Community Access Fees

Many individuals have ISP Goals requiring community participation. Community access often requires:

- Entry fees
- Program fees
- Activity costs
- Memberships
- Transportation fees

Without explicit language allowing IDGS to cover these costs, individuals are blocked from achieving their ISP Goals — a violation of federal HCBS requirements.

I am requesting mandatory language allowing IDGS to cover community access fees when required by ISP Goals.

Summary of Requests

1. Reject all proposed SDS PA and SDS Med PA rate cuts.
2. Require SDS PA and Med PA rates to increase annually with SSA COLA.
3. Require DMH to align its LRI policy with CMS under 1915(c).
4. Allow SDS PA and Med PA employees to work beyond 40 hours at regular pay if eligible and willing.
5. Reject the elimination of SDS IDGS and increase IDGS funding to \$3,000 per person.
6. Allow IDGS to cover community access fees when required by ISP Goals.

Miss M deserves to continue living the safe, healthy, joyful life she has finally found. These cuts — and the failure to fix the structural issues in SDS — would take that away.

Thank you for your time and for considering the real-world consequences these decisions will have on vulnerable Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARLA A JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me and my family deal with the challenges of having a son/sibbling suffer with a severe mental illness. This funding directly supports services my family relied on when he was diagnosed with a mental illness. Programs like Family-to-Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, and a place to ask questions we didn't know how to ask anywhere else. I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARNIE PARR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA K MERTENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As the 70 year old mother of a man with Down Syndrome and Autism, I want to speak to the affects the cuts to the budget of the Department of Mental Health will have on us and other families and individuals. We depend greatly on funding of direct support personnel to give our son the opportunity to attend a day program which allows him to have greater socialization, to volunteer in the community, and to have time that he is functioning independently from us. Without a day program, Patrick would spend virtually all his days with us. Even when he has several days at a stretch at home because of factors like holidays, weather or illness, his behavior often deteriorates badly, sometimes to the point of physical aggression.

My husband and I are aging, but would like to keep Patrick in our home as long as possible. His participation in a day program for the developmentally disabled will allow us to keep him at home much longer than we would otherwise be able to do. This is true for other parents who are aging like us or trying to work to support their families. As I am sure you are aware, this is a much less costly option than full-time residential care.

There are dedicated, excellent staff at his day program, but cuts will likely result in some, if not many, needing to leave to earn the wages they need. The reimbursement rate for direct support personnel may sound high, but the agencies are not reimbursed when clients are unable to attend and the costs of administering programs like this are very high.

Please do not approve the proposed cuts to the mental health care budget. Doing so will likely cause significant harm for the most vulnerable of our society.

I sincerely thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge the committee to vote NO on HB2010. The Governor's proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation will have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable Missourians. These programs help those with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity. Vote NO on budget cuts in HB 2010 and reject any appropriations bills cutting these budgets.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARTIN RAY GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Fellow citizens

I am writing this testimony on behalf of my younger sister, developmentally disabled by cerebral palsy since birth, in the care of my sister and another care-giver paid used SDS funds.

It is my objective to provide an alternative view to the proposed cuts to SDS

When one approaches such a change...it is worth contemplation, worth some questions.

Why is this the right thing to do? Is there is an efficiency to be gained?

Clearly, this is not the case. SDS funded care for disabled persons is far from exorbitant, indeed, it is basic and existential - but it IS efficient by definition. This care is often provided in an existing home - avoiding capital outlay for facilities. It is routinely provided by the family or persons vetted by the family – so the administrative cost of human resource is minimal. The care is provided by committed and loving people...working at relatively low wage without benefits..

How about demand...is the demand for this care somehow lessened?

Of course not. Demand for disabled care is scaled by the number and types of disabilities in the general population - and such a proportion is both constant and self-regulating (if the number or persons requiring care drops, so does the cost – without intervention).

Such examination of this proposal leads one to the observation this change is driven by budgetary restrictions...essentially it is simply a financial trade. Less money spent to care for the most vulnerable amongst us, means more money available to spend on other areas.

However, instead of considering this decision as financial imperative for an obscure budget line item...let's ask ourselves something more challenging. Something that ultimately speaks to our values as people part of a citizen-government.

Here are questions I pose we consider.

Do we, the people...through you as our representatives...have the courage to consider budgetary adjustments through the lens of fundamental Christian values of charity and kindness?

Do we, the people ...through you as our representatives...have the courage to seek alternatives...perhaps to maintain this funding and offset with a small reduction in growth funding in another area?

Are we, the people ... through you as our representatives...willing to commit an infinitesimally small fraction from our individual tax commitment to provide an immensely important benefit to those of our community...our neighbors who provide care daily with immutable and unchanging burdens?

I believe our answer is yes. We are the people...the people with courage and kindness...and through y



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY ANN BUSCHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the aunt of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which his family oversees. My nephew has built positive relationships with his caregivers, who are reliable, trustworthy, qualified, open to learning and adapting as needed. Further, they are always mindful of and advocating for his needs. The turnover rate of his caregivers has been extremely low, and they report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with my nephew. The feeling is mutual, as he is always so excited to see them. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily living. Further, my nephew has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, his family stands to lose qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. His family will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. They may need to rely on agency services. Agencies across Missouri have struggled for years to hire and retain staff. Many cannot accept new clients, cannot fill shifts, or have stopped contracting with the Department of Mental Health altogether. If families lose employees because of these proposals, and agencies cannot replace them, the state is responsible for the consequences. Additionally, one of his parents may need to leave their employment to care for my nephew and no longer be contributing taxpayers in the State of Missouri.

I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care should remain a priority.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY CHRISTINA JONAH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing on behalf of my son, Anthony "Tony" Mawhiney. He is a 44 year old man with Down syndrome who lives a full, active, and meaningful life in our community.

Tony has received Self Directed Services for many years. These services have been a blessing to our family and to Tony. They have given him freedom, dignity, and real independence. While he lives at home with me, he also lives a life of his own. He has a busy social life, belongs to several groups, and is known in our community. People look forward to seeing him.

Tony volunteers in our community three times a week and is deeply involved in animal rescue, helping with the pickup and delivery of homeless animals. He also volunteers at a store located 30 miles from us where the brands sold are owned by individuals with Down syndrome. He attends product launches and supports new brands because he believes in lifting others up.

We live in a rural area in Polk County. There is no workshop nearby, and my son does not belong in a day program. He graduated from public school and attended college through the ACED program at Longview. He is independent and is his own guardian.

I cannot imagine Tony being placed in an institution or care facility. He, like so many others, belongs in his community, living a full life alongside the people he knows and loves. He belongs living life, building friendships, volunteering, shopping, choosing his own movies, and participating in everyday moments that make life meaningful. My son deserves a life like yours, one that is lived, loved, and enjoyed.

Facilities are already struggling with staff shortages and burnout. The answer is not to take people out of their communities and place them in settings that limit their independence. Self Directed Services allow Tony to live safely in the community with support, choice, and dignity. He is the keeper of his own life and allows others to assist him in reaching his goals.

I strongly oppose any cuts to Self Directed Services. These services are not optional. They are essential. Cutting them would force people out of their homes and communities and into more restrictive, more expensive, and less humane settings. That is not fiscally responsible, and it is not morally acceptable. I urge you to protect and fully fund Self Directed Services and to stand with families like mine who are asking for dignity, independence, and the right to live full lives in our communities



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:52 PM

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This would greatly harm those who need the most support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY ELLEN DEGNAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped my husband and I support and cope with a suicidal son who remains clinically depressed.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY KING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Mary J King Lpn

There is so much I want to say about taking away from Special needs people. The thing is why take away from people whom truly need and deserve and are very thankful, as well as the families. Instead there are a lot of people who get and get and get. Their not thankful or deserving, they just don't try.

I have been a nurse for 26 years, medical field 30 years.

Throughout these years I have witnessed the decline in helping people in need. I have watched families in despair, grief, worrisome and just wore out.

So please let's all do the right thing.

Thank you for your time!

Mary J King Lpn



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY MAWHIRTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:41 PM

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

My daughter has been transformed by hard work and dedicated staff at her day program. She need daily and consistent interactions and programing. Like parents of small kids, without funding and without adult disability programing I will not be able to work and then I will be reliant on financial support to exist. You can not treat people with disabilities as they don't matter. Every person matters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY PALMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cutting funding that supports Missourians who have Developmental Disabilities is not only morally wrong, it will damage our state's commerce and productivity. Citizens who are not able to work because they need to care for their loved one hurts our community. Citizens who loose the opportunity to learn job skills to get a competitive job and simply remain at home, hurts our community. Don't cut funding. Do the right thing by all of the Citizens of Missouri to ensure we are vibrant and strong.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARYBETH BOHN		PHONE NUMBER: 817-846-0604	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHRISTINA BOHN FOUNDATION		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 1900 SOUTH FAIRVIEW ROAD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: marybethbohn1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 4:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped our family when our married daughter came home to us (her parents) to care for her. We needed the vocabulary and understanding about mental illness, and NAMI provided that for us through their Family to Family Program. Sadly, we lost our daughter to suicide several months later, but we were able to apply information we learned in that program to cope with our tragic loss. We then worked with our wonderful Missouri State Legislature to pass the nation's first PMDD Awareness Day, which is annually on Christina's birthday, October 2nd. Representative Chad Perkins wrote the bill for the PMDD Awareness Day.

When it comes to education for support for mental health/mental illness, every dollar matters. We value the vast library and classes NAMI has. Funding is critical for continuing the mission to offer education and support.

My husband and I have also worked with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, the Missouri Behavioral Health Council, and the Maternal Health Action Network. All are important in serving people who are vulnerable and who need and want the help.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Marybeth Bohn



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT HARP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Matt Harp, and I am a lifelong Missouri resident currently living in Springfield with my wife and children. My daughter, Alexandria, was born in 2015 with a brain injury known as Periventricular Leukomalacia - a precursor to an eventual diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. She is unable to walk, use a toilet, change clothes, bathe, and perform a number of other daily living tasks on her own. Within the last few years, Alex has also been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As such, we are not only her parents, but her lifelong caregivers - roles that carry a heavy burden.

Special needs parents walk a knife's edge daily attempting to balance meeting the day-to-day demands of a full-time job while simultaneously caring for an individual with special needs, which may include (but is not limited to):

- * diapering
- * bathing and hygiene care
- * clothing
- * dental care
- * feeding
- * transferring to and from wheelchairs and other devices
- * acquiring a (costly) vehicle with a ramp or lift for transportation
- * scheduling/transporting for frequent doctor's appointments
- * surgical procedures
- * IEP meetings
- * social worker visits
- * g-tube changes and appointments
- * physical therapy appointments
- * occupational therapy appointments
- * speech therapy appointments
- * Autism-related behavioral incidents
- * equipping and removing leg and ankle bracing
- * administering daily medications
- * medical equipment adjustment visits
- * in-home modification visits
- * caregiver scheduling
- * caregiver training
- * listening for overnight issues on an audio monitor during sleep (which leads to frequent overnight awakenings and welfare checks)

*** regular medical supply unpacking and storage**

While this is reflective of our situation, some special needs parents have even more concerns to address (ventilators, trachs, apnea monitors, shunts, and a host of other equipment and medical procedures). Caring for these incredible children and giving them the best quality of life possible is nearly a full-time job in and of itself. It truly takes a village, and our SDS-funded caregiver staff is an irreplaceable part of that village. Reducing the already-low rates that families can afford to pay these irreplaceable godsenders will ultimately lead to many of them choosing more lucrative paths with benefits - thus putting special needs parents and their children in an extremely perilous position.

I am writing to oppose the proposed cuts to caregiver salaries under HB10. For the work that these individuals do, they are already underpaid and offered no benefits. Cutting these rates further puts both them and special needs families across the state at the edge of a dangerous financial and occupational precipice - not to mention the welfare of the disabled individuals themselves. Our most vulnerable community needs our help - not our abandonment. No line item on a spreadsheet looks better by crossing out the disabled children behind it.

Thank you for your time, and I encourage you as both a lifelong working Missouri resident and special needs father to do the right thing by our disabled community.

**Respectfully,
Matt Harp**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW CAVLOVICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:31 PM

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My brother is disabled and he is kept independent because of self directed staffing he is cared for in a loving environment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW EDWARD EVANS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-773-5417	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHOICES FOR PEOPLE		TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 704 LARIAT LN			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL: mevans@choicesforpeople.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:18 PM

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

My name is Matthew Evans, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Choices for People, an organization that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across multiple Missouri communities in 31 counties. I have spent nearly nineteen years working in the nonprofit sector, advocating first for children and now for individuals with disabilities, two populations that rely on us not just for services, but for stability, dignity, and opportunity.

The proposed cuts to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are deeply concerning. These funds are not abstract line items. They translate directly into safe housing, meaningful employment, community engagement, and daily supports that allow individuals to live fuller, more independent lives within their hometowns.

From a fiscal standpoint, these services are not only compassionate - they are practical. The funding provided today offsets far greater costs that would be incurred if individuals were forced into higher-cost, more restrictive systems of care. Cutting these services may appear to save money on paper, but in reality, it shifts costs elsewhere while producing worse outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

I also want to be clear about the broader impact. Organizations like Choices for People are facing rising operational costs: insurance, utilities, transportation, compliance requirements, and workforce pressures. Cuts of this magnitude would force providers to reduce services, freeze hiring, or lay off dedicated staff. Those staff members are your constituents. They live in our communities, spend their paychecks locally, and support Missouri's economy.

When these jobs disappear, the impact does not stop at our organizations. It ripples outward, affecting local businesses, families, and already-strained labor markets. The loss of services and jobs creates a domino effect that ultimately weakens the very communities this budget is meant to serve.

Most importantly, I ask you to remember the individuals behind these numbers, people who want the same things we all want: purpose, belonging, and the ability to contribute to their communities. Continued investment from the State of Missouri affirms that their lives matter and that our communities are stronger when everyone is included.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider these proposed cuts and to continue supporting services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The long-term cost of reducing this support, financially and morally, is far greater than the investment required to sustain it.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW EDWARD SIMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I wanted to share some concerning news about potential state budget cuts that may impact services for individuals with disabilities. These proposed cuts would directly affect day habilitation programs. Josh attends Blue Sky on days when Jackson R2 schools are not in session. He attends part-time during the summer months to maintain a schedule. It is our hope and prayer that Josh will attend this "day hab" facility, full time, upon graduation next year. This would allow my wife and me to work. Blue Sky has truly been a godsend for our family. Not only does it provide Josh with a safe, supportive environment while we work, but it also offers him meaningful social experiences throughout the day. To know Josh is to love Josh — he thrives on connecting with others!

Special needs families already have so much on their plates, and worrying about where their loved one will be during the workday is something they shouldn't have to carry. If these programs are forced to cut back or shut down, it would be detrimental for families like ours. If these budget cuts move forward, they won't just affect programs like Blue Sky — they will deeply impact the families who rely on these essential services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW HARDING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:01 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you as a Missouri citizen, family caregiver, and legal guardian to express deep concern regarding Governor Kehoe's proposed utilization offsets to the DMH-DDD FY 2027 budget and the devastating impact these cuts would have on individuals with disabilities, their families, and Missouri's direct service workforce.

My husband and I are the proud parents of a 20-year-old son with significant developmental, physical, and mental disabilities. As his lifelong caregivers and advocates, we support his needs alongside a small team of self-directed service staff. These individuals are not just employees—they are trusted caregivers and an extension of our family. They keep our son safe, meet his daily needs, and support him in ways he cannot express verbally.

Because of their support, we are able to work full-time as educators and be present for our other child. Respite services are essential not only for our son's well-being, but also for our own mental health as caregivers on what we know is a lifelong journey. Without services, one of us will be forced into early retirement to care for our son.

Families like ours rely heavily on Self-Directed Services (SDS) through community-based supports. SDS personal assistants are truly lifelines. Their wages are modest and cover only basic living expenses, including the cost of purchasing their own health insurance, as benefits are not provided through self-directed services. These caregivers receive no bonuses, paid time off, or additional compensation, yet they perform physically and emotionally demanding work that requires consistency, skill, and deep commitment.

The Governor's proposal to reduce wages and eliminate or scale back critical services would be harmful to both families and the direct service workforce. Reducing already modest wages will push caregivers out of this field entirely, leaving families without safe, reliable care options and increasing the risk of institutional placement—the very outcome Missouri has worked for decades to prevent.

As part of efforts to address Missouri's projected future budget imbalance exceeding \$2 billion, the Governor has recommended utilization offsets to the DMH-DDD FY 2027 budget, including:

Removal of Individual Directed Goods and Services

Removal of Community Specialist services

Rate reductions for Day Habilitation

Rate reductions for Self-Directed Service Personal Assistants

Rate reductions for Team Conference

Rate reductions for Self-Directed Service Personal Assistants – Medical Exception

As the Missouri House and Senate review these recommendations and craft appropriation bills, I respectfully urge you to fully consider the real-life consequences these cuts would have on families and individuals who depend on these services.

For families using SDS, these reductions translate to:

Fewer or no applicants for open caregiving positions, especially nights, weekends, or higher-need cases

High turnover as caregivers leave for better-paid, less demanding jobs

Long stretches without consistent or experienced care

Without the ability to offer fair and competitive wages, families simply cannot recruit or retain safe, skilled caregivers in the home. These proposed pay cuts not only contradict Missouri's own rate study but also directly undermine the ability of SDS participants to receive appropriate care.

Missouri has long been known as a state that values families, community, and those who cannot care for themselves. Past legislative support for individuals with disabilities and mental health needs has allowed families peace of mind and enabled loved ones to remain safe, supported, and valued within their communities. These proposed cuts threaten to undo years of progress and place our most vulnerable citizens at significant risk.

I respectfully ask you to oppose the reductions proposed by Governor Kehoe and to advocate for solutions that protect self-directed and community-based disability services, the families who rely on them, and the dedicated professionals who provide this essential care.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your willingness to stand with Missouri families during this critical budget review.

**Sincerely,
Matthew and Janel Harding
Joplin, Missouri
Proud parents and legal guardians of Hayden Harding
417-291-0881**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN KAY COY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

NAMI's family support programs are too important to families dealing with their loved ones mental illness. I took Family to Family years ago when my daughter first got sick and I learned so much. I also know as a facilitator of the Family Support groups how many families indicate they want to take this 8 week class. Our NAMI Columbia support group of parents or loved ones had 19 people there last night and 4 families were their for the first time. There is so little support available for family members. It is important these free classes are available as families need to know what they can do to help their loved one from hospitalizations and other crisis.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAXINE ANN FRANGENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to reinstate House Bill 2010 funding for
Family and Peer Support services provided by
NAMI Missouri.
HB2010 is needed for providing Mental Health Adult
Community Treatment as in the following...
1) Parent Ombudsman & Education Services
2) Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals
3) NAMI Family to Family Program

My personal testimony is that my family and I have
received both knowledge and support from
NAMI Missouri during an extremely challenging
time in our lives. I can't imagine not having the support
of NAMI Missouri, just when it was most needed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN FAVAZZA		PHONE NUMBER: 314-479-6977	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS ARC; STARLING MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT, DAY AND EMPLOYMENT	
ADDRESS: 1177 N WARSON RD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL: mfavazza@slarc.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:19 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Megan Favazza and I am the Vice President of Day and Employment services at the St. Louis Arc. I also chair the Day Services Committee for Starling Missouri, which represents 120 providers across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Significant reductions to the Day Habilitation rate have been proposed, and I want to be clear about what these cuts would mean for Missourians with disabilities, their families, and the state budget.

If implemented, these reductions would significantly limit access to essential day services for thousands of people and create a harmful ripple effect across the state. This is not just conjecture. In a survey comprised of Starling members- which represent approximately half of the day service providers in Missouri - every responding organization indicated that there would be some impact to services and their workforce. And several providers reported they may need to discontinue services altogether.

When day services are reduced or eliminated, long term costs to the state increase. Individuals experience greater instability and crisis, which ultimately leads to a need for emergency interventions and more costly services. Survey data estimates that a reduction in Day Services could result in at least 884 individuals needing emergency residential placement. Because this estimate reflects only about 50 percent of providers, the actual number is likely much higher. Simply put, a cut now will cost the state more in the years ahead – at a time when we know the state budget will only become tighter. As the chair Rep Chappell so eloquently put it, we need to be looking at the lon

It is also important to note that the proposed rate reduction is not supported by a formal rate study. The methodology used does not meet actuarial standards and relies on assumptions rather than data. Implementing a change of this magnitude without a transparent, comprehensive analysis presents serious risk to individuals and to the state's fiscal stability.

I would also like to address the assertion that the Day Habilitation rate was improperly based on a 1:1 staffing model. Day services in Missouri are intentionally designed to allow flexibility in staffing ratios based on individual needs as outlined in the Person-Centered Support Plan. Day Services have not had separate service definitions or reimbursement rates based on staffing ratios since 2016. Neither the Waiver Manual nor the CSR references required ratios beyond a maximum of 1:6, and there is no billing mechanism to differentiate between 1:1 and group services. Therefore, the claim that the rate

was mistakenly established as a 1:1 rate is simply not accurate.

Regarding claims that there is wiggle room, The St. Louis Arc's audited unit cost is \$10.19 which leaves very little wiggle room for a reduction. A cut of this magnitude will inevitably push our already underfunded system beyond our capacity to provide safe, effective services.

It has also been stated that spending on Day Habilitation has increased by 213 percent since 2017. It is important to clarify this figure. This increase reflects higher utilization - not rate increases. More Missourians are accessing these services because they are effective, keep families intact, and prevent the need for higher-cost services down the road. Cutting a service in such high demand does not serve the best interests of this state.

We respectfully request that the committee use its authority to restore the proposed rate cut. We also ask that no changes to Day Habilitation rates be implemented until a formal, independent, comprehensive, and transparent rate study is completed—one that fully accounts for the true cost of delivering day services.

We urge you to protect Day Habilitation services by restoring this rate and committing to data-driven decisions that safeguard both Missouri's most vulnerable citizens and the long-term stability of our state budget.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE BANNISH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 5:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members, I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. I believe this funding has helped clients I have worked with as a social worker. I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services: Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – \$43,005, Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – \$19,482, Family to Family Program – \$60,000. Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA HUSTED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:16 AM

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

Please do not cut funding to those that need it most! Vote down this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA OBRIEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My 29 year old mentally disabled daughter's life has completely turned around due to Self Directed Services. She moved from being at Day Centers where the Medicaid costs were likely triple, where she suffered neglect, weight gain, stress and worsening behavior, to hiring an individual SDS employee to work with her individual needs. Her life and health now have incredibly improved! She sleeps and eats better, her health and weight are better, she socializes now with others, she can read menus and order, she can count money now, and is finally learning life skills. All this in LESS than 2 years under SDS. She will never be able to live independently, but she has the basic human right to be happy, participate in life and be healthy. Yet, with these cuts I fear her certified, trained SDS employee will find it difficult to stay, with a \$5-\$6/HOUR paycut and no benefits. The state does not consider the recruiting and training required of SDS employees.

Hurt our community's disabled and it harms our great state. Do not cut self directed services funds from those who NEED them for any quality of life. Their disability is not their fault, and the state has other Medicaid money on the table to fund promotion programs and unused services, like tobacco ads and HIV. The result of cutting SDS pay and support creates widespread impact and harm. It results in home-based services losing employees. Recruiting qualified employees becomes more difficult. It forces more disabled to go into more expensive Rehabilitation Centers with less care. It forces many tax paying parents to quit their jobs to manage care, resulting in loss of income, and the negative impacts go on...like a tidal wave destroying lives. This is ONE spending cut that for obvious reasons results in MORE longterm costs to the state. It needs to be stopped.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MEREDITH AUGUSTA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing as a constituent who cares deeply about services for Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Governor Kehoe's proposed FY27 budget includes significant cuts to an essential program, and I urge you to speak with the Governor's staff as well as House Budget & Senate Appropriations leadership to STOP proposed cuts to Day Services in HB2010 in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Budget (page 6 of the MO DMH FY27 Budget Request Appropriation Book).

These services provide individuals with developmental disabilities the support they need to participate in their communities, give families vital relief, and this funding sustains the dedicated direct support workforce. Cutting these programs would have a real impact on the lives of people in our community who rely on them every day.

Thank you for protecting your local service providers by telling your colleagues: No cuts to DD Services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MERI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am an R.N. and was hired by a local disability organization in Kansas 30 years ago to help with the deinstitutionalization of the State hospitals for individuals with Developmental Disabilities. I can assure you that by cutting SDS funding will cost Missouri exceedingly more in the near future. Once families can not pay individuals to help our children, families suffer burn out, these children will be placed in 24hour/7 day a week facilities. Our staff we hire need to be able to help with bowel care, g-tube feedings, vagel nerve stimulators, seizure care, behavioral interventions, speech device work, medications, restroom care and overall safety.

Let me ask you, do you know how to provide the above care safely?

This work is not basic minimum wage work.

We can not keep or hire exceptional people without adequate pay.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My twin adult sons are able to live on their own with the support of 7 employees through the SDS program. They are able to access and interact with the community with the support of their employees. We were forced into SDS when no local agency would agree to support both Isaac and Elliot because of their behavioral needs.

As a health care worker I have seen agencies dump medically complex patients in hospitals with no notice and no consequence (nor conscience). SDS ended up being an incredible blessing to both of my sons and we were able to hire highly qualified and experienced individuals under this model. Both Isaac and Elliot's employees work without paid time off, access to affordable insurance, sick leave or many other benefits that are commonly available to health care workers.

The cuts that are proposed in the budget would be devastating and I doubt we will be able to keep their employees nor would we be able to hire qualified individuals to replace them. Is there any example of employees in any industry taking a large paycut and staying with that job?

With these cuts both Isaac and Elliot would have to move in with me and I would have to quit my job to be their full-time caretaker. Without SDS nor agency model being there for my sons what options do we have? Isolation? Institutionalization? The current administration stated clearly that disabled individuals would not be affected by the Medicaid cuts. Why is the state of MO refusing to follow the administration's guidance by making painful cuts to the disabled?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HOLDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:41 PM

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

Please do not make cuts to my day program. I have attended DPI for over 10 years and these services are vital to people like me.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL P CURRIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

NAMI is an organization that provides critical support for families with children that have mental health challenges. Given the lack of funding to support mental health services currently it is unconscionable to remove funding affecting NAMI and other organization that provide these essential services. I have greatly benefited from the services that NAMI provides to help me know how to support my child better, who has mental health struggles and to learn of the services and networks that provide assistance through their public outreach efforts. I am really shocked to learn about this bill that diminishes funding for essential mental health services when funding should be increased.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL VANDYKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 9:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello,

My name is Michael, and I am the uncle of twin 21-year-old profoundly autistic men who rely on Self-Directed Services (SDS). I oppose proposed budget cuts in HB2010 to SDS services.

SDS is the only service model my nephews qualify for, as they have been denied care from multiple agencies. They have multiple employees who take them places and help them live their lives to the fullest. While my sister and brother-in-law are devoted, loving parents, the needs of my nephews exceed their capacity to manage without assistance. The proposed cuts would require their care providers to accept a 21% hourly pay reduction. This would make it impossible to retain caregivers who have developed relationships and knowledge of them. Since they are both profoundly autistic, they cannot access the community without a 1:1 caregiver. This change would force them into isolation at home with no safe access to their community.

Furthermore, SDS is already more cost-effective than agency-based services and produces better outcomes. SDS is nearly 50% cheaper than institutional care for my sons. Targeting SDS is not a funding solution; it will increase state costs by pushing families toward higher-cost, agency, or crisis-based care.

I strongly oppose any cuts to Self-Directed Services and urge their committee to halt targeting a program that saves state money while keeping families stable and supported.

Sincerely,
Michael Van Dyke
Constituent of house district 12



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAELA BEHYMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:39 AM

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

These services are important and people will die if they do not receive them. This is not an exaggeration. Families will be ruined and people WILL die.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE MCCOOL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE PINNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:54 AM

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

Adults need funding too



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE LARGENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped mental health professionals like myself be able to provide exceptional care to those with mental health needs without the burden of expenses hindering out ability to receive education on how to better assist those in our care.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE MOSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Michelle Moss, and I am a Missouri resident and the mother of my daughter, Carie, who has a disability and relies on Medicaid-funded home and community-based services.

My family moved to Missouri in 2008 with one primary goal: to find a state where my daughter could access meaningful supports for her disability and build a life with dignity, safety, and inclusion. Missouri's Medicaid waiver system made that possible — but only after years of waiting and instability.

Carie graduated from high school in 2020, during widespread COVID closures. For nine months, she had little to no meaningful support or structure. During that time, her progress stalled and her independence regressed. When we were finally approved for Medicaid waiver funding, it took another full year to find stable, consistent staffing — both Personal Assistants and Community Specialists — due to low pay, workforce shortages, and turnover.

Once stable staffing was finally in place, the results were life-changing.

With consistent Community Specialist support, Carie's reading skills improved from a kindergarten level to a second-grade level, and she is now beginning to learn math at a third-grade level. These are not abstract gains. Functional literacy and basic math are critical for independent living — things like reading signs, using a phone or tablet, managing schedules, understanding money, navigating transportation, and safely participating in the community.

Before these services, Carie could not do these things. Now, she is learning how.

If Community Specialist services are eliminated or reduced, my daughter will lose personalized, one-on-one support that cannot be replaced by generic programs. She will lose independence and dignity and will be forced to rely more heavily on others for basic day-to-day tasks she is actively learning to do for herself.

Carie will also lose the support of the Adam Morgan Foundation, which works in coordination with her services to help her communicate using technology — a critical tool due to her severe speech delay. Without these supports, her ability to express needs, make choices, and advocate for herself will be severely limited.

These services are not optional. They are the reason my daughter is progressing instead of regressing. Cutting them would undo years of hard-fought stability and growth.

When community-based services are reduced, families are left with impossible choices: unsafe gaps in care, complete burnout, or institutional placement — which is more restrictive, more costly, and harmful to quality of life.

I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund Medicaid waiver and Community Specialist services. These programs work. I see the proof every day in my daughter's life.

Thank you for considering my written testimony and the real families behind these budget decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE NICOLE MUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 1:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a PA who works for a young individual with disabilities in the state of Missouri.

He has needs that exceed the abilities of his family to manage on their own and as such my assistance in taking care of him is very important.

If the SDS PA pay rates are cut I'll no longer be able to provide this much needed assistance to him or any families like his.

Because of the nature of my work I do not receive any benefits from my employer. No health, vision or dental insurance. I have to pay all of those things out of my own pocket.

With a lower rate of pay I would not be able to afford these things and would have to seek other employment leaving this family without their much needed assistance in taking care of their disabled loved one.

There are already disturbingly few resources available for families like this, and cutting this pay rate will only drive that lower.

Due to where they live, and the age of the individual, agency services are not available.

No one would be able take my place at the lowered rate, they would be without the help they so desperately need.

Do not pass this bill, the health, safety and happiness of many families depend on it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE POLK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 3:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the parent of a severely Autistic 19 yr old son. SDS is the only way I can take care of my son and provide for us. We have been on welfare most of my kid's lives because it's impossible to work when you have a child who is beyond what care is offered in schools/facilities. No one can handle his behaviors, nor do I feel safe "trusting" someone to do so. He has been abused by staff in the past. We are just 1 of millions of millions of families with severely disabled kids. I apologize if this is not well written. My son has been screaming and pulling on me as I write. Please do not make any cuts to these services! They are our lifeline!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE RAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

By cutting this budget, this will affect my family more importantly it will affect my son. My son is 26 years old, he will never live on his own. He will never be able to support himself with his personal and daily needs. Programs that are being cut will affect his life in the short term as well as in the long-term. These programs are crucial for individuals with disabilities and their families. These programs help take the burden off of the main caregivers and family members allow, allowing the person with the disability to be a part of the community and receive quality care and help with learning daily living skills as well as longer term skills that will be needed for him to be successful in life. Our son currently lives with us and we take care of his needs we manage his finances, make his doctors appointments and take him to them. We are middle-aged parents, and when we are not here, this will fall onto our daughters if programs like this are cut by having programs like this our son will be able to remain in our home with the assistance of staff and family overseeing his needs. Please reconsider cutting these budgets and thinking of families and people with disabilities that this is imperative that they have imagine if this was you or your family member and you will have no support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SIMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 7:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Michelle Simpson. My son, Josh, attends Blue Sky "day hab" on days when Jackson R2 schools are not in session. He attends part-time, during the summer months, to help keep a schedule. It is our hope and prayer that Josh will attend this "day hab" facility, full time, upon graduation next year. This would allow my husband and I to continue working. (We are both teachers in different districts.) Blue Sky has truly been a godsend for our family. Not only does it provide Josh with a safe and supportive place while we work, but it also gives him meaningful social experiences throughout the day. To know Josh is to love Josh — he thrives on connecting with others! It also allows Josh to experience community involvement. He doesn't like sitting at home, and his day hab program helps promote the "independence" that he desperately wants and needs!

Special needs families already have so much on their plates, and worrying about where their loved one will be during the workday is something they shouldn't have to carry. If these programs are forced to cut back or shut down, it would be detrimental for families like ours. If these budget cuts move forward, they won't just affect programs like Blue Sky — they will deeply impact the families who rely on these essential services.

Our loved ones deserve stability, dignity, and access to the supports they depend on every day. Please consider touring Blue Sky and/or SADI day habilitation centers, both in SE Missouri. You will be able to see, firsthand, the amazing services that they provide to our loved ones!

Please:

No cuts for day habilitation services
Transparency in the upcoming rate study
Provider and family input at the table
Protection of essential DD services

Thank you for your consideration!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE VOGT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm writing to urge you to oppose cuts to services for Missourians with developmental disabilities (MO DMH-DD Division Budget: HB2010). These program are essential for helping people in Missouri and across the country live independently, build skills, and be part of their communities. Reducing funding will have a devastating impact on the people who rely on these services every day. Our daughter is an 11 year old with Down Syndrome and loves to be social and active. Our hope is that she is able to continue to be active and part of activities that help increase their quality of life and improve the lives of those around them. It would be unfair and utterly discriminatory to make cuts to programs that human beings, regardless of their ability, to not have access to the same opportunities as others.

Cuts to services for people with disabilities not only harm individuals but will lead to higher costs for the state down the road. Access to services today help to reduce crisis situations and keep individuals out of more costly and intensive services in the future.

Please stick up for your constituents with developmental disabilities and their families. Tell your colleagues on House Budget to protect the funding for DD services. We're counting on your leadership to safeguard essential services for people with developmental disabilities and uphold Missouri's commitment to quality care.

Thank you for your time and consideration! We greatly appreciate all you do and implore your support in this time of need!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE EDWARDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 8:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Mike Edwards and my husband and I live in Independence, MO. We have 2 sons who were born with the recessive gene disorder of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This is a muscle condition that affects their voluntary muscles. They have never been able to stand, crawl, or walk. They have been using power wheelchairs since they were 2 years old. SMA also affects their bones, and they developed scoliosis in their backs and they both have growing rods. SMA affects their swallow muscles, and they both eat entirely using a g-tube. And SMA affects their lung muscles, and we try very hard to avoid sickness that can easily turn to pneumonia because they don't have a strong cough.

I am writing as a Missouri constituent to express my strong opposition to the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget recommendations that would eliminate or reduce critical Self-Directed Support SDS and Community-Based disability services under the DMH-DDD budget.

As a family, we rely on their Medicaid waivers to help cover their medical bills. We also rely on the Medical Personal Care Assistant hours they each have using SDS. They each have 40 hours per week of Medical PCA care. I work many of those hours and it provides income for our family. I went to college. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I was teaching 1st grade. And then SMA hit and our lives changed. The boys require special care. And I'm the one who knows that care best. I'm the one who keeps them the healthiest so we avoid costly hospital visits. We rely on SDS hours and pay to survive as a family. Even with Medicaid, there are medical related expenses that aren't provided for. Their wheelchair van is very large and very expensive. The insurance on that wheelchair van is more expensive because of the wheelchair lift. We're working on saving to build them a larger, more wheelchair accessible home. I rely on the income to support my family. My husband is also employed full time outside the home and provides our primary insurance. But someone knowledgeable needs to stay home and provide quality care for my sons.

We also use SDS for additional employees. Some of their hours are worked by friends who know and love our sons. We use their hours so I have someone to help me get them both to medical appts. We bring cough assist and suction machines with us everywhere, so we push a stroller. Did you know a stroller and 2 wheelchairs don't all fit together in 1 elevator?? I need an extra set of hands and eyes

when we travel and are out and about trying to get to appts. These helpers ensure that my husband can stay at work and maintain his full-time position. We also use these other Med PCA people so that my husband and I can get other tasks done around the house and still have someone to keep an eye on my sons in case they have respiratory issues, need bathroom breaks, or need help to manage their tube feedings.

The services provided through SDS are specialized and critical! The pay rate should not be cut! By having knowledgeable people providing direct care it saves the state money because we have a personal stake in keeping our sons healthy and out of the hospital. By having SDS PCA hours it allows families to keep their loved ones in their homes - which also saves the state money. These services are important. We did not set out in life to aspire to need these services. Disability happened to our family, just like it could happen to anyone's family at any time. These services should be available for those who need them.

Please DO NOT MAKE ANY CUTS TO SDS SERVICES!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MILDRED CHANEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:07 PM

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Do not make any budget cuts to services for the disabled and do not cut services for mental health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISTY D. SCHRAEDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 6:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missouri House of Representatives,

I am writing to you as a Missouri citizen, family caregiver, and legal guardian who is deeply concerned about the devastating consequences of Governor Kehoe's proposed utilization offsets to the DMH-DDD FY 2027 budget.

My name is Misty Schraeder. I am the daughter of a United States combat Marine Vietnam veteran. I am the sibling and newly appointed guardian of my 47-year-old brother, Anthony, who is incapacitated, has central blindness, is nonverbal, and has severe, complex disabilities and seizures activity due to cerebral palsy. Anthony is also considered a quadriplegic and can only use one hand to shake a rattle to communicate. Following the recent passing of our parents, I became his legal guardian and primary advocate. Like many Missouri families, we made the intentional and loving decision to care for our disabled family member in a family environment in which he's been in his entire life rather than place him in an institution. (I have attached a photo so you can see my brother, Anthony.)

Families like ours rely heavily on Self Direct Service (SDS) through self-directed and community-based services. These caregivers are not just employees, they are lifelines. The wages they earn are not excessive; they cover basic cost of living and allow them to purchase their own health insurance, as health coverage is not funded through self-direct services. SDS personal assistants do not receive bonuses, paid time off, or additional compensation, yet they perform physically and emotionally demanding work that requires skill, consistency, and dedication.

The Governor's proposal to reduce wages and eliminate or reduce critical programming would be detrimental to both families and the direct service workforce. Cutting wages will drive already strained caregivers out of this field, leaving families without safe, consistent care options and forcing some into institutional settings, the very outcome Missouri has worked for decades to avoid.

Our family's experience clearly illustrates why Self Direct Services and community-based, family-directed care is essential. We attempted to utilize an Individualized Supported Living (ISL) placement for Anthony after our last parent passed in 2025. Within just three months, the situation became life-threatening. Due to staff not understanding how to properly care for his severe condition:

- Anthony lost 25 pounds, dropping to approximately 74 pounds, and we nearly lost him.**
- A wound was neglected, resulting in MRSA and a staph infection which placed him in the hospital for 10 days.**
- Four weeks later, he was hospitalized because the ISL staff did not know how to administer his medication correctly, causing 45 seizures within a 12-hour period. When properly medicated he has 2-3 seizures in a 7-day period.**

This experience made it painfully clear that Self Direct Services care with trained, consistent Staff is not a preference it is a necessity for individuals with extreme disabilities.

As part of the Governor's effort to address Missouri's projected future budget imbalance exceeding \$2 billion, he has recommended utilization offsets to the DMH-DDD FY 2027 budget request. These include:

- Removal of Individual Directed Goods and Services**
- Removal of Community Specialist services**
- Rate reductions for Day Habilitation**
- Rate reductions for Self-Directed Service Personal Assistant**
- Rate reductions for Team Conference**
- Rate reductions for Self-Directed Service Personal Assistant – Medical Exception**

I respectfully urge you, as the Missouri House and Senate review these recommendations and craft appropriation bills, to fully consider the real-life consequences these cuts would have on Missouri families, vulnerable individuals, and the self-direct service workforce.

Missouri has long been a state known for supporting families, neighbors, and those who can't care for themselves. Past legislative support for individuals with disabilities and mental health challenges has given families peace of mind and allowed loved ones to remain safe, cared for, and valued within their communities. These proposed cuts threaten to undo years of progress and place our most vulnerable citizens at serious risk.

I respectfully ask you to oppose reductions proposed by Governor Kehoe that would weaken self-directed and community-based disability services and to advocate for solutions that protect both families and the dedicated professionals who serve them. I personally voted for Governor Kehoe due to his understanding and support of promising to protect vulnerable individuals.

I read on missouriindependent.com his budget proposal includes \$50 million to expand a scholarship program for private schools. This spending is ridiculous especially since attending private school is a choice not a necessity. Let's work together and press forward with protecting the funds designed to those who can't protect themselves.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your willingness to stand with Missouri families during this critical budget review.

Sincerely,

Misty Schraeder

Sister, Guardian, Direct Representative

Webb City Missouri

785-209-2724



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MISTY WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

After 23 years in the same job, I never imagined I would have to walk away from my career. But when my son needed full-time care, I was faced with an impossible choice: to continue working and be absent when he needed me most or give up the stability I had built over decades to be there for my child. No parent let alone a single parent should have to make that choice, but I did because I could not physically afford to pay for someone to come into my home to care for my son with the wages, I was getting paid and pay to keep a roof over my son, daughter and myself head. I was not even able to get any kind of aid even though I was a single mom of two with one income. My son could not even get Medicaid even though I was a single income family.

SDS made it possible for me to step into the role my son truly needs me to fill—his full-time caregiver, advocate, and parent. Because of this support, I can be present for his daily needs, his appointments, his challenges, and his victories. With my son's intellectual and physical disabilities, he needs aid 24/7 with everyday aid. With his disabilities he has an IQ of a second grader, and he is 24, he cannot cook, clean, read, spell, he does not know the difference between hot and cold when it comes to weather and or water. My son doesn't even understand an emergency and when he would need to call 911. Without SDS, our family would struggle not just financially, but emotionally and physically as well.

This program is not a luxury. It is a lifeline. It allows families like mine to stay together, to provide care at home, and to give our child the dignity, safety, and love he deserves. I did not leave my job of 23 years lightly—I did it because my son depends on me 24/7. SDS gave us the ability to survive and to care for him the way every parent wants to.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MOLLY DILIBERTO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter has spina bifida along with medical needs that prevents her from being able to do what atypically and none me medically complex children can do. With SDS, it provides us this opportunity to live like everyone else who do not have children with complex needs. We can work, we can go places, we train individuals that we trust with our children and who know our children to help them live their life to the to its full potential. We would lose nursing (the individual that is trained and that we trust). My daughter cannot walk, cannot talk, cannot go to the bathroom on her own(cathing), cannot drink thins, has a gbutton, cannot advocate for herself and cannot keep herself safe without assistance. How are we as parents supposed to provide for our children when we can't work due to losing the nurse. Parents with atypical and non medically complex do not have to worry about this ever. While we are just trying to stay afloat. We deserve to have help. And by decreasing the wages, that is not help.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MOLLY HUNTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:59 AM

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Just because someone reaches adulthood doesn't mean their disability ends. Why would you pull the rug out from under those who need lifelong support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY MARCIANTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATASHA JOHNSTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 9:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Natasha Johnston (St. Louis, MO), and I am reaching out to you today in opposition to the governor's proposed budget cuts to SDS services in Missouri.

This issue is dear to our family's hearts for many reasons. Not only was I raised in a family who worked with individuals with Developmental Disabilities (My grandmother was the only cook for a facility that provided care and sheltered workshops for decades), but my family normalized inclusivity by welcoming individuals into our homes to sit at our tables for holidays and birthdays, for summer BBQ's and celebrations. Since I was a child, my grandparents set the standard that all people are worthy of respect, love, comfort, connection and care, regardless of their intellectual abilities or capabilities.

Fast forward 35 years, and I am finally ready to have my first, and only child. Despite a pregnancy that was considered "geriatric" and "high risk," there were no tests and no indications that there were any concerns with my son, Julius. However, around 2 months of age, I noticed that Julius was not tracking or developing increased visual focus. I noticed that there was something "different" about his eyes. Two months and several referrals later, we were given a diagnosis that I had never heard of, three letters that have changed our lives forever "ONH"- Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. I was told he would likely have little to no light perception, and that he would likely have next to no usable vision. As a first time mother, who had waited years to find the right partner, the right time, the right everything, I was devastated. While I allowed myself time and space to grieve, my trauma and grieving response turned quickly into action steps. What could I learn about this diagnosis? What resources are there? What doctors do we need? What interventions would best help me support Julius? I learned everything I possibly could as fast as I possibly could. We connected with First Steps immediately, and started therapies and services through Delta Gamma. Our family went through the ringer- we had the largest supportive care team at our First Steps Graduation and it was nothing short of pure persistence and trial by fire that we even made it that far.

Along the way, we ran into barrier after barrier regarding care for our child. While care providers would tell us they could accept him into their programs, and that they could provide the care, structure and support he required, we faced hardship after hardship as doors closed on us. My husband and I worked opposite shifts to provide care for our child. My husband took on extra work tasks to help pay for the services and accommodations we needed. We were drowning. Despite loving my job and having been there over 13 years, I had to consider leaving. I didn't know how else we could support our child's needs.

That's when I learned about SDS services and the Mo Kids waiver. Despite all the hurdles and hoops I had to jump through to qualify for this resource, I would do it over and over again for the way it has completely changed the way our family is able to care for our child. I have been able to locate skilled providers who love my son and who implement his individualized goals and therapies consistently, and who keep my husband and I involved through detailed up and documentation when we cannot be present. They truly have become an extension of our family and I cannot picture doing any of this without them. Without the SDS waiver my son would not be able to participate in meaningful community activities like camps, music therapy and dance classes, which would require him to have a 1x1 support staff just to be considered.

Two weeks ago we traveled to Columbia from our home in St Louis for additional neurological testing that we struggled to find locally. On our way home Friday, our family was able to stop by the capitol and speak with some amazing staffers and let them know how important these resources are for our family, and to meet Julius. He is the cutest, sweetest, most resilient 4 year old who is steadily making progress in his therapy goals BECAUSE of SDS services. Please, consider Julius. Consider all of these amazing children and families who, like us, would be drowning without these resources.

This week we received report back from our diagnostic testing and we were given two more life long diagnoses that our family cannot yet fully process. For families like ours, this journey never ends. There are no "fixes," there are only services that can be put in place to help give our children the best life possible "in spite of," and that can help give our families the respite we so desperately need.

Please protect these most vulnerable populations in our communities. Voices who depend on us to use ours to protect them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATASHA KRESSIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped these programs to have supported me personally by giving me the information, confidence, and emotional grounding I needed while navigating mental-health challenges within my own family. The education and guidance I received helped me understand how to advocate effectively, communicate with care teams, and access resources that I didn't even know were available. They also helped me feel less alone while trying to navigate the overwhelming amount of services, decisions, and responsibilities involved in caring for my child. On a personal level, these services have provided me with tools that improved my ability to manage stress, understand behavioral-health needs, and connect with appropriate supports for my family. The combination of practical guidance and emotional support helped me feel more stable and equipped during periods of uncertainty. This lived experience has strengthened me professionally as well, allowing me to better support the families I work with because I can relate to their challenges and offer guidance grounded in both training and personal experience.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATRICE GRAYES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally oppose the [reduction of [Natrice Grayes's self-directed support services, as outlined I believe this decision is incorrect and will have a negative impact on Natrice's health and safety.

I request a reconsideration of this decision based on the following:

- **Impact on Care:** The reduction in hours/budget means I cannot hire enough staff to cover [Personal assistant needs to assist, with hygiene, meals, community programs]. This puts the individual at risk of Mental health, hospitalization, institutionalization].
- **Correction of Facts:** These services are imperative to our individuals, but the reality is [if these services are cut that would hurt not only the individual's growth but the community.
- **Alternative Proposed:** I propose that the services be maintained at the current level.

These services add value to her life despite her disability.

She needs these services; it's part of her living her life and being productive in society. She depends on these services and the structure they bring to her life.

Let us not fail these individuals. They have a human right to feel included.

Sincerely,

[Katherine Grayes]



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE CAVLOVICH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose budget cuts for homes of people with disabilities. Those with disabilities deserve to live at home and be cared for by trained professionals. The facts are that there is a revolving door of workers and staffing shortages in care facilities, hospitals, group homes, and agency living. There aren't enough beds, professionals, or resources for the amount of people in our city to accommodate these needs. Buildings need repaired, low wages, and burnout contribute to these issues. When a person is given the right to be cared for in their home by a person(s) they know and have a good rapport with, it fosters an environment of growth. With agency living, group homes, and care facilities having inconsistent care givers, hinders the possibility of consistent growth results. I have a family member that receives funding for self directed services. The cost for his home services is 40% less than in agency living. He recently left an agency living duplex because the lack of care was concerning, awful, and they did not have his best interests at heart. The agency collected \$1,000 a day to "help" him with lifeskills and he regressed during that time. For him to receive services and be cared for at home costs at or below \$600 per day. The process is highly monitored and promotes community, and person-centered care. Tax dollars are meant to keep unity for families of those with disabilities, not cast them away from home because they were born with additional needs. Please oppose funding cuts to in home care giver wages and for people with disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE ELIZABETH KYLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing as a constituent who cares deeply about services for Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Governor Kehoe's proposed FY27 budget includes significant cuts to an essential program, and I urge you to speak with the Governor's staff as well as House Budget & Senate Appropriations leadership to STOP proposed cuts to Day Services in HB2010 in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Budget (page 6 of the MO DMH FY27 Budget Request Appropriation Book).

These services provide individuals with developmental disabilities the support they need to participate in their communities, give families vital relief, and this funding sustains the dedicated direct support workforce. Cutting these programs would have a real impact on the lives of people in our community who rely on them every day.

Thank you for protecting your local service providers by telling your colleagues: No cuts to DD Services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE GARRISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Nicole Garrison, and I am a Missouri resident, a healthcare professional, and a former family caregiver. I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposed \$1 million reduction to the Missouri Caregiver Program. This cut would remove support from approximately 250 Missouri families who depend on this program to safely keep their loved ones at home.

Professional and Personal Perspective:

As a pharmacist, I see every day how essential caregiver support is for families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and other chronic conditions. But my perspective is not only professional—it is deeply personal.

Both of my parents suffered from Alzheimer's dementia, and I served as their caregiver for many years. I know intimately the emotional, physical, and financial toll that caregiving places on families. Programs like the Missouri Caregiver Program are not optional; they are the only reason many families are able to continue providing care at home.

Direct Fiscal Impact: My Family's Story

My father's disease progression eventually made full time care at home impossible, and he was inevitably placed in memory care. The cost to the state Medicaid program for the seven years he spent in long term care before his passing was over \$264,000.

However, because we had access to respite services, his institutional placement was delayed by two full years. With the average cost of long-term care in Missouri at approximately \$6,000 per month, those two additional years at home resulted in an estimated \$144,000 in savings to the state.

This is exactly what the Missouri Caregiver Program is designed to do:

- Support families;
- Delay institutionalization;
- Reduce Medicaid expenditures;
- And keep Missourians where they want to be—at home.

Cutting this program eliminates these savings and increases long term state costs.

Systemwide Impact:

The Missouri Caregiver Program prevents:

- Premature institutionalization, which is substantially more expensive than home based care.
- Avoidable hospitalizations stemming from caregiver burnout or unmanaged conditions.
- Forced workforce exit by caregivers who may otherwise need to quit their jobs to maintain

care.

- Unnecessary strain on long term care facilities, many of which are already near capacity. Removing funding from 250 families means 250 potential crises—financial, medical, and emotional—each of which carries costs that far exceed the modest support provided by this program.

Why Maintaining Funding Is Both Compassionate and Fiscally Responsible:

A cut of this magnitude does not save money...It creates future expenditures. The program stabilizes families, prevents medical crises, delays long term care placement, and preserves the dignity of some of Missouri's most vulnerable citizens. In cases like my father's, the state directly benefits when institutionalization can be delayed. Reducing funding will diminish these benefits and ultimately increase the financial burden on Missouri's Medicaid and healthcare systems.

Request to the Committee:

For the wellbeing of Missouri families—and for the fiscal health of our state—I strongly urge the Committee to reject the proposed \$1 million cut and maintain full funding for the Missouri Caregiver Program.

Thank you for your service and for your thoughtful consideration of this critical issue.

Respectfully,

Nicole Garrison, RPh

Missouri Resident & Former Family Caregiver

Healthcare Professional



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NOLAN FERGUSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son Gabriel has autism, level 2. His diagnosis affects his ability to speak and process environmental information as neurotypical children do. Restricting funding will directly affect needed services that support our efforts to building his learning, adaptation to society and long-term independence. This cannot happen



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: OLIVER P KIDD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:26 PM

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

With this "modest" cut to self-directive services my sister in law, which I am her guardian, would lose her access to her daily activities at her day program. This will cause her to lose her support community, interpersonal skills and become pretty much home bound. Lots of people rely on these services to get through daily life with special needs individuals. This will cause way more harm than can be accounted for by looking at numbers. The human cost will be much higher.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAIGE MORGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAM FITZMAURICE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me and my family to get through shocking times of onset mental illness for our son. We took the family to family course, then taught it to others! We continue to support our friends & community. Our son is actually independent now with our help and because of our training & confidence he seems to absorb the confidence and continues to trust us and is medically compliant, has a full time job and even works part time doing instacart! He knows it's important to seek help from counselor when needed & is compliant with his psychiatrist.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27

Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAM LANHAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son who is on the autism spectrum deserves to live a life!

I oppose the proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation. These programs help Missourians with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity.

The cuts included in House Bill 10 would have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable population - REAL PEOPLE.

What's happening here isn't just a budget issue. It's part of a bigger pattern, at the state and federal level, of slowly undermining community-based, self-directed services and then acting shocked when people say, "See? It doesn't work."

Self-directed services do work. They keep people out of institutions. They give disabled people and families control over their own lives. They are also often cheaper than congregate care. So why do they keep getting hit first?

Because self-direction shifts power away from agencies and toward people. And when budgets tighten, the system protects providers, not families, not community specialists, not disabled people themselves.

Here's the uncomfortable truth no one wants to say out loud. If you underfund home- and community-based services long enough, you can claim institutions are "necessary again." That's not failure. That's policy by design.

Cuts like this don't just trim programs. They shape who gets to live a life and who gets managed. My son who is on the autism spectrum and so many others who would be affected deserve to live a life.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA BYARS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am concerned about the significant cuts proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in House Bill 10.

My daughter, Jessica, is a recipient of Home and Community Based services. She lives in a home with a roommate. She attends a day program 2-3 days a week. She is a part of her community. The same community she grew up in. The same community her brother, sister, grandparents and parents live in. Our family continues to be an active part of Jessica's life with family dinners, sometimes at her home, and community activities. In fact last week, Jessica, her roommate and their friends went to a local restaurant that was hosting Bingo to benefit Special Olympics MO. Jessica attends church (Fortuna Baptist Church) with her family almost every Sunday.

By cutting these Home and Community-Based Services, many Missourians, including Jessica may end up needing higher levels of services that will cost the state more. Level funding for current services is important, so that Missourians with IDD can stay in their own homes and communities, with their families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA KRAUSHAAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello:

I am blessed to work for an agency that provides services to some very wonderful people who are severely disabled. Removing funding from services that benefit them and their families will cause these people to not receive services that help them to thrive. These are the people who NEED the services they receive. They DESERVE to live their best lives and have the support to help them reach their full potential.

I am imploring you to reject this bill that takes so much away from people who are vulnerable and need help the most.

Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA A. CIAPCIAK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you, because you serve on the House Budget Committee. I am concerned about the significant cuts Governor Kehoe has proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in House Bill 10.

By cutting these Home and Community-Based Services, many Missourians may end up needing higher levels of services that will cost the state more. Level funding for current services is important, so that Missourians with IDD can stay in their own homes and communities, with their families.

I am writing to you, because you serve on the House Budget Committee. I am concerned about the significant cuts Governor Kehoe has proposed to Medicaid services that support Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in House Bill 10.

By cutting these Home and Community-Based Services, many Missourians may end up needing higher levels of services that will cost the state more. Level funding for current services is important, so that Missourians with IDD can stay in their own homes and communities, with their families.

My brother lived in an apartment independently for seven years after living with me for seven years. Easter Seals Midwest (previously Life Skills) provided weekly staff transporting him to the grocery to purchase food and to dentists and doctors for regular check-ups. In 2017, I moved him into Promise Community (previously Rainbow Village) operated by the St Louis Arc. He died in 2024 following sudden severe stenosis of his cervical vertebrae, leaving him unable to use his arms and legs. St. Louis Arc held his hand until he died. The day before his death, he was literally surrounded by his friends in his bedroom. They sang songs that he had enjoyed on stage at Theatre Unlimited with them. I treasure the opportunity I had to see him blossom through his paintings and greeting cards. Believe me...he was a GIFT in my life...if I have any goodness inside me, it is because my brother taught me so much about love and non-judgment and enjoying delicious food with others!

Please follow up on this with the Governor's Office and with other House Budget Committee Members.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ciapciak

9704 Wilderness Battle Circle Cir, St. Louis, MO, 63123 pamrc47@gmail.com

(314) 614 - 6527



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If past, this will take money away from those who are most vulnerable and cannot advocate for themselves. By undervaluing their caregivers passing of this bill will directly result and the jeopardizing of their care. Consequently, many of those who are dependent upon these services will intern need to seek 24 hour nursing care. The cost of such care is astronomical compared to the current salaries of the caregivers and the value it provides by allowing these vulnerable people to maintain life in their home.

While I vote, Republican, if this bill passes, I will use my vote and encourage all I know to replace all of our representatives who support this initiative.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA GOLDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a mother of two special needs adults, this program is invaluable to our family. One of my children (A) is a total invalid and falls under the Federal MFAW program. The youngest of my two special needs adults (J) is a 27 yo, 6'10" 265 lb gentle giant that functions on the same level as a three year old. Without the SDS program, J would not be able to continue learning independence, life skills, good behavior and social skills. This program is so fundamental to keeping our equilibrium in a family that is stretched too thin. My husband passed away just three months ago and we are trying to keep things on an even keel. The help we receive is imperative to allow my children to continue to live with family and thrive. J's caregiver deserves so much credit for his success. Before she came on board, J was still incontinent and had accidents almost every night. Now he is using regular men's underwear and it shows in his self-esteem and confidence as a person. Reducing the pay rate for J's caregiver would force her to seek other employment in order to financially survive. She has been with us for over 3 years and to lose her would throw our family into a panic mode, which we can ill afford now with my husband's recent passing. Please know that we are REAL PEOPLE behind each one of our stories. People that live between a rock and a hard place every day. My husband used to tell people at his work that "our best day is everyone else's nightmare and our worst day would send you over the edge." He wasn't wrong. Please have empathy and care for those who need this program.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA MODICA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter, who is an adult person with Cerebral Palsy, has benefited greatly from the Pony Bird CSS Day Program she attends. In 2023, my daughter began attending this program where she has structure and the opportunity to volunteer in the community. She has gained independence and confidence. Her day program gives her a sense of purpose. It is vital for her quality of life. Cuts undermine independence and community. Cuts hurt families and caregivers. Every dollar toward DD Programs supports an individual's dignity, stability, connection, health, safety, agency, independence, belonging, and ultimately their ability to lead a full, self-directed life in the community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA SIGMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am single mom, Pati Sigman. Mother of Taylor 24, Cerebral Palsy. She is full assist and wheelchair bound. I'm a top wage employee and her only staff. I came home from a job in finance making 39.00 in 2018 to work for her losing all benefits and 401K and insurance with a max available wage 10.00 less than I earned prior. We have tried to hire outside of SDS and been met with lack of staffing, drug addiction and lack of needed knowledge. I went through approximately 6-9 jobs during Taylor's younger years due to the level of care required.

At one time my family solely relied on SSI, HUD and foodstamps to barely survive. We ate lots of ramen.

I am a single mother, no present father and no living family. I am Taylor's sole source of living and living well in the community.

Taylor is funny. She is kind. She loves church and her family. She has two sisters who make up for hours we don't have. Taylor has 40 hours approved for SDS and yet needs 24 hour care. They claim "natural support." What's natural about bathing, toileting, feeding, cooking and the list goes on for a 24 year old adult woman? Yet, our state says it's natural support. It's not it's unnatural and cuts to this funding do not possibly put Taylor in an institution it does. I am a single mom, home owner, vehicle owner and those bills do not stop or lessen base on the governments budget allowance. I will have to leave for outside work and that leaves no care for Taylor.

Proposed cuts do not allow for proper staff.

After taxes an individual would make 17.80 with no benefits not incentives and no mileage reimbursement.

Specifically for my family the availability to hire is limited due to Taylor's wheelchair. The staff could only be hired if they had an accessible vehicle for her appointments. I contacted State Farm and they informed me if I allow staff to drive my vehicle I would have to change coverage to include them as a full time driver and also change my policy to commercial. Further adding to cost I already cannot cover.

Taylor is on a list of medications. That has been a problem in the past their is an opioid crisis in America and having to give full medical access to an unknown agency person is also a down side to losing funding.

You lower the wage you lower the quality of worker.

I beg from my mother's heart that this funding not be cut and strong consideration be made in other areas. It's not one life affected it's 4 and that number is times 3527 families, their disabled loved one not counting the families affected of staff.

Foodstamp, housing, and program assistance need will dramatically increase and families will be ripped apart. That is not my Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK MAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
This bill only seeks to cause harm to those who need assistance from caregivers.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK MELLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are writing to you as residents of Missouri. Our daughter Tricia is a living miracle. She is on three forms of life support (24/7 ventilation, Oxygen 24/7, and 8 to 10 continuous IV medications including being fed through her heart , not the stomach)! She is clearly disabled and she relies on the Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program administered by the Missouri Department of Mental Health. This program has been an invaluable lifeline for our family, enabling her to manage and direct personalized care in our home rather than in a hospital 24/7 like she lived in for 10.5 months straight when she first landed on the ventilator. We basically run a mini ICU in our home because there is nowhere (no facility on earth) that can house her other than a hospital ICU or ICU step-down unit in a hospital that literally costs millions of dollars as you might imagine not to mention is life threatening and not the way to live. Recent and proposed budget cuts to SDS and related home and community-based services (HCBS) under Missouri's Medicaid waivers seriously threaten this essential support. We **URGE YOU TO OPPOSE** these cuts and advocate for full funding of SDS to ensure families can continue providing safe, dignified, and cost-effective care for our loved ones. Our daughter would absolutely not be alive without this program. She does , in her words, "have a decent quality of life despite her health challenges." She encourages, inspires , and empowers other patients and families around the world to live their best lives despite any disabilities or challenges. She has saved many lives herself according to people who follow her and who have reached out to her these past few years. She is making a powerful contribution to society.

The SDS program empowers individuals with developmental disabilities—like our daughter Tricia—and their families to exercise greater choice and control over their supports. Through SDS, we can hire, train, and manage caregivers—often family members or trusted community providers—to deliver tailored services right in the comfort of our home. This approach not only promotes Tricia's independence, dignity, and well-being but also delivers substantial cost savings to the state. According to data from the Department of Mental Health, the average annual cost per person for SDS is approximately \$48,534, compared to over \$600,000 for care in state-operated facilities and millions of dollars in our daughter's case if she were to be stuck in a hospital. By keeping Tricia at home, SDS reduces the strain on institutional resources and helps prevent costly hospitalizations or placements that would burden Missouri's budget.

Regrettably, ongoing federal and state budget pressures—including anticipated reductions in federal Medicaid funding of up to 14% (potentially \$11-18 billion over the next decade for Missouri)—have already led to constraints on SDS. In fiscal year 2025, new applicants were placed on waitlists due to funding limitations, and fiscal year 2026 budget discussions continue to highlight the risks of further reductions, including cuts to Medicaid HCBS and related programs. These funding shortfalls directly

endanger our family's ability to keep Tricia safely at home. Without adequate resources she may have to turn to less suitable alternatives that are not only far more expensive for taxpayers but also disruptive to her stability, health, and happiness and in her case most likely land her six feet under very quickly due to hospital acquired infections and complications she runs into in the hospitals.

These funding challenges severely cripple our ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare providers. SDS reimbursement rates are already under pressure, and additional cuts would make it nearly impossible to offer competitive wages in today's labor market. Caregivers are the backbone of this program, but inadequate pay deters potential hires, resulting in staffing shortages that compromise the quality and safety of care for vulnerable individuals like Tricia. Agencies have tried and were not able to produce any qualified nurses to care for our daughter given the current shortage of nurses and the lower pay that already is in place these past few years. Dropping pay in the SDS program by 1/3 (almost \$10 an hour) for a medical personal care assistant will most likely cause us to lose the help we have in addition to trouble attracting qualified help. Protecting SDS funding is essential—not only for fiscal responsibility but also to support Missouri's most vulnerable citizens and avoid a costly shift back to institutional models.

I respectfully ask you to champion the restoration and expansion of funding for SDS in the current and upcoming budget cycles. By investing in this program, you will help families like ours maintain community-based care for loved ones like Tricia, achieve long-term savings for the state, and ensure that individuals with disabilities can live fulfilling lives surrounded by family. Please consider the profound human impact of these decisions and stand with Missouri families in need. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this further or share more about our experiences with Tricia's care and her contribution to society. We truly believe she is still with us today thanks to this great program. Please help us keep this program and funding together.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your dedication to serving the people of Missouri.

Sincerely
Wendy and Patrick Melland



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATSY C.VANBEBBER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Special disability people will be hurt if the funding is reduced for this Day Programs.
I am asking that you not reduce fundings.The families that use this program are saving the State of Missouri for not requiring full housing for they loved one!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL VENEZIANO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Paul Veneziano and I have been working as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with adults and children with developmental disabilities in Missouri for almost 20 years. For the vast majority of that time, I worked for the Division of Developmental Disabilities state operated programs across the state, rising to the level of department director of several program sites. I am extremely familiar with the budgeting process, with the operation of these services, and the varying successes and outcomes of these programs.

I understand very well that some of these services are prohibitively expensive and hard decisions need to be made. However, the suggested cuts target services that are cheaper than any SOP or private (ISL) costs. These cuts also target programs that have significantly better individual outcomes than the programs I just mentioned. The cuts being proposed will force families into ISLs and habilitation centers, away from their families and out of their homes; or worse, will financially break families trying to care for their loved ones. While these cuts may save the state money in the immediate term, it will cost significantly more over time. When you couple that with the outcomes of each of these alternative options: it is abundantly clear these cuts will lead to more struggles for families, worse outcomes for individuals, and ultimately cost the state more money as these people age.

I understand that budgets have to be made and nothing will ever be funded the way we would all like; but it makes no sense to cut your most cost effective programs. Just like it makes no sense to cut early intervention and preventative programs. I am urging you to look past the short term budget benefits and look at how these decisions will be worse for everyone involved over time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL W POWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 10:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am very against the proposed cuts to the SDS Program. I married my wife in 2014 and immediately became a father figure to her son. In 2021, I adopted Adam. He has autism and cannot verbally communicate. I have watched my wife reinvent herself many times to meet his needs. She gave up a lucrative career in hospice to become his personal care attendant. With the wage increase, she was able to purchase all insurances, put a bit into savings, have extra income for PTO or illness. If these cuts go through, she'll have to go on my insurance from work. That's \$1,200, which is a financial hardship for us.

What other career are caring, loving, productive, patient people not fairly compensated? It's disgusting to me that DMH has targeted these marginalized families living in forced poverty to take from. If you agree that the proposed cuts from DMH given to the Governor are wrong, we sincerely ask you to vote against the cuts to the Medicaid waiver SDS program.

Our son cannot cope in this world without help and we can't help if we can't afford to live.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:30 AM

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

Day program cuts would be significant to our population of individuals with special needs. They deserve to have a place and a purpose to go to during the day.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA MATTHEWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:50 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

This funding directly supports services my family relied on when a loved one was diagnosed with a mental illness. Programs like Family-to-Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, and a place to ask questions we didn't know how to ask anywhere else.

As a parent navigating the mental health system on behalf of my child, NAMI Missouri's education and parent support services helped me understand my role, advocate effectively, and feel less alone during an overwhelming time.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA OWENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are grandparents raising our grandson with unique abilities. Brodee is 15 yrs old and lives with my husband and I. He has multiple disabilities bit his two main ones are Septic optic hypo plasma and cerebral palsy.

I have a number of years on both sides of caregiver, Support Coordinator and a Program Manager for a DMH provider. In the last few years I had to leave my employment as a DMH Program Manager to care for our grandson. It has been very difficult over the years to try and work full time and take care of him. He has 4 day school weeks and we do not have a full time sitter in our rural area for when he is out of school. Up until the last 3-4 years I have always jungled try to work and care for him. We finally decided to turn sole guardianship over to my husband so I could provide SDS for our grandson. It has truly been a blessing to be able to concentrate on his care. I understand finances are tight for everyone. However if the hourly rates decrease by 6.00 an hour, our household will lose one thousand dollars a month. That's not just a small decrease, that is basically our mortgage payment.

Brodee is very schedule oriented and he does not handle changes well at all. We would definitely have to make some changes if the cuts are made. I'm not sure of the entire state budget but I find it hard to believe that there are not cuts that could be made elsewhere besides taking from our most vulnerable individuals. SDS was developed so individuals could live in the least restrictive environment and thrive the best of their ability surrounded by the people who know them best-their family and friends and not put in a facility that is under staffed and over worked and do not provide the care and love one's family can provide. Not to mention the increase in cost to place individuals in a facility. The cost would be at least double if not triple the amount of the SDS.

Please reconsider the cuts proposed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA SHEPHERD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 10:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have an adult child 43 years old that uses self directed services in Clay county Mo. We are aware of the Medicaid Cuts that are proposed and we do not agree with decision. The proposed cuts to the CSR would not enable us to find qualified caregivers and to retain them. As a senior citizen and a single Mother, I depend on daily care for my daughter daily, for her activities of daily living, and to get her out to doctor appointments and out in the community. I provide a safe home for her considering her uncontrolled seizures and Autism. She needs one on one care due to seizures and wandering and developmental delays. She cannot get the one on one personal care in a group home. Her life would be in danger, so of course I need to keep her safe, and need funding to do so. Do not make it harder by your policies, it is hard enough and I am 72 with no family in town.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULINE RECAR		PHONE NUMBER: 314-926-6555	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: 486-92-8885		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2580 SOUTH RDG			
CITY: FESTUS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63028
EMAIL: pkr224@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:03 PM

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

I work for an organization that provides important services to individuals with special needs as well as have family members who utilize these services. I cannot express how important these services are to me and how much they improve and affect our consumers. I have seen first-hand the positive effects on our community and individuals served.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PEGGY WALDEMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello. I am contacting you in regards to Missouri HB10. SDS is an extremely important part of our family's life.

We have a 38-year-old daughter with Cerebral Palsy. She attended an adult daycare program until 2 1/2 years ago. At that time we were told she could no longer attend. Her needs were too involved for their staff ratio. There were no other places with availability in Springfield. Because of SDS, I was able to retire from my job and care for her at home along with hiring other caregivers because of the SDS program. She is fully dependent on care from a caregiver. Her personality bloomed and she has loved being at home using SDS. We have no idea what we would do without it. She would never survive in an institution type atmosphere. Besides her surviving, the cost of an institution from what I understand is 10 times more expensive than caring for our disabled children in our homes. There is NO better place for our daughter Jessica than to be in our home. Please do not cut this area of the budget.

It would change our lives drastically. There is no better place for our daughter Jessica to be then at home. There is no one that would ever understand or love her like we do and her trained caregivers. Thank you for your consideration.

Peggy Waldemer
Springfield Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PHILLIP K WOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 5:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It has been my honor to attend NAMI meetings in Columbia Missouri. The support of other families dealing with family members with mental health issues is invaluable. Given that, for example, the state of Missouri funds the "Parents as Teachers" program as a cost-effective way to improve the education of children, I think it only appropriate and cost-effective that families dealing with the mental health of their family members is an extremely cost-effective way to provide support to Missourians and to avoid the more expensive alternatives of professional therapy and social work support for these families. Eiminating fiascal support for NAMI will result in more expenses for state government and a poorer level of support for the quality of life for Missourians dealing with mental health issues.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHANA RIMAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This funding directly supports services my family relied on when our loved one was diagnosed with a mental illness. When we were first navigating this crisis, we were overwhelmed and lost. Programs like Family-to-Family gave us accurate information, practical tools, hope and—most importantly—a safe place to ask the questions we didn't know how to ask anywhere else.

Please reinstate this vital investment to ensure that Missouri families continue to have access to these life-saving, evidence-based services.

Respectfully,
Rachana Rimal



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEAL MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge the committee to vote NO on HB2010. The Governor's proposed budget cuts to Self-Directed Services, Consumer Directed Services, and Day Habilitation will have serious, real-life consequences for some of our most vulnerable Missourians. These programs help those with severe disabilities and seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity. Vote NO on budget cuts in HB 2010 and reject any appropriations bills cutting these budgets.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL HEINZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 7:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the House Budget Committee,

I am submitting a testimony as a Missouri parent and full-time caregiver to express my opposition and deep concern regarding the proposed FY 2027 DMH-DDD budget offsets, including the elimination of Individual Directed Goods and Services, Community Specialist services, and the proposed rate reductions for Day Habilitation and Self-Directed Personal Assistant services.

These proposed cuts would be devastating to my family and to thousands of Missouri families who rely on these services to care for children and adults with significant disabilities. My 14 year old son Hudson has Down syndrome, Autism, ADHD, and Hirschsprung's Disease. He requires 100% care.

The ability to hire and retain qualified, dependable personal assistants is not a luxury — it is essential for his health, safety, and quality of life.

Reducing reimbursement rates and eliminating critical supports will directly impact caregiver wages. When wages are cut or stagnate, skilled caregivers leave for other jobs, and families like mine are left without the trained support our loved ones depend on. This is not theoretical — it is already happening. Further reductions will only accelerate the workforce crisis and place vulnerable Missourians at serious risk.

Families are already stretched to their limits. Many of us provide around-the-clock care while also navigating complex medical, behavioral, and safety needs. These services allow our loved ones to remain at home, integrated into their communities, rather than being forced into far more costly institutional settings.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider these proposed offsets and protect the services that allow individuals with disabilities to live with dignity while supporting the workforce that makes community-based care possible. Investing in these programs is not only humane — it is fiscally responsible. Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of the real families who will be affected by these decisions.

Sincerely,
Rachel Heinz, proud Mom to Hudson
Springfield, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL LESINSKI		PHONE NUMBER: 573-347-7580	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALZHEIMER's ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1433 OLDE CABIN RD.			
CITY: CREVE COEUR		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA CASE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-914-6843	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEVELOPING POTENTIAL, INC.		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 251 NW EXECUTIVE WAY SUITE 200			
CITY: LEES SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64063
EMAIL: rcase@developingpotential.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:43 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representative Deaton and Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the funding cuts for day services serving adults with disabilities on 7/1/2026.

We urge the committee to review the 33.33% cut to the day services DMH I/DD group service category and the severe impact it will have on persons served with developmental disabilities ages 21 to 65. Funding for continuity of care after age 21 is vital to ensure quality care and meet HCBS federal mandates. The impact of the 33.33 percent cut will hurt persons served who need daily support and care. Many persons in group service still need daily care with feeding, restroom care, and ambulation at the program and in the community. Much of this has been taken out of context regarding the rate situation in day services. The funding received is on a 15-minute billing unit basis, and therefore, over a person's plan year, most providers receive only 60 to 65% of the attendance rate for the person served. This puts the \$10.81 unit at about \$6.14, or 60 percent of the rate. For anyone to say that a provider gets the 100 percent unit cost in a person's annual plan of care is not valid or accurate, according to some at the state level. The Data could be pulled from Cimor, the state I/DD billing system. The number of units authorized for a person's annual plan of care, and then the number of units billed and paid. This will show the provider's actual experience in developing budgets. Providers have to fundraise, grant write, and ensure lean operations to survive. In addition, many providers have to absorb Medicaid payment shortfalls due to families not being able to afford the spenddown cost. Providers' billing gets rejected if the spenddown is not paid. This can cost thousands of dollars to absorb, which the state does not reallocate to providers to make ends meet with annual budgets.

The issue regarding day service growth stems from support service need, and is further increased/driven by a national mandate and a federal rule on sheltered workshops. (Decreasing number of persons stateside in Missouri Sheltered workshops. Please note Sheltered workshops are and were funded by DESE). The growth has been due to need.

Why has the State not gone to DESE to request funding to move forward and help the I/DD division address the need for growth in day services in the State of Missouri, which also offers blended employment DMH services that help persons find jobs in the community, as mandated by our Employment First Principle?

Funding Cuts Mean:

- Endangered Lives

-The state long -term cost will be more in the long run because families will need residential 24/7 care vs. Monday through Friday care if they can't receive day services. Hurting persons seeking to keep the family intact in their natural home.

-Scaring and driving away committed, trained Direct Support Professional Staff in a state where finding workers that will provide help with persons with severe Autism, CP, behavioral issues, and co-existing medical conditions is extremely hard

-The natural home family system will be harmed and persons having disabilities.

-Direct Support Professionals should be allowed to work for day services and receive a livable wage. The rate cuts would not make this a reality.

Please hold harmless services for persons with disabilities. I have always been proud to note that I live in Missouri. As a not-for-profit provider for 32 years, it's vital we hear the voices of the many advocates speaking for those who cannot advocate for themselves. Let's do the right thing. Please contact me if you would like more information regarding the reality of not-for-profit I/DD day services. Thank you for the opportunity to express concern and advocate.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 8:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a family friend who knows this child and her parents personally and am in opposition to cuts to HB 10 that will reduce funding to the SDS program and wages for PCAs who work without benefits. She has a rare disability and is a quadriplegic, epileptic, and has a compromised immune system. She requires skilled care 24 hours a day.

Her caregivers are skilled and committed, but they stay because the pay is at least competitive. If HB 10 cuts caregiver wages, this otherwise successful system will unravel. The family will lose qualified aides, her care will become unstable, and the state will end up paying much more through emergency services and other public programs.

Please consider opposing HB 10.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA LEWIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Rebecca Lewis and I am a lifetime Missouri constituent living in Blue Springs, I currently use Self Directed Supports(SDS) for our adult daughter Debra Lewis who lives in our home, works in our community and is also a registered voter. We have utilized SDS since 2018 and have been fortunate to have hired and retained only one employee as a Personal Aide(PA) for Debra.

The one employee, similar in age to Debra, has resulted in a sibling like bond and has allowed for very age appropriate experiences. Debra's current PA knows our community, knows our family and knows Debra's friends. With her support Debra has been able to live a more independent life. Cooking, managing her own budget, being responsibly for her own medication and actively participating in household and community activities are just a few accomplishments she has made with SDS support. The trust Debra and our family has developed with this one employee would not be possible without the flexibility SDS allowed.

Debra is quiet, slow to warm up, and has experienced ultimate loneliness after the loss of her only sibling in 2014. Having Self Directed Supports has encouraged Debra to trust, self advocate and remain a productive citizen.

Unfortunately the proposed changes to SDS wage per hour greatly jeopardizes the amount of time our employee will be able to spend with Debra. Debra, as well as our family have made new lifetime friends, however, financially a lower hourly wage will limit her PA's availability. Starting in 2018 Debra's PA was newly out of high school and making roughly \$15 an hour through direct support. Debra is only allocated 15 hours a week support. Over the last seven years, due to experience, education and cost of living increase we are now paying our employee roughly \$27 an hour. If the Governor's proposed budget gets approved Debra's PA's pay will greatly decrease. Leaving her PA no choice but to find another higher earning job or another job with more hours. Neither of the two would be available working with Debra. This would also result in Debra having no supports outside of home.

If more Clients like Debra are forced to use Agencies the overall cost savings for the State of Missouri would be null. Clients receiving 24 hour support would ultimately need full time residential care in which the cost to our State would increase by multitudes. State supported facilities and agencies are already short staffed with wait lists. Flexible hours, safety concerns and reliability issues have been and continue to be a problem also.

Keeping Self Directed Supports current pay rate is a cost effective strategy for Missouri. All other alternatives will result in higher per individual cost overall.

I ask that you please continue to support the Federal direction introduced by President Trump & Missouri Senator Schmitt- to strengthen home based care, not dismantling it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA S ROBERTS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-786-6604	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE TRAVEL STORE, INC.		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 16612 EAST DEBRA STREET			
CITY: INDEPENDENCE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64055
EMAIL: Becca@tvstore.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:21 PM

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

I am writing in Opposition to any cuts to the DD services. These citizens need as much support as we can give them. Please support these special citizens that need our help.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RHONDA ROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a parent that had a child with disabilities, she was 27 when she passed away. She was in a day program Developing Potential. These programs are so important for the children and families to be able to help keep there child at home. Parents be able to work. Financially we would not have been able to afford care for our child. Also it provides structure for the adult child when they are no longer in school. It is cruel to cut services to these families.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RHONDA ROSCHEVITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

i am a mom of a autistic son,We are so blessed to have a Day Program for our son. Please continue to support the fundings, for these programs. It helps w academics, socialization, socialization w/ peers. It gives families of peace of mind, where they can be themselves in their own world. He is a wonderful son and friend. please continue letting the day programs to continue, he's able to also experience going places that continues to help him develop, and feel like himself and other's are not" left behind." It gives them a purpose. If any of you know a child, adult that struggle w/ all genres of AUTISM, then all of you would understand the importance of himself, and others continuing these Day Program Services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RHONDA STATELER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. MO			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICK HARRISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 8:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Rick Harrison, and I am writing to urge you to protect Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) program and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who make it possible.

I am the grandfather of two 20-year-old grandsons who are nonverbal autistic. Because of SDS, my grandsons are able to live fuller, safer, and more joyful lives. With the support of their trusted caregivers, they can go into stores and pick out their own snacks, attend family gatherings, and participate in sporting events. These may seem like small moments, but for my grandsons—and for our family—they are life-changing. SDS gives them dignity, independence, and the chance to be part of their community. It also brings joy to others who get to know them and include them.

What is currently at risk is deeply concerning:

- Proposed cuts to Self-Directed Services
- A reduction in DSP wages, including a 21% hourly pay cut
- Significant pay cuts to an already understaffed and essential workforce

Self-Directed Services matter because they work. SDS allows people with disabilities to remain in their own homes instead of institutions. It supports community involvement, employment, relationships, and independence. It is person-centered, flexible, and cost-effective. This is exactly what our tax dollars should support: dignity, inclusion, and meaningful lives.

Cuts to SDS would have devastating consequences for people with disabilities and their families, including:

- Loss of trusted, consistent caregivers
- Increased safety risks and instability
- Reduced access to the community
- Loss of independence and personal choice
- Increased stress and hardship for families

Missouri is already facing a severe Direct Support Professional workforce shortage. Cutting wages will only make this crisis worse. Experienced DSPs will be forced out of the field, recruitment will become even more difficult, and continuity of care will suffer. DSPs provide skilled, demanding, and essential care. They deserve fair and sustainable pay—not cuts.

These proposed reductions will not save the state money. When SDS fails, individuals are often forced into group homes, nursing facilities, or other restrictive settings. In many cases, families are forced to quit their jobs to care for loved ones, removing them from Missouri's workforce. These alternatives cost the state significantly more than SDS. This is not a true savings—it is a cost shift with worse outcomes for everyone.

Budget decisions should never force people with disabilities out of their homes, away from their routines, or out of their communities. Missouri has a responsibility to uphold its commitment to community-based services and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

I urge you to:

- Protect Self-Directed Services (SDS)**
- Maintain sustainable and fair DSP wages**
- Reject balancing the budget on the backs of people with disabilities**
- Recognize that SDS works and saves money in the long term**

Strong communities include everyone. Self-Directed Services keep people where they belong—at home, in their communities, with dignity, choice, and purpose.

Thank you for your time and for considering the real impact these decisions will have on families like mine across Missouri.

**Sincerely,
Rick Harrison
Blue Springs, MO
rick52harrison@gmail.com**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICK ROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The DD services are so important to both the disabled and their caregivers. We lost our daughter at 27yrs old due to complications from cerebral palsy. These programs enable the disabled to meet with others like them and to receive occupational and physical therapy, help with adaptive equipment and resources like the people with the knowledge to help and understand how to help bring out the potential in people with different disabilities.
For the care givers, (often parents) it allows some time from what would otherwise be 24/7 care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBBIN BLANKENSHIP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:50 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a single mother of a son with disabilities. Funding cuts to this program would create a great hardship for us and other families as well.

Because our staff are not provided any benefits or insurance

We pay them a good fair wage.

Losing this would make it impossible to keep good staff and jeopardize families in many ways. Our children getting to stay in the home is great for them and us institutions are more expensive as well as unsafe.

Our staff are not just babysitters they help our children learn skills and give them safety and support. mine learn from our Occupational therapist and practice those skills at home. This is so important to all of us . I ask along with many others that funding remain in tact and not get cut

Sincerely ,



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT ADAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Speaking on behalf of our 48 year old daughter who is an individual with Developmental Disabilities. Disabilities relating to birth issues, Cerebral Palsy and manifest by mobility issues/muscle contractures, seizure disorder, fall risk.

We are a Missouri Self-directed Family(SDS) and thereby have exclusive responsibility for hiring and management of our daughter's in-home staff.

Due to the extent of daughter's daily needs for safety supports/fall risk and seizures it is very difficult to find qualified help that is willing to assume the degree of responsibility necessary for this in home care arrangement. Our daughter's need for support is 24/7 which includes "awake" overnight staffing. My wife and I are now in our 80s and have made our daughter's care a top priority for the past 48 years. As we approach critical aging, we have tried diligently to make appropriate planning for our daughter's ongoing care, which will likely extend beyond her parents life expectancies.

Having qualified staff to care for our daughter in her own home setting is best for her personal needs and a suitable life style which she deserves as a viable citizen of the State of Missouri.

In home Self-directed services cost the State less than \$48,000 annually. This cost when compared to that of institutional housing at the rate of approximately \$600,000 would seem to be an obvious decision to allow individuals and their families to assume not only daily care, but also the actual management of the necessary in home staff. Significant financial saving the the State of Missouri.

The proposed budget cuts to these individuals and their daily life services is not a reasonable choice for our government to be making. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT this proposed budget reduction out of respect for these "DIFFERENTLY ABLED" Missouri Citizens.

Just for clarification: Self-directed hired staff have no benefits and are paid only an hourly rate for their services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT HARTNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My wife Sherri and I have an adult disabled son, Connor, attending a Day Habilitation program in the Kansas City area. These services enhance his quality of life tremendously and are a lifeline for parents like us who provide his care otherwise. To consider budget cuts to programs like these, helping our most vulnerable citizens, in order to cut taxes for the wealthy is not right. And I believe most Missourians agree with us. Please reconsider



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT L LADE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:45 PM

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

Our son, Robbie Lade, received a TBI, and we have been using SDS for almost twenty years. Because of this program, we have been able to keep him at home by hiring our own staff. The only turnover we have had was because we moved to a different region of the state. This program is invaluable to us and thousands of others. Having SDS, it keeps our loved ones safe, and they have a say in who takes care of them. Robbie has continued to stay healthy and get better over the years because of this program. Cutting the SDS budget does not make financial sense to the state budget. Having people go to homes is much cheaper than keeping them at home. Our family asks that this Bill not be approved.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT T. BUSCHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the grandfather of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which his family oversees. I have witnessed my grandson build positive relationships with his caregivers. His caregivers take the time to listen as they are provided specific, thorough training from my daughter on how to best support him. They are open to learning and adapting as needed. Further, they are always mindful of and advocating for his needs. The turnover rate of his caregivers has been extremely low and they report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with my grandson. The feeling is mutual, as he is always so excited to see them. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily living. Further, my grandson has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, our family stands to lose qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. Our family will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. They may need to rely on agency services. Agencies across Missouri have struggled for years to hire and retain staff. Many cannot accept new clients, cannot fill shifts, or have stopped contracting with the Department of Mental Health altogether. If families lose employees because of these proposals, and agencies cannot replace them, the state is responsible for the consequences. Additionally, one of his parents may need to leave their employment to care for our grandson and no longer be contributing taxpayers in the State of Missouri. I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care should remain a priority.

Respectfully,
Robert Tom Buschmann
2602 Camino
St. Louis, MO 63125



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERTA G CHINNERY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 11:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the Legal Guardian and sister of Michael, a 42-year-old man with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and several medical conditions that require daily support. Michael's adoptive parents passed away many years ago, and I have been responsible for ensuring his safety, stability, and quality of life ever since.

I am submitting this testimony on Michael's behalf, because he cannot safely or effectively advocate for himself in a public policy setting. His needs are significant, and the consequences of losing his supports would be severe.

Before Self-Directed Services, Michael lived in an institutional setting, and it was a deeply negative experience for him. He describes it as cold, sterile, unfriendly, and completely lacking in choice. He had no control over his daily life, no meaningful activities, and no ability to make decisions about even the smallest things. The environment increased his anxiety, worsened his behaviors, and left him feeling isolated and powerless. He has been very clear that he never wants to return to anything like that again.

SDS Med PA changed his life.

With SDS, Michael finally has:

- Predictable routines and stability
- Trained staff who understand his communication and behavioral needs
- Support for medications, health issues, meals, hygiene, and safety
- Access to the community, the gym, and meaningful daily activities
- The ability to live in the home he chooses, with the family he chooses
- A life that is warm, personal, and centered around his preferences—not institutional rules

Michael also understands fairness. He has told me many times that it is not right that he cannot give his employees raises when they deserve them. He sees how hard they work. He sees how the cost of living keeps going up. He knows they should be paid fairly, and he feels bad that he cannot increase their pay when everything else is getting more expensive. He wants to keep the people he trusts, and he wants them to be able to afford to stay.

Michael is terrified that if SDS Med PA pay rates are cut, he will lose the employees he depends on. His staff have already told me they cannot continue if their pay is reduced by nearly ten dollars an hour.

They simply cannot afford it.

If these cuts go through:

- Michael will lose the staff who keep him safe
- His behaviors will escalate
- His health will decline
- He will be at risk of institutionalization again
- His autonomy, dignity, and progress will be lost

In addition, Michael relies on the SDS Individual Goods and Services (IDGS) program. He needs this program expanded to include provisions for community access, because community participation is part of his ISP goals. Without IDGS covering community access fees, he cannot meet those goals, and he cannot maintain the progress he has made. Federal HCBS rules require that individuals receive the supports necessary to meet their ISP goals — and for Michael, IDGS is the only mechanism that can provide those supports.

SDS Med PA workers deserve raises, not cuts. Their work is skilled, demanding, and essential. Without them, people like Michael cannot remain safely in their homes. They cannot maintain their health. They cannot participate in their communities. They cannot live the lives federal law says they have the right to live.

Michael is asking you to:

- Protect SDS Med PA pay rates
- Mandate annual increases tied to SSA COLA
- Expand IDGS to include community access provisions
- Ensure that individuals with high needs are not pushed back into institutional settings

These supports are not optional. They are what keep Michael safe, stable, and able to live in the most integrated setting, as required by federal law.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERTA G CHINNERY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to urge you to fully reject the proposed cuts to the Self-Directed Services (SDS) program in HB 10, and to adopt budget language that protects the health, safety, civil rights, and lives of Missourians with disabilities who rely on SDS to remain in their own homes. The proposed cuts — especially the nearly \$10.00 per hour reduction to the SDS Medical Personal Assistant (Med PA) rate — will cause immediate and catastrophic harm. These cuts will eliminate the workforce, violate federal disability rights law, and force thousands of Missourians into institutions or group homes against their will.

This is not a budget adjustment.

This is a health and safety emergency, a civil rights issue, and a federal compliance issue.

What We Are Asking the Budget Committee to Do: (6 requests with detail explanations following)

- 1) Reject all proposed SDS PA and SDS Med PA rate cuts.
- 2) Add mandatory budget language requiring SDS PA and Med PA rates to increase annually with SSA COLA.
- 3) Add mandatory language requiring DMH to align its LRI policy with CMS definitions and allowances under 1915(c).
- 4) Add mandatory language permitting SDS PA and Med PA employees to work beyond 40 hours at regular pay if eligible under federal labor law and if willing.
- 5) Reject the elimination of SDS IDGS and increase IDGS funding.
- 6) Add mandatory language allowing IDGS to cover community access fees when required by ISP goals.

These six (6) actions are fully within the authority of the House Budget Committee.

- 1) Reject all SDS Medical Personal Assistant (Med PA) and SDS Personal Assistant (PA) Rate Cuts

The proposed cuts to SDS Med PA and PA rates will:

- Eliminate the workforce

- Violate federal disability rights law
- Force individuals into institutions or group homes
- Create immediate health and safety emergencies
- Place Missouri out of compliance with federal HCBS requirements

This is not a budget reduction — it is a system collapse.

SDS PA and Med PA Workers Receive ZERO Benefits:

- No health insurance
- No dental or vision
- No retirement
- No paid time off
- No sick leave
- No mileage reimbursement
- No holiday pay
- No agency support

They are independent contractors performing high-risk, medically complex work with zero benefits. Cutting their pay is not just unreasonable — it is dangerous.

The Med PA Job Cannot Be Staffed at \$22.88/hour.

Below is the real-world job description for just one SDS participant who requires 24/7 Med PA support. Before SDS, she lived in 4–5 group homes, where she experienced:

- Substantiated abuse
 - Severe neglect
 - Financial exploitation
 - Missed medications
 - Missed enteral feedings
 - Unsafe living conditions
 - Threats of violence
 - Months or years without community access
- SDS is the only reason she is alive, safe, and thriving today.

Her SDS Med PA responsibilities include:

Daily Medical Care

- Enteral feeding via Mic-Key button
- Medication administration and charting
- Stoma care, hygiene, dental care, skin care
- Therapy support (OT/PT), mental health support
- Monitoring health and vitals
- Managing all medical supplies, equipment, and assistive technology

Daily Behavioral Health Support

- Supporting coping skills and emotional regulation
- Using sensory/adaptive equipment
- Modeling appropriate behaviors

Daily Communication Support

- Supporting communication device use
- Supporting sign language
- Supporting verbal communication

Community Integration

- Exercise, movement, and physical activity
- Home activities (art, crafts, gardening, swimming, hobbies)
- Community activities (Special Olympics, zoo, movies, events, travel)
- Researching, planning, transporting, and accompanying

Daily Home Safety & Accessibility

- Cleaning, laundry, organizing

- Preventing accidents, elopement, intruders, emergencies
- Maintaining an ADA-accessible safe environment

This is the job you are being asked to cut to \$22.88/hour. This is not entry-level work. This is not minimum-wage work. This is medically complex, high-responsibility, 24/7 care. Cutting this rate will eliminate the workforce entirely.

These Cuts Violate Federal Disability Rights Law

The proposed SDS cuts violate:

A.) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II

Requires services in the most integrated setting.

B.) The U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead v. L.C. decision (1999)

States must avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

C.) The CMS HCBS Final Ruling

Requires:

- Choice of provider
- Choice of setting
- Adequate provider capacity
- Protection of health and welfare

Cutting Med PA rates by nearly \$10/hour eliminates provider capacity, which is a direct violation of HCBS assurances.

D.) The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396n)

SDS is authorized under 1915(c), which requires states to maintain adequate services to keep individuals in their homes.

These proposed SDS cuts violate all four of the above.

UNPAID - SDS Employer Responsibilities

Every SDS participant or Designated Representative must perform extensive unpaid labor, including:

- Hiring and training staff
- Paying for required certifications
- Scheduling
- Reviewing documentation
- Approving hours
- Completing mandated monthly summaries

If SDS collapses, the State of Missouri will be required to pay for these tasks — which are currently provided for free.

This is a massive cost savings that SDS provides to the state.

2) Add Mandatory COLA Tied to SSA COLA

SDS workers have received:

- No pay increase
- No COLA
- No inflation adjustment for three years, despite inflation exceeding 18%.

The Governor's budget proposes a \$10/hour cut, equal to a \$20,000 annual loss for medically skilled workers. This is unsustainable.

Mandatory COLA tied to SSA COLA is necessary to maintain workforce stability.

3) Align Missouri's LRI Policy With CMS

CMS defines a Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) as:

- A parent of a minor child
- A spouse
- In some cases, a legal guardian of a minor child

Under 1915(c), CMS permits LRIs to be paid caregivers when:

- The care is extraordinary
- Safeguards are in place
- No other qualified providers are available
- The choice is documented

Missouri's blanket prohibition is more restrictive than federal law and:

- Shrinks the workforce
- Blocks the most qualified caregivers
- Forces families into crisis
- Violates CMS provider capacity requirements
- Undermines ADA and Olmstead compliance

The Budget Committee can — and should — direct DMH to align with CMS.

4) Correct the 40-Hour Restriction

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Live-In Domestic Service Employee Exemption (29 CFR § 552.102) permits:

- In-home caregivers
- Working in the private home of the individual
- To work beyond 40 hours
- Without overtime pay
- If both parties agree

Missouri currently prohibits SDS workers from exceeding 40 hours, even when:

- The worker is eligible
- The worker is willing
- The individual's health and safety require it

This restriction is dangerous and unnecessary and too often leaves individuals without proper care.

The Budget Committee can — and should — direct DMH to correct the 40 hour restriction.

5) Restore and Expand SDS IDGS

SDS IDGS is the only program that provides essential items necessary to meet ISP goals, including:

- Safety equipment
- Specialty Communication devices
- Adaptive supports
- Assistive technology
- Home-based independence tools

Without IDGS, individuals cannot meet their ISP goals — which violates federal HCBS requirements. We request that the budget be expanded to allow every SDS participant in the State to be allowed to draw from a \$3,000.00 IDGS budget per year, per individual.

6) Allow IDGS to Cover Community Access Fees

Many ISP goals require community participation, but individuals cannot afford:

- Entry fees
- Activity fees
- Program fees

- Transportation-related fees

IDGS must be allowed to cover these costs.

Without IDGS, individuals cannot meet their ISP goals — which violates federal HCBS requirements and places individuals at risk of injury, hospitalization, or institutionalization.

IN SUMMARY: Requested Budget Language

1) Reject all SDS PA and Med PA rate cuts.

2) Add mandatory COLA tied to SSA COLA:

“The Department of Mental Health shall increase SDS Personal Assistant and SDS Medical Personal Assistant rates annually in alignment with the Social Security Administration’s Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA).”

3) Require DMH to align its LRI policy with CMS:

“The Department of Mental Health shall update its SDS provider eligibility policy to align with CMS definitions of Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) under 1915(c) waiver authority, permitting LRI participation when extraordinary care criteria and CMS safeguards are met.”

4) Permit SDS PA and Med PA workers to exceed 40 hours at regular pay:

“SDS Personal Assistants and SDS Medical Personal Assistants who qualify under the Fair Labor Standards Act live-in domestic service exemption may work beyond 40 hours per week at their regular rate of pay if both employer and employee agree.”

5 & 6) Restore and expand SDS IDGS:

“The Department of Mental Health shall restore and increase funding for SDS Individual Goods & Services (IDGS), and shall permit IDGS funds to be used for community access fees required to meet ISP goals.”

What Will Happen If The Proposed Cuts Are Allowed to Proceed:

- Individuals will lose their trained staff
- The SDS workforce will collapse
- Thousands will be forced out of their homes
- Individuals will be forced into institutions or group homes against their will
- Health and safety risks will skyrocket
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation will increase
- Hospitalizations and crisis interventions will rise
- Missouri will violate ADA, Olmstead, and CMS HCBS requirements
- The cost to taxpayers will more than double.

The average cost of institutional care in Missouri is \$660,000 per person, per year. SDS costs a fraction of that.

These cuts do not save money. They guarantee higher Medicaid spending and higher state costs.

Final Statement

The individuals who rely on SDS did not choose to be disabled, medically fragile, or dependent on others for survival. But with continued funding of SDS — including COLA adjustments, alignment with CMS LRI policy, expanded IDGS, and correction of the 40-hour rule — the Budget Committee has the power to protect their:

- Health
- Safety
- Autonomy
- Civil rights
- Ability to live in their own homes
- Ability to choose their caregivers
- Ability to live a life of dignity and meaning

Your decisions in HB 10 will determine whether thousands of Missourians remain safe in their homes — or are forced into institutions at enormous human and financial cost.

I respectfully urge you to protect the SDS program by rejecting the proposed cuts and adding additional language to the SDS budget.

Roberta Chinnery

Legal Guardian and/or advocate for 5 individuals with SDS MED PA supports, which are critical for their health and safety.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBIN KUYKENDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Based on the funds withholding designed into this bill, it sends the strongest possible message that the sponsors intend for disabled persons to simply dry up and blow away. Please remember that any one of us--legislators included--are just one car wreck away from joining the disabled ranks, ourselves. Our family members all grow old and frail, some of our children are born that way. God's gift of life is worth far more than HB 210 assigns it. Get a grip, people. We have the money. We see what you want, we see who you are. Every representative must vote NO on this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROCHELLE WALKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I'm writing to you today to express my strong support for bringing back House Bill 2010 funding, as outlined below. This funding has been a lifeline for my family during a particularly tough time when we were dealing with a mental health crisis. As a parent trying to help my child navigate the mental health system, NAMI Missouri's education and parent support services were invaluable. They helped me understand my responsibilities, advocate for my child effectively, and feel less isolated during what was a really challenging period.

I'm writing to kindly request that you think about bringing back \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). This funding has been a key part of our community for years, helping us offer essential services.

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RON AND LORRIE LINDELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear State of Missouri Representatives,

My wife and I were married fourteen years before moving to Missouri to make it our mission to do foster care due to the need of great foster parents.

We adopted five special needs children.
Ages were NB, 1,2,3,4. Now ages 21,22,23,24 and 25.

Our 21 year old daughter named Jena has Severe Autism.

(Severe autism, often referred to as Level 3 Autism Spectrum Disorder, is characterized by significant challenges in communication, social interactions and repetitive behaviors. Individuals with severe autism require substantial support in their daily lives and may have difficulty managing basic tasks independently.)

Jena will never be able to live on her own. Jena will always need quality substantial support 24/7 to assure her safety, proper meds are taken, completes daily personal hygiene and is properly fed with nutritional food. We use Self Directed Services to provide care for Jena. Jena's Personal Care Assistant is her mother, Lorrie (59). Lorrie works as a PCA 40 hours per week and 128 hours per week as her mother.

Dad is the Designated Representative.
Mom is a PCA for 40 hours per week.

Mom is also the SSI Payee.

July 1, 2026 Mom will not be able to be SSI Payee and Jena's PA.
Also, a huge pay cut for all our other PA's which will make it impossible to maintain quality help for Jena.

How is (Mom) Lorrie going to be able to work with Jena and be SSI Payee.

Kansas City Regional Office has given us lists of providers over the years and no one on those lists are trained to work with children with Autism or simply not in business any longer.

Jena loves her iPad. She watches animated movies and communicates by repeating words from movies. Jena, when not angry is loving, caring and fun to be around. She is curious and aware of everything happening in the house. She is learning to cook with mom and loves to rearrange her bedroom nearly every day. She is very smart, however, she can't communicate and angers often. She has been very mean to previous PCA's and they have quit due to her aggression.

Our son Hunter (24) has Autism, however, his function is a little better.

He worked very hard to get his drivers license and he is a very safe driver. He saved money to purchase his own car.

Hunter is only allowed to work a Hy-vee job a few hours per week before his muscles get tired and he gets exhausted.

Due to new minimum wage his hours were reduced to ten hours per week.

He does have a PCA which works with him 21 hours per week to assure he maintains hygiene, does assigned chores, etc. Lorrie works with Hunter as a mother making sure he maintains personal hygiene and eats correctly.

It may be possible for Hunter to live on his own with additional supports in place to assure he maintains daily life and provisions. Hunter loves NASCAR and movies. Hunter also loves his mom and dad. Since he was a foster baby he spent years in and out of the hospital and dad had to perform CPR on him twice as a baby. Hunter knows he enjoys life because mom and dad saved his life.

We need your help to maintain the current rate of pay for Personal Care Assistant under SDS. We need to be able to hire and retain people that our qualified to provide care. A warm body for \$15 per hour (minimum wage) does NOT meet that need.

We have no other family in the State of Missouri willing and able to assume the roles of SSI Payee or Power of Attorney. Under the proposed changes to the CSR it will make it so Lorrie will not be able to be a paid caregiver to our daughter thereby forcing her into some other type of care program outside of the home. At this time our daughter has been on a waitlist for a day program for over three years. This program only provides a few hours a day and is not enough to meet Jena's level of need.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

Ron & Lorrie Lindell
lindell.ron@gmail.com
C: 816-582-4732



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RON WALDEMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Our daughter Jessica is 38 years old born with cerebral palsy (BRAIN DAMAGED at birth) wheelchair bound, and mentality of a 3-year-old Jessica has been cared for us in our home since her birth. She is happy in her own home surrounded by her parents and other caregivers that love her and come into the home to help us care for her. She would be lost not living in her own home. For my wife and I just to come to this meeting today, She was on the verge of tears that we were going to be gone just one night from her. Jessica thrives at home. She is a happy young lady whose life is centered around watching home movies going to church going for walks in our neighborhood and eating some of Mom's great meals that she cooks for her each day. She is also a daddy's girl who laughs at Dad all the time. Jessica would not do well in any other environment. We could barely stand to think of that happening as we get older now. We are becoming more dependent upon our outside caregivers to help us with Jessica. Cuts to the SDS budget would greatly affect our ability to acquire quality help. Advantages of having someone in our home is that we can train them to meet Jessica's needs. We can have oversight and we know what is happening at all times none of these abilities would be possible should we have to move Jessica into a dayhab or institution. Yes we've already discussed the cost difference please quite unbelievable in a negative way should she be institutionalized and love our daughter tremendously. We just try to make her life enjoyable and happy in the SDS program allows us to do that. We are so thankful. PLEASE continue funding for this program and its current funding so that we can do what's right for the most vulnerable people in our state Thank you Ron



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RONALD VANDENDAELE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 9:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please keep self directed services. My step son receives these services and they are needed for my wife who is 69 to take care of her own health. He was in an ISL that was the worst thing ever for him and us. Leave their pay alone so he has good caregivers. Keep the agencies out of this they are the ones getting fat while the disabled people aren't cared for.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RONDA TESTERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 8:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son is a recipient of self directed services. Since such time the quality of his life has improved exponentially. He is able to work at a sheltered workshop, participate in special Olympic activities and is learning and goaling toward independence and socialization. Working on cooking, cleaning, shopping and personal hygiene. Should he be unable to pay a living wage to care staff the great quality of his life is in jeopardy. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RUSS ASUTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:17 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair, Members of the Committee, and fellow Missourians:

My name is Russ Austin, and I am here today to strongly oppose the Governor's proposed \$80.7 million in cuts to services for Missourians with developmental disabilities.

These services support 17,545 people living in homes and communities across Missouri. That number includes families like mine.

My wife, Lexy, and I have a son, Mac, who is 22 and has Down syndrome and autism. We rely on these services to provide a good quality of life for Mac and to ensure he can be part of the community—not isolated from it.

These are not optional programs. They are the foundation that allows families like ours to keep our loved ones safe, healthy, engaged, and living with dignity.

The proposed cuts would be devastating

The proposal includes:

Eliminating the Community Specialist Program (\$1.5 million)

Cutting Individualized Supports and Services by \$10,000

Reducing Personal Assistance rates from \$29/hour to \$23/hour for in-home personal care workers

Reducing Medical Personal Assistance rates from \$33/hour to \$23/hour for highly trained personal assistants

Reducing Day Program service rates from \$10.81 to \$7.21 per 15-minute unit

These are not just numbers. These cuts would collapse the workforce families depend on every day.

Why this is catastrophic for families

At these reduced rates, providers will struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff. Some programs will reduce services. Others will close. Families will be left with no realistic alternatives.

For families like ours, this means:

Fewer or no in-home workers

Loss of trained staff who understand complex needs

Reduced day programming that provides structure, skills, and community connection

More stress, burnout, and crisis for caregivers

Increased risk of avoidable ER visits, hospitalization, or institutionalization

If these cuts move forward, families will be forced to absorb the impact alone. Many parents will have to cut work hours or leave jobs entirely to fill the gap. Siblings will carry more responsibility. And individuals like Mac will lose access to the support that enables them to thrive.

This is not just a moral failure—it is a fiscal one

When community services are cut, needs do not disappear. Costs simply shift to more expensive crisis systems: hospitals, emergency response, and institutional care. Missouri will pay more in the long run while families suffer immediately.

I have always believed that a society is judged by how it treats less fortunate populations. I am depending on you to see the value of people with disabilities and reject these proposed cuts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMANTHA HANLON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped My family in finding the support and resources to help my combat veteran husband with PTSD and other mental illnesses. Without it I wouldn't have the knowledge I have now to support him and other military/veteran family members.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMANTHA MATTHEWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 2:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. I have seen this funding help countless families affected by mental illness firsthand while working at NAMI Missouri. While offering NAMI education courses for family members and for mental health care providers, I hear all the success stories, I get told by families and providers how they wish they would have discovered NAMI Missouri programs sooner, and I hear how these NAMI Missouri programs have saved lives.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
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Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL KNUDTSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:54 AM

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Please decline this bill that harms people like me with disabilities!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA HILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Sandra Hill, and I am a resident of Liberty, Missouri. I am the mother and primary caregiver of my adult son, Zachary, who receives services through Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) program.

Zachary is fully dependent on caregivers for all aspects of daily living. He has cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, and significant cognitive and developmental disabilities. He is non-verbal, incontinent, unaware of safety concerns, and unable to feed himself, manage medications, attend to hygiene, or advocate for himself in any way. He requires constant supervision and hands-on care to remain safe. My husband has full legal guardianship of Zachary, which was granted immediately, reflecting the level of care he requires.

SDS is not supplemental for our family—it is essential. Without it, Zachary cannot safely remain in his home.

Until recently, one of Zachary's primary caregivers was my daughter. She provided consistent, knowledgeable care and understood his needs in a way that only family can. Her passing was devastating to our family emotionally, but it also created an immediate and serious care crisis. Replacing a trusted, skilled caregiver is not simple, and it is certainly not quick.

It is often assumed that families can step in when formal supports are reduced. In our case, that assumption is simply not true. We no longer have extended family support available. One of Zachary's primary caregivers—my daughter—has passed away. My mother is disabled, and my father, while willing to help when he can, is 76 years old and physically limited. Any assistance he provides is extremely limited and cannot be relied upon for ongoing care. There is no additional family safety net to absorb reductions in services or wages. When SDS support is cut, the responsibility does not shift to family—it falls entirely and unsustainably on me.

Since my daughter's death, we have attempted to rebuild Zachary's care team. We have hired two additional caregivers:

One individual, in her 80s, is only able to work Sundays
Another caregiver is limited to 20 hours per week

The remaining hours of care fall entirely on me. This is not sustainable long-term, but there are very

few qualified workers available, and the turnover in home care is already a revolving door. Proposed wage cuts will make an already impossible situation even worse.

Under the proposed changes, my wage would be reduced by approximately seven dollars per hour, resulting in a loss of roughly \$700–\$800 per month. This reduction would have an immediate and destabilizing impact on our household.

Because of my current income, we were finally able to purchase a home that appropriately accommodates Zachary's physical and accessibility needs. Prior to this, we lived in a home that severely limited his safety and mobility. A reduction of this magnitude would place serious strain on our ability to meet our mortgage obligations and maintain stable housing for Zachary.

Additionally, my husband is nearing retirement, at which point our household income will be reduced by nearly half. Cuts to SDS wages would compound this loss and threaten our family's financial stability at the very moment we are already navigating increased caregiving demands.

These proposed cuts would also affect direct support professionals in day programs, including the program Zachary attends. Reducing wages in those settings will further degrade care quality, increase staff shortages, and directly harm individuals like my son who rely on consistency, safety, and skilled support.

I want to be clear: Zachary has no alternative options. He cannot be left alone. He cannot self-direct his care. Without SDS, the likely outcomes are caregiver burnout, medical crises, emergency interventions, or institutional placement—outcomes that are far more costly to the state than maintaining community-based services.

Cuts to Self-Directed Services do not save money. They shift costs, destabilize families, and put Missouri's most vulnerable citizens at risk.

I respectfully urge you to reject any reductions to SDS funding or caregiver wages and to recognize that programs like SDS are not optional supports—they are what make it possible for individuals with significant disabilities to live safely and with dignity in their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for considering the real-world impact these decisions have on families like mine.

Sandra Hill
Liberty, Missouri
Mother and Caregiver to Zachary



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 3:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I cannot attend this hearing in person as my 24 year old daughter, who needs total care, has a medical appointment. If I change it we would have to wait months for a rescheduled time. I'm sure there are many others who are not able to travel with their disabled child to Jefferson City, or do not have care for their child so they can travel. We families of children with severe disabilities are easy to overlook, as our very situation makes it extremely difficult or impossible show up to public events.

As you consider budget cuts for the programs that allow us to keep our kids safe in their own home, and allow parents to work and take care of their own health, please understand this: we are already struggling. Additional barriers to care for our children WILL result in serious consequences for families.

Reducing the pay for caregivers to take home pay of \$22.88/hour is going to make it impossible for families to find and retain staff - especially for the Medical PA's. \$22.88/hr (with no insurance or benefits) is not adequate to find and retain Medical PA's that can do tube feedings, medication through a G-tube, airway clearance vest treatments, airway suctioning, nebulizers, oxygen monitoring, bipap, hoier lift from bed to wheelchair to shower chair, bowel routine, diaper changes, etc.

There is a very good reason Medical PA's had a pay higher rate, as it takes a lot of specialized knowledge and responsibility to do the job... of keeping the person alive. People like my daughter require hospital level care every day of their life. Nurses in the hospital don't even do some of these tasks - they call respiratory therapy to do it.

Reducing the pay rates for PA's and Medical PA's will result in loss of staff, loss of income for families who are already struggling, and some families having to consider of out of home placement.

Please consider NOT cutting the pay rate for SDS caregivers for Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA ELIZABETH BOYER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-282-4228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD, INC		TITLE: HR ASSISTANT AND RECRUITER	
ADDRESS: 1615 VINE SCHOOL ROAD			
CITY: HERCULANEUM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63048
EMAIL: seboyer@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Sara E. Boyer and I'm the HR Assistant and Recruiter for Pony Bird, Inc. I hear all the time from applicants that they have heard great things about Pony Bird and all the good work we do and want to come to work for us. Even references tell me what wonderful things we do for our individuals with disabilities and we should be so proud of our agency. Cutting our funding will only hurt the individuals we serve. They depend on us and our staff to provide direct support, employment services, day programs, leisure, respite and family supports. Please do not cut our funding - it is so vital to the people we serve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA FASE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In opposition to funding cuts!

Funding for individuals with development delays is so important to help them live a life full of enjoyment, safety, and most importantly be as independent as possible!

Cuts hurt individuals with special needs! Cuts hurt families of children and adults with special needs! Cuts hurt the caregivers that help care for the children and adults with special needs! Funding is so important for all programs implemented to assist children, adults, and families of those with special needs!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA LAWSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

These cuts to financial funding of special needs people have to be reevaluated! I am the mother to a 21 year old special needs boy who suffers from autism, epilepsy and intellectual disability. He has to be supervised at all times. All of these programs allow for me to provide him care so I may work and not have to worry. Please please please find elsewhere in the budget to make these financial changes as the loss of these programs, such as SDS and dayhab facility payments, would be detrimental to Hunters well being



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA SUCHARSKI		PHONE NUMBER: 636-282-4402	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS: 1615 VINE SCHOOL RD			
CITY: HERCULANEUM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63048
EMAIL: sara@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:39 AM	

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

For nearly 50 years, Pony Bird has enriched the lives of individuals with disabilities in our communities. I am writing as a constituent & the President & CEO of Pony Bird who cares deeply about Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Pony Bird serves more than 100 individuals in the Day Services program. This is community-based program, individuals are out in their community active daily, they are continuing to develop their life skills, developing skills that can translate to future employment opportunities, building independence, friendships and ensuring overall health and safety. Without these vital programs individuals and families are impacted negatively often resulting in the need for more costly programs.

I urge you to STOP proposed cuts to Day Services in HB2010 in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Budget (page 6 of the MO DMH FY27 Budget Request Appropriation Book).

Cuts endanger lives, cuts cost more for alternative services (which often become crisis situations), cuts increase turnover and reduce retention, cuts undermine independence & community. Cuts hurt families and caregivers. Cutting these programs would have a real impact on the lives of people in our community who rely on them every day.

These vital services are an investment in our communities. For every \$1.00 invested the economic impact generated is \$3.81 (UMKC Economic Impact Report I/DD services). This program is a workforce generator. Please help us sustain QUALITY day services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In partnership,

Sara Sucharski
President & CEO
Pony Bird



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA TAYLOR-UMFLEET		PHONE NUMBER: 573-651-6464	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SEMO ALLIANCE FOR DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE		TITLE: SPECIAL NEEDS COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 755 S KINGSHIGHWAY			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63703
EMAIL: sarau@sadi.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the Special Needs Coordinator at SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence where we have a Day Habilitation Program for adults with special needs. We have a total of 35 consumers who attend this program, a program which adds great value and meaningful relationships in their lives. We opened the program six years ago and the way I have seen it impact lives is more than I could ever explain in words, it is something that people can't understand without witnessing it. Families can work because of the program, allowing their adult sons and daughters to have a safe and educational place to attend while they are at work. Day programs are very expensive to operate, as staff salaries only make up a percentage of the cost. Building overhead, learning materials and classroom necessities, vehicle costs are just a few more to name that are essential to running a day program. Budget cuts could greatly affect the way they are ran and affect the quality of service, especially if we are unable to pay for outings in the community, which everyone greatly enjoys. The money is all going to great use and is essential for the programs to be able to continue.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 9:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee—HB 2010 is being sold as a budget bill, but functionally it operates as a power-shifting instrument that dilutes legislative accountability, buries public scrutiny, and hands agencies a flexible spending chassis that voters cannot audit in real time.

Missouri citizens do not elect departments; we elect legislators.

When this bill repeatedly authorizes “flexibility” transfers across sections and line items, it turns appropriations into permission slips rather than specific directives, undermining the very premise of transparent, accountable budgeting.

This bill is especially alarming because it packages massive and unrelated spending domains—behavioral health, developmental disabilities, public health, cannabis regulation, opioid settlement funding, “reinvestment” transfers, and more—into one sprawling vehicle that is nearly impossible for the public to track.

That’s not efficient governance; that’s oversight evasion by volume. If a legislator cannot clearly explain what they voted for without a 60-page scavenger hunt, the public cannot meaningfully consent.

The biggest red flags:

Flexibility clauses everywhere = de facto delegation of the Legislature’s appropriations power.

When HB 2010 repeatedly allows transfers (3%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 50%, 75%) between sections/line items, the Legislature is not truly appropriating—it’s authorizing executive reallocation after the vote, outside public hearings and outside clear legislative intent.

Missourians deserve spending that is specific, trackable, and debate-ready—not “move money later” language.

Transparency problem: public cannot verify if funds match the stated purpose.

When departments can shift money between categories, citizens cannot easily determine whether dollars intended for direct services, rural access, or community support were quietly diverted into administrative priorities, contractor costs, or internal operational cushions.

Mandated reporter reality check (and why this matters here):

Missouri already has layers of reporting obligations on paper—yet in the real world, mandated reporters are often chilled, silenced, or administratively contained. Expanding “systems” and spending streams without tightening enforceable accountability mechanisms produces the same outcome: more promises, less protection.

If this body is serious about public safety and dignity, it should prioritize enforceable transparency and oversight—not broad discretionary spending structures.

Civil rights warning: when a state violates a witness’s rights, it becomes more than “policy.”

When state actors retaliate against, intimidate, or punish witnesses (including through administrative suppression, unequal access, or deprivation of due process), those actions can trigger constitutional claims and civil-rights litigation.

Under federal law, state and local officials may be sued for violations of constitutional rights, and courts can order injunctive relief, damages, and attorney’s fees—especially where there is deliberate indifference or a pattern of misconduct.

Government does not get immunity from accountability simply because harm is done “administratively” rather than violently.

What I am asking you to do:

Vote NO on HB 2010 as drafted.

Strip or sharply limit “flexibility” transfer language and require explicit, line-item clarity for major program areas.

Break this omnibus structure into more transparent, subject-specific vehicles so the public can track what is being funded and why.

Add public reporting requirements that allow ordinary citizens to verify spending shifts (monthly/quarterly, publicly posted, standardized format).

Missouri does not need bigger bills. Missouri needs cleaner bills—bills that can be read, audited, and defended in daylight.

Legislators who genuinely intend to serve in future General Assemblies may wish to begin by voting “No” on bills that erode legislative authority, obscure accountability, and trade transparency for administrative convenience. Governance is not measured by how much passes—but by how well the people can see what was done in their name.

Constitutional / Legal Footnotes (for committee record)

Mo. Const. art. IV, § 28 (appropriations must be for the purposes stated; funds expended only as provided by the Constitution).

Mo. Const. art. II, § 1 (separation of powers; legislative power may not be functionally transferred to executive agencies through broad discretionary reallocation).

Mo. Const. art. III, § 23 (single subject rule concerns when omnibus structures blur accountability and public comprehension).

U.S. Const. amend. I (petitioning government; retaliation against civic participation can raise constitutional issues).

U.S. Const. amend. XIV (due process and equal protection constraints on state action).

42 U.S.C. § 1983 (civil cause of action for deprivation of constitutional rights under color of state law).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH DERR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 6:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today to ask you to reinstate the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. My husband and I have two adult sons with severe mental health conditions. It is an exhausting and isolating situation for us, not to mention for our sons. The NAMI Family to Family Program and NAMI Family Support Group are excellent sources of support and information for us - and for thousands of others in Missouri.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH LOVEGREEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-801-0449	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALZHEIMER's ASSOCIATION		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS	
ADDRESS: 11433 OLDE CABIN RD, 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: silovegreen@alz.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:10 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

RE: Protecting Funding for the Caregiver Training and Relief Program
February 9, 2026

Dear Rep. Deaton and Members of the Missouri House Budget Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the importance of maintaining funding at current appropriation levels for Missouri's Caregiver Training and Relief Program, also known as the Missouri Caregiver Program. On behalf of the Missouri Alzheimer's Association, I urge you not to reduce funding for this vital support, as proposed in section 10.835 of HB2010. This program remains one of the few lifelines available to families caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The importance of this program is illustrated by data from the Alzheimer's Association's 24-hour Helpline - nearly 20% of all calls from Missouri to the Helpline are Missourians seeking respite-related or other support for care services.

Family caregivers are the backbone of dementia care in Missouri and across the nation. In our state alone, 226,000 caregivers provide an estimated \$9.5 billion in unpaid care to individuals living with dementia. These caregivers take on intimate, complex, and physically demanding responsibilities that would otherwise fall to state systems already experiencing significant strain. Cutting funding for the Missouri Caregiver Program would ultimately cost the state an estimated \$25 million in long-term care expenses, as the impacts of caregiver fatigue and burnout result in more people living with dementia to be prematurely placed in institutionalized care.

The demands of caregiving create substantial stress that affects both caregivers and those living with dementia. Seventy percent of dementia caregivers report that coordinating care is stressful, and rates of depression and anxiety—40% and 44%, respectively—are significantly higher than those of caregivers supporting individuals with other chronic conditions such as stroke. The training, education, and respite assistance offered by the Missouri Caregiver Program help alleviate these pressures and improve health outcomes for people living with dementia. Program recipients report that even these modest grants have helped prevent falls, reduced financial strain caused by reduced work hours, and provided essential care supplies that allow their loved ones to remain comfortably at home.

Over the past two years, the Missouri Caregiver Program received increased funding as recommended in the 2022 Alzheimer's State Plan, signed by then-Lt. Gov. Kehoe. This investment has allowed the

program to serve 30% more Missourians annually, yet a waitlist of 90 caregivers still remains. A funding reduction would leave 250 families without support to continue caring for their loved ones at home. With the average monthly cost of long-term care reaching \$8,500, families quickly face insurmountable expenses, and the state ultimately bears these costs through an estimated \$25 million increase in Medicaid spending.

For the sake of Missouri families and the fiscal stability of our state, I strongly urge this committee to preserve full funding for the Missouri Caregiver Program. This program delivers invaluable support to caregivers who are already struggling—emotionally, physically, and financially—to keep their loved ones safe at home and to delay or prevent long-term care placement. Please help us continue supporting Missouri's dementia caregivers by maintaining funding at its current level, keeping families together and strong for as long as possible.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH MARQUART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Sarah Marquart and I have cerebral palsy and I utilize a wheelchair and without SDS or Self directed Supports through Acumen Fiscal Agent I couldn't live my life to the fullest I require assistance with all of my activities of daily living including but not limited to getting in and out of bed transferring to and from my wheelchair transferring to and from the bathroom emptying my catheter and All other Activities of daily living if not for my Medical direct support staff I would not and could not live on my own in my own apartment with my husband and I have a daughter also but my point is that if you cut direct support that pay our standard of care will go down because they won't wanna work, I think they already have Lois paying one of the lowest paying jobs there are, and if we make the pay any lower for them, we will not have workers. We will. The standard of care will go down and if you'd take away the community specialist role I will not have a nurse and I utilize my nurse for my catheter changes every three weeks. I utilize her for getting my Depo shot every 10 weeks. She comes to my home. I utilize her for getting my staff the correct medical training that is needed to work with me because I'm considered medical instead of regular PA because of my needs so I am opposed to this bill because it would make our lives so much harder and we wouldn't be able to live independently in our homes and our communities and I don't think it's right if that is taken away and decreased that our standard of care would go way down and that's not fair to us just because we're in the minority, thank you for taking the time to read this and I that I can speak for other individuals and their families in saying the same about their testimonies that I just shared



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH ZIMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 4:13 PM

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I am opposed to the cuts being considered as they are crucial funds for one of the most vulnerable populations.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANA LONG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to HB10, specifically to the hourly pay rate decreases to Self-Directed Services personal assistants to \$22.88 per hour, which represents a pay cut of \$6.96/hour. The effective rate with this reduction, because state regulation requires the employer (disabled individual) to pay all employer taxes, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation out of this rate is only \$17.60-\$18.70 per hour. This rate makes it difficult, if not impossible, for families to hire and retain workers, leaving individuals without essential daily care or forced into much more expensive residential options. I am testifying to ask that the committee reject the proposed reductions for Self-Directed Services personal assistant hourly rates.

My son, Harrison, is a twenty-five-year-old young man with level 3 Autism, who requires supervisions and care 24 hours a day. Because of Self-Directed Supports, we have been able to retain personal assistants with knowledge and experience in developmental disabilities, which allows us to keep Harrison living at home.

As Harrison's designated representative, I interviewed, hired and trained personal assistants to address Harrison's Individualized Support Plan and specific needs. I schedule shifts, review each personal assistant's daily notes and approve their hours. Because of this work, the overhead and administrative costs of SDS is extremely low. The funding goes directly to the people providing the care.

Because of the SDS program and his wonderful personal assistants, Harrison is thriving. With the support of his PAs, Harrison has a routine that helps him stay engaged, regulated and happy. His PAs know him well and have specialized education and experience in Autism services. Harrison is able to make choices about his day. He feels self-pride and satisfaction in volunteering at a local not-for-profit. He improves skills like ordering at a restaurant and making his own snacks. He is a loved and supported family member. He is able to be out and about in the community.

Without this support, Harrison's life would be very different. We would have to make the impossible choice of quitting work to provide Harrison's care, when we need the income and benefits for Harrison and ourselves, or placing Harrison in a residential facility. And as awful as that choice is, it is not even a realistic option. Residential facilities are extremely expensive and overcrowded.

Similarly, getting support through an Agency is not a good solution. It is more expensive to the state, and we have had no success at getting appropriate services for Harrison through agencies. Agencies hire staff with varied experiences and knowledge areas, which we have found rarely mesh with Harrison's actual needs. Harrison has low verbal abilities, and speaks mostly by repeating lines from favorite books and movies. When we asked agency supervisors for assistance with improving Harrison's hygiene routines and communication skills, we would get someone who wanted only to show Harrison how to "write a resume" and go on a "job interview", which Harrison will never be able to do. It was so frustrating to spend several hours describing Harrison's specific needs and then

receive a service person who clearly knew nothing about Harrison. This happened over and over again. The SDS program has been an answer to our prayers.

Through the SDS program, Harrison has amazing personal assistants that support him through his day. We know we are so very fortunate with our current staff, all of whom are experienced in working with extreme developmental disabilities. They are all dedicated and love what they do. They would not, however, be able to continue in this position with the proposed cuts to their pay. SDS personal assistant receive no health care insurance or other benefits. The current pay rate allows them to obtain insurance, pay rent, and buy food.

Like all parents, I love my son more than my own life. I know that Harrison is safer, more regulated, and happier living at home than he would be in a residential care facility. And the good news is, it also is much more cost-effective for Missouri. Missouri Department of Mental Health data shows that while the average per person cost for SDS is only \$48,534 per person annually, residential care in state-operated facilities costs an average of \$600,000 per person annually. SDS is cost-effective and better provides quality of life and safety for a developmentally disabled person. Please do not approve these pay cuts, which could force personal assistants to leave and force disabled individuals into a care setting less suited for their needs and happiness. Please support Harrison and others like him in living a dignified, happy and full life in his own home.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANE CARSTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is for my sister and I that I take care of if this budget your trying to pass effects us both her and her community she won't be able to goto day program because I won't be able to help her with her day to day stuff because I'm not making enough money so I will have to get a job to support myself and she loose out on everything



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNA CHARLES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a resident of Hickory County here in southwest Missouri. I spend a considerable amount of my time volunteering at the McCarty Senior Center in Wheatland, Missouri.

I'm strongly against cutting funding that affects the elderly.

I volunteer several hours a week working with the elderly here in Wheatland. Each week I help out by assisting in the dining room while we serve lunch as well as the front desk and all the fundraising events we put on. I've learned how important the McCarty Center is to these older individuals. Many of our clients starting coming to the center after they lost their spouses. As their whole life changed due to their loss, seniors who became involved with the center found not only an affordable, healthy, hot meal each day but the social support they can find at the center.

I enjoy watching all the new friends and connections these older people make. That's why I volunteer. To make their day a little better.

I can introduce you to several of these people that can tell you how grateful and lifesaving the center has been for them. People walk in lonely and leave with new friends daily and a full stomach

Additionally, Hickory County is a poorer community that is made up with the majority of our residents being over 60 and living off of social security. Many are physically unable to work due to the struggles of just the fact they are older so they live on a fixed income. McCarty is the only meal for many of these elderly people. Due to the fact that we continue to see prices on everything including essentials that continue to rise, some just can't afford many groceries. So they come eat at the McCarty Senior Center for a small donation. Cutting funding will take these meals away, the social support, and routine in these people's lives. (which just to let you know, people contribute financially each day for their meals). It's cruel in my opinion to cut this funding that assist the elderly with help in providing a safe environment for them to live and to have a hot, healthy meal at least five times a week.

Please do NOT cut this funding

Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLY GIFFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hi, my name is Shelly Gifford and I am writing today regarding the budget cuts and proposed pay cuts for Self Directed Services (SDS). My husband and I have a daughter who was born with a rare brain condition called polymicrogyria which was likely caused by catching a common virus that looks like the common cold while I was pregnant (all genetic causes are negative and no other health issues existed). Imagine what it's like to do everything correct during a pregnancy and find out something so devastating after your beautiful child is born. Our daughter has a g-tube for her daily feedings and it is also used for all her medication and water intake. Many medical complexities exist along with her having significant intellectual disabilities, hearing loss, low muscle tone, seizures, inability to chew, and she is also non-verbal.

Some of the skills needed to work with our daughter are: knowledge and ability to feed someone with a g-tube, give medications via g-tube, manage hearing aids, manage AFO's, use basic sign language, use AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication), program new items in her AAC device, manage and diffuse tantrums, personal care in bathroom stalls, bathing, dressing, normal personal care, cooking her a separate meal (she desires to eat oral food but can only swallow food without chewing so it needs to be made and prepared for her specifically), monitoring her 100% of the time while she eats her oral food. She takes a very long time to eat orally. Conservatively speaking we have spent between 11,680 and 15,000 hours just preparing and watching her eat to help her when she gags, chokes, or vomits food (this does not count meal prep other than cutting/mashing/pureeing or time to eat our own meal).

We have started using the SDS program and even when paying near the max rate, it is challenging to find employees who want a job doing all the things that our daughter needs. To put it in perspective, even Special Olympics (an organization that embraces people with intellectual disabilities) has not allowed our daughter to stay with her team or other teams at events for overnight competitions due to her high care needs. Does this shock you? It should. In order for our daughter to be safe and included she needs to have a care person with her at all times.

Our daughter is nearly an adult and we want her to continue her community activities with the support of SDS. We have dedicated our lives to her care but without the SDS program she would be headed for a sad life in an institution which is completely unacceptable. Did you know that non-verbal females with intellectual disabilities have an extremely high level of abuse in those type of facilities? It is outrageous that more people are not advocating for this vulnerable population. I need legislators to stand up to make budget cuts in other places instead of taking from the SDS program or cutting the rates of the SDS employees.

When people work for an Agency (different than SDS), they usually have a lower hourly rate BECAUSE they get medical, dental, 401k, paid time off, potential bonuses, and often mileage reimbursement. That said, the hourly rate the state pays FOR Agencies is very high to cover people in the middle, facilities, and all those great benefits. Did you know that agencies are allowed to pick who they will allow in their program? Did you know that because of my daughter's feeding tube and one on one staffing for her meal prep and monitoring while eating that she is not allowed in any agency program we have found? This is why SDS is so important.

The SDS program is an efficient program but there are no benefits for employees. The employer (which is often a parent and later a guardian) does FREE hiring, scheduling, and other tasks so that their employees can have a higher pay rate. The employer does this so that the loved one with disabilities can be safe, loved and taken care of with oversight from the Employer and other family. SDS employees need that higher pay rate because they do NOT get healthcare or dental benefits, they do NOT get retirement plan opportunities or a match, they are NOT allowed to be tipped, they do NOT get any paid time off (no paid holidays, no paid vacation days, no paid sick days).

The Olmstead v L.C. decision (1999) confirms that it is unlawful discrimination to segregate people with disabilities in institutions. Our daughter can safely live as an adult in our community with supports from the SDS program. It is her right and we will continue to fight for her rights.

If you see us out in the community, she'll probably be the only teen/adult you'll ever see still wearing a baby bib to eat in a restaurant. I'll proudly hold my head up high supporting her in a dignified manner along with every other amazing SDS employee we hire.

Thank you for providing the SDS (Self Directed Services) program in the state of Missouri. Please continue to fund this program without cuts for those with complex medical needs that have no other options.

Thanks,
Shelly Gifford



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLY OSGOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

To the members of the Budget Committee:

I am writing to ask you to reject any decrease in funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in Missouri. These services are not optional add-ons—they are the foundation that allows Missourians with disabilities to live, work, and participate in our communities.

I offer this testimony from two perspectives. Professionally, I spent years as an employment specialist helping adults with disabilities move from segregated settings into competitive, integrated employment. Personally, I am also the parent of a child who receives HCBS supports. I have seen what these programs accomplish when they are adequately funded—and what is lost when they are not.

HCBS is the bridge to employment. In my work, individuals who were once considered “unemployable” became valued employees because they had support at home, in transportation, and in daily living. Employers gained reliable workers. Families gained stability. Missouri gained taxpayers instead of people trapped in poverty or institutions. Cutting these services would not save money; it would shift costs to hospitals, emergency systems, and institutional care that are far more expensive and far less humane.

For families like mine, HCBS keeps parents in the workforce and children in their communities. Without it, caregivers are forced to reduce work hours or leave jobs entirely. Children and adults lose opportunities to develop skills that lead to independence. The gap between disability and employment grows wider instead of smaller.

Missouri has made real progress toward inclusion and competitive employment. That progress depends on sustained investment in HCBS. Reducing funding now would move our state backward—away from community integration and toward segregation and dependency.

I urge you to protect and strengthen Home and Community-Based Services in HB 10. Please choose the path that supports independence, workforce participation, and dignity for Missourians with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLY SHETLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 11:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out as a self-advocate and as someone whose everyday life depends upon the Self-Directed Supports program. As a self-advocate, I feel compelled to share my story and to ask, from the heart, that you reconsider the proposed budget cuts and continue supporting this essential program.

The Self-Directed Supports program has transformed my life. Because of it, I am able to make decisions about the services and supports that reflect my unique needs and goals. Having the authority to direct my own care means more than independence—it means dignity and respect. This program isn't just an efficient use of state resources; for me, it is the bridge that lets me be active, productive, and truly included in my community, rather than isolated or dependent.

Thinking about these proposed budget cuts fills me with real fear. It's not just about numbers on a page—these cuts would lead to fewer options, longer waiting lists, and the loss of my ability to make choices about my own life. The risk of being forced into a segregated or restrictive setting is a threat to my independence and my well-being. I worry about being separated from the routines, relationships, and community that are vital to my happiness. Beyond that, shifting the costs to emergency services or institutional care would be more expensive for Missouri, and less effective for people like me.

If you reduce the SDS rate of pay, it could mean I no longer have control over who supports me. The thought of losing that personal connection and trust with my chosen staff is deeply upsetting. It's not just about cost—it's about the life I've built for myself, and my ability to keep shaping it.

For your reference, I took the liberty of researching the cost of an ISL versus me being supported in the community. In 2026, an Individualized Supported Living (ISL) arrangement and my current support in the community have very different financial implications. The annual cost for an ISL can be anywhere from \$110,000 to \$185,000. In addition, the ISL will take the entire amount of my Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) check, which is roughly \$15,000 per year. The supports I need to stay in my own home in the community of my choice cost approximately \$201,000 per year. The difference is not just financial—it's also about quality of life, inclusion, and my right to choose where and how I live.

This program is not a line in the state budget—it is my lifeline. The Self-Directed Supports program has given me opportunities, dignity, and a sense of belonging I never thought possible. Losing these resources would be devastating not just for me, but also for my family, friends, and caregivers—people who want to see me thrive, not just survive.

My Request to You

With all sincerity, I ask you to protect the funding for the Self-Directed Supports program. Please stand up in the legislature for those of us who rely on these supports. Your decision will shape not just budgets, but lives—mine included.

Thank you for reading my story, for listening to my concerns, and for caring about people with disabilities in our community. I hope you will take action to defend this vital program, for me and for so many others.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERI LYNN BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representative Deaton and Budget Committee Members,

My name is Sheri Brown, and I am writing to you to ask you to please oppose the rate reductions for personal care assistants who care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Missouri's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver self-directed supports program. I am also requesting that you please oppose the other proposed cuts to this program that affect day habilitation programs and other services.

My husband and I adopted two special needs daughters from foster care, both of whom are now young women. One of them choked in infancy and the other, also in her infancy, became severely dehydrated which resulted in cardiac arrest. Both have severe brain damage that prevents or severely limits their ability to care for themselves. Both women are dependent on others for their care, and one is medically fragile.

They both qualify for and receive Medicaid based on the severity of their disabilities. Through their HCBS waiver, they are able to employ caregivers of their choice to provide the care they need at home and access the community in meaningful ways. Personal care assistants who are specially trained to meet their needs provide these services through Self-Directed Services. They both have long term employees who know them well and are able to head off any potential major problems based on their familiarity with our daughters.

The waiver is a fiscally responsible way to provide for the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their particular waiver does not provide for 24 hour care and it is expected that people who are "natural supports" provide a certain amount of unpaid care. As their designated representative, I hire and fire the employees and am basically the "HR Department" for their care, with a state contracted company who provides payroll services. In years past, and still for people who are unable to be cared for at home, costly institutionalization was and is the other option. Not only is this detrimental to health and safety, but it is also extremely expensive. The money that is paid to provide personal care assistance to our daughters only goes to their direct care; there is not any type of overhead or other costs.

The proposed budget cuts will cap the pay of personal care assistants and medical personal care assistants by about 25 - 30% of their current pay rate. The people who choose to perform these vital services receive only wages for their services; they do not have sick days, paid time off, holiday pay, or any medical or other benefits. Should they need insurance, they must purchase it themselves and do not receive benefits afforded those with group policies.

Additionally, their care is too much for one individual to maintain. My husband had a military service-connected disability. He was employed for many years until his condition worsened and he was unable to work. I returned to school and am finishing up my post-graduate training. However, my husband died a year ago, before I graduated. He was also a "natural support" but now it is just me. I would not be able to leave the house to go to work if it were not for our dedicated caregivers. It is critical that the people who care for our daughters have the economic ability to remain employed. My own employment and ability to provide for our daughters is severely threatened if their pay is reduced in such a drastic manner.

Inexplicably, I recently learned that the person who is the head of the Department of Mental Health does not see these pay cuts as a problem. As explained above, my employees receive no benefits of any kind and will have to leave for other employment to survive. I do not know of any other situation in which a severe pay cut would have no impact. The alternative, institutionalization, is a heartbreaking and extremely costly consequence. I hope you can understand the devastating consequences it would have on my family.

I am writing to request that this extreme measure not be implemented. Self-directed services are an economical way of providing care to vulnerable individuals outside of institutional placement.

Sincerely,
Sheri Brown



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY LASURE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-529-1561	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEVELOPING POTENTIAL INC.		TITLE: DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL- TEAM LEAD	
ADDRESS: 407 E. ROSE CIRCLE			
CITY: ODESSA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64076
EMAIL: sherrylasure@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:50 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a Direct Support Professional for a company named Developing Potential, Inc. It is a Day Program that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I started out as a one on one providing personal care, very similar to a certified nursing assistant. After a couple years I accepted the role of a Team Lead. My position is very much similar to a teacher but offers much more than just educational teaching. I assist with life skills. We review social skills, cooking, housekeeping, get out in the community, volunteer, and so much more. Supporting this population has taught me so much and shown how we truly make a difference in these individuals' lives. Cutting funding will decrease the amount of support that approve the quality of life for these individuals. Over the years I have observed and witnessed the change in mood for many, as I have viewed happiness for the support and activities that they have been offered. I have seen many able to be more comfortable out in the community and achieve goals. Our company has a Community Employment program, as well. I have heard so many successes of those that now work, that have not been able to. I have seen some that work part time and have come into program after completing a shift and see the achievement and pride in their face and mannerisms. The exact same goes for those that have engaged in an activity while at DPI. Cutting the budget will hurt the very thing our company is named after DEVELOPING POTENTIAL of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERYL A SCHRECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERYL SCHRECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 1:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My son has severe non verbal autism. He can't speak, nor read or write. He was not approved for dayhab. This is due to the fact he is low functioning and had behavioral issues. His day consists of staying home. I am his parent and legal guardian. He is 21 and I am 60 and on disability, in poor health. My son, Troy, needs this program in order to help him remain in his home, as my physical ability to care for him is getting more difficult. He needs help with bathing, toileting, dressing, and brushing his teeth. He needs help with medication. He needs help with feeding. He needs companionship and exercise. He needs his laundry done, as he frequently soils his bedding and clothing. Since he left school at 21 and has had no other opportunities he has been lonely and depressed. He needs community activities. Those are things I can no longer provide without some help. Self directed Services would help me care for Troy in his own home instead of sending him to a state funded home or institution. We would both be heartbroken. But, I know, as far as the state is concerned, caring for Troy at home instead of an institution saves the state thousands of dollars with a much better outcome.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SIERRA MAE MUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 1:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a trained individual with experience in this field. In order to work, I had to complete extensive training at my own expense. I work with a client with a history of severe physical aggression. On the job I have been hit, kicked, bit, and sustained physical injuries. I've also experienced damage to my personal vehicle while on my job. I'm a mother raising two small children, and would not be able to continue working for these individuals should my pay be decreased as proposed in this budget.

I provide this service because I care about the safety and wellbeing of each of my clients. I would be absolutely devastated if the families that need me most would no longer be able to find and keep staff due to the insufficient pay.

I understand that my pay rate is more than a lot of others in this field, however most companies are providing benefits like health insurance, sick pay, paid time off, and retirement funds, which I do not receive. I have to pay for those out of my wage, and would not be able to do so if wages are decreased.

My experience in this field has shown me that clients utilizing self directed services are the most needy clients, who have been unable to get services through agencies, whether it be because of age, because of location, or because of the individuals needs being higher than what the companies can provide.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACEY MARIE RICHARDS-BRANDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:00 PM

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

Support services are a vital part to ensure positive recovery outcomes. Without these services clients are at a higher risk of relapse.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACIE EDWARDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 6:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Stacie Edwards and my husband and I live in Independence, MO. We have 2 sons who were born with the recessive gene disorder of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This is a muscle condition that affects their voluntary muscles. They have never been able to stand, crawl, or walk. They have been using power wheelchairs since they were 2 years old. SMA also affects their bones, and they developed scoliosis in their backs and they both have growing rods. SMA affects their swallow muscles, and they both eat entirely using a g-tube. And SMA affects their lung muscles, and we try very hard to avoid sickness that can easily turn to pneumonia because they don't have a strong cough.

I am writing as a Missouri constituent to express my strong opposition to the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget recommendations that would eliminate or reduce critical Self-Directed Support SDS and Community-Based disability services under the DMH-DDD budget.

As a family, we rely on their Medicaid waivers to help cover their medical bills. We also rely on the Medical Personal Care Assistant hours they each have using SDS. They each have 40 hours per week of Medical PCA care. I work many of those hours and it provides income for our family. I went to college. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I was teaching 1st grade. And then SMA hit and our lives changed. The boys require special care. And I'm the one who knows that care best. I'm the one who keeps them the healthiest so we avoid costly hospital visits. We rely on SDS hours and pay to survive as a family. Even with Medicaid, there are medical related expenses that aren't provided for. Their wheelchair van is very large and very expensive. The insurance on that wheelchair van is more expensive because of the wheelchair lift. We're working on saving to build them a larger, more wheelchair accessible home. I rely on the income to support my family. My husband is also employed full time outside the home and provides our primary insurance. But someone knowledgeable needs to stay home and provide quality care for my sons. Medical PCA pay should NOT BE CUT.

We also use SDS for additional employees. Some of their hours are worked by friends who know and love our sons. We use their hours so I have someone to help me get them both to medical appts. We bring cough assist and suction machines with us everywhere, so we push a stroller. Did you know a stroller and 2 wheelchairs don't all fit together in 1 elevator?? I need an extra set of hands and eyes when we travel and are out and about trying to get to appts. These helpers ensure that my husband can stay at work and maintain his full-time position. We also use these other Med PCA people so that my husband and I can get other tasks done around the house and still have someone to keep an eye on my sons in case they have respiratory issues, need bathroom breaks, or need help to manage their tube feedings.

The services provided through SDS are specialized and critical! The pay rate should not be cut! By having knowledgeable people providing direct care it saves the state money because we have a personal stake in keeping our sons healthy and out of the hospital. By having SDS PCA hours it allows families to keep their loved ones in their homes - which also saves the state money. These services are important. We did not set out in life to aspire to need these services. Disability happened to our family, just like it could happen to anyone's family at any time. These services should be available for those who need them.

Please DO NOT MAKE ANY CUTS TO SDS SERVICES!!

Thank you
Stacie Edwards
3008 Englewood Terrace
Independence, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACY ATWOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and members of the committee I'm asking you to reject any cuts to Personal Assistant (PA) and Medical PA services in HB 2010 because these reductions directly threaten the safety, stability, and futures of Missouri's medically fragile children.

These children are not receiving casual support. They require complex, hands-on care from people who know their medical needs, their triggers, their routines, and their personalities. For many families, PAs and Medical PAs are the only reason their children can remain safely at home instead of entering institutions or crisis placements that cost the state far more.

Yet despite the level of responsibility they carry, PAs and Medical PAs receive no benefits—no health insurance, no retirement, no paid time off, no sick leave. And the person who hires, trains, schedules, and manages them does all of that work for free. These families are already absorbing the administrative burden the state would otherwise have to pay for.

Cutting their pay on top of that is not a budget decision—it's a destabilizing force that pushes trained caregivers out of the workforce and leaves medically fragile children without the people who keep them alive, safe, and progressing.

These children deserve more than care that merely sustains life. They deserve care that allows them to grow, learn, and thrive. They deserve caregivers who want to see them become adults who can live beyond the system—not caregivers who are forced to leave because the state has made the job financially impossible.

When you reduce PA and Medical PA rates, you are not trimming excess. You are cutting into the only lifeline many families have. You are shifting the burden onto unpaid parents and guardians who are already doing everything in their power to keep their children out of institutional care.

Protecting these rates is not just compassionate—it is fiscally responsible. Stable home-based care prevents hospitalizations, prevents institutional placements, and prevents long-term state costs that far exceed the hourly wages of PAs.

I urge you to maintain full funding for PA and Medical PA services in HB 2010. Missouri's medically fragile children deserve stability, dignity, and the chance to grow up in homes filled with people who love them—not a system forced to choose the cheapest option at the expense of their futures.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEFANIE TREADWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This budget cut will affect more than the adults that desperately need the support of Day services throughout the state. This will also affect the livelihood of families. Parents NEED to work to support their families and the extra cost of some adults with special needs is astronomical. Please, please, please DO NOT DO this to our families. I work in this environment and see the need and the beautiful things that these programs provide for this community of special people!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE WEATHERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you today, not just as someone who provides services for those in our community with IDD but also as a parent of someone who receives services. I am so blessed to get to work every day with many people in Pettis County who face physical and developmental challenges. The amazing individuals that we spend our days with are the bravest, most joy-filled, optimistic, friendly, intelligent people that you would ever be blessed to meet. They face every day with bright faces and energetic optimism that is just mind blowing considering all of the challenges that they work through daily. At the Day Hab center that I am the Program Director for we currently serve 51 program participants. As management, we spend our days (and a lot of nights) running the business side of our facility and coming up with fun and engaging activities that we can present to our participants. This along with scheduling presenters, taking them to volunteer in our community, giving our program participants the opportunity to also access their community in other ways they enjoy, organizing clubs that meet their interests, and so much more! Our staff are the most dedicated, loving, patient, and committed people I have ever met. They give everything they have day in and day out to ensure that our people are receiving the very best care and support that they can provide.

To speak honestly, rate reductions for our day habilitation services would be devastating. They would be devastating to our community, to our staff, and most importantly, to the people that we have committed to serving in this capacity. As everyone has felt in recent years, the cost increase in just living our daily lives has been significantly impactful. We are just one provider of many, but I can say without a moment of hesitation that we make a positive impact on our consumers' lives. We make sure that every day that they are with us that they are reminded that they are enough. That they are valued, important, loved, and that they have the ability to do anything that they set their minds to do. We bridge any gap that they may face in achieving those goals, and we work alongside them joyfully. My son is on the spectrum. His challenges became apparent at the age of 3 with delays to his cognitive development. My husband and I spent hundreds of hours traveling to developmental centers, therapies, tutoring, and had dozens of hospital stays for the additional obstacle in his life; that was epilepsy. Our son met every single challenge with dogged determination and optimism that all of this work was going to make his life better – and it did! With the support of many, his life improved and improved. After graduating high school, he wanted to become employed, but a new challenge had arisen that so many of our participants face, and that was a mental health diagnosis. He has faced the work required for that with the same dogged determination, and he has improved. The improvements he has seen in the last three years are of course due to him working so hard to overcome these challenges but the improvement he has seen is in NO small part because of the support that his staff have provided to him at his day habilitation center.

The men and women who receive services at these care facilities deserve to continue receiving those supports. They have enough challenges in their lives without having the new challenge of being forced

to sit at home, because that is what these proposed rate cuts would mean for a lot of day programs.....Closure. A rate reduction would be yet another astronomical challenge for those of us trying to provide these supports. With wage increases, increased cost of benefits for our employees, the increased cost of overhead, along with the improvements that we are constantly trying to make to our facility and program – a rate reduction could just be our demise.

As constituents of this great state, I would urge you to advocate for our demographic of people. Not just for all of the day habilitation centers that would be affected by this proposed rate reduction, but for all the consumers who, like my son, have their lives made better every day because of the services they receive.

I thank you for your time, and for your commitment to all of the people who you have been elected to represent.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE YOUNG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding. If 100% of the funding is removed it will impact thousands of families and individuals in Missouri who struggle with mental illness. The funding is necessary for NAMI Basics, NAMI Homefront, NAMI Family to Family and NAMI Family Support Groups. NAMI provides education and support, It is vital that NAMI facilitators who lead Family Support Groups have the resources necessary to help this demographic. There are not enough hospitals in Missouri to treat the seriously mental ill people in Missouri. There are never enough beds available. As a result, these people end up in jail or on the streets. If you take away the funding for NAMI Missouri, there will be even less support services to help this demographic.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN ALLEN ENGLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 11:56 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Stephen England I am writing this letter in regards to the recent notification for proposed budget cuts.

Two years ago I decided to come out of retirement to be a caregiver for two of my Nephews, for two reasons.

First, having been a caregiver in the past for other family members I felt that I could be a help now for my Nephews Second, because I could use the income to help supplement my retirement.

Both of my Nephews are Disabled, with Nathan being the oldest and Chase being a couple of years younger.

Nathan is low functioning and can only say one or two words in a sentence, most of the time just repeating the word or words that were said to him.

Nathan has seizures on a regular basis, sometime more then one in a single day, these seizures being Tonic-clonic in nature. This requires a caregiver to be within a couple of feet of him when he is showing signs of a pending due to the fact that there is no way of knowing when he will have such seizures.

Over the last two years I have seen marked improvement in his speech and in his demeanor. He is able to respond in a conversation saying up to five or six words in a sentence. He use to be hard to get our of bed but now looks forward to seeing me and going out for the day. This is giving Nathan a better quality of life.

His brother Chase I have worked with only over the last year. I have seen marked improvements in Chase as well. His speech has improved and his expressions showing that he is having a good time, by laughing and joking and showing a desire to be part of whatever is going on around him. It is rewarding to see these kinds of improvement.

My biggest concern is that there are expenses involved in providing this kind of care for both of these young men and a budget cut of this nature would make it cost prohibited for me or anyone for that matter that would be qualified and have the same ability to give them a quality of life that they are now given.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE & CHERYL WOODRUFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are the parents of a developmentally disabled son. We have tried to provide him with all of the medical and social needs care we can but are unable to provide the life skills and socialization needs he is getting through a Day Program sponsored by the PonyBird Organization. Over the past 3 years he has become more independent and has developed social skills due to the interaction with staff and other disabled individuals. We are able to keep him at home with us due to the services of the Day Program. Without this service, we would have to look into institutional care which would be at a much higher cost to the Medicaid program. Do not put the burden of cutting State budgetary programs on the backs of the disabled. Day Program services meet needs at a much lower cost to the State.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE BRUCE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-875-6181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOODHAVEN LEARNING CENTER		TITLE: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 1405 HATHMAN PLACE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: jsweeney@woodhaventeam.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:25 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable Members of the House Budget Committee:

Thank you for your attention to the services we provide to Missourians. As you may know, Woodhaven is a conservatively led nonprofit organization that supports individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). We have provided services to Missourians for over 61 years, and we value your partnership in ensuring they continue to receive the support they need.

We've previously shared concerns about proposed cuts to DD funding in the Missouri State Budget. We are aware that misleading information is being circulated, including a claim that "payments for Day Habilitation have increased 213% since 2017." The truth is, this figure reflects an increase in the number of people accessing day programs, not a rise in reimbursement rates. Provider reimbursement rates have not increased anywhere close to this amount, and we would be happy to provide additional supporting information allowing you to verify this for yourself.

This statistic, while carefully selected and repeated by DMH leadership, purposely misrepresents the situation and falsely suggests providers are grossly overfunded. In reality, a substantial number of families are choosing these services because they're effective, essential, and they cost a fraction of what the state would incur with state operated programs (SOWs).

We recognize the difficult choices you face related to the state's budget and spending priorities. We empathize with the nature of decisions you will be asked to make and know ours are not the only voices you will hear regarding the cuts included in the proposed budget.

We need your continued leadership in making sure the Committee understands the true impact of these cuts. We have provided an economic impact analysis, utilizing Woodhaven's own day program services as an example of the similar or greater impact that would be felt in hundreds of Missouri's communities. Using figures from our previous year's day habilitation services and a conservative input / output modifier of 1.6 for healthcare services obtained from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, \$1.54 million dollars would be removed from our local economy every year if the cuts to day habilitation services were to go into effect July 1, 2026.

We know Missourians expect value for their tax dollars and for their elected officials to make wise investments. According to MO DMH's own publicly available data, there are 103 Day Habilitation programs currently operating in MO, providing services to 51 unique counties and their neighbors,

representing almost all of Missouri.

We strongly urge the Missouri House to maintain current funding until the Missouri Department of Mental Health and their actuarial contractor can partner with providers, the legislature, and other stakeholders by conducting a thorough and accurate rate study in the very near future, utilizing real and accurate factual data based on documented financial and programmatic information.

The bottom line is- rate cuts to DD services are wrong for Missouri.

- A 33% rate cut does not save Missouri money. Cuts remove millions from local economies, destabilize an already understaffed healthcare workforce, and increases reliance on more expensive state-run systems, directly growing the size and cost of state government when budgets are tight.
- Maintaining day habilitation rates actually preserves taxpayer dollars by serving as a cost containment strategy - preventing cost escalation into significantly more burdensome institutional and emergency care.

Maintaining current day habilitation rates IS the fiscally responsible choice for Missouri taxpayers. We urge you and your colleagues to protect these vital services. We need your voice to help us ensure a stable, dignified life for Missourians with developmental disabilities. The individuals we provide services to are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors, fellow church members, and friends.

You may know someone affected by a developmental disability in your district, or perhaps your own family has been affected by a DD diagnosis.

In closing, the Truth about cuts to DD services is that:

Changing the Day Hab rate from \$10.81 to \$7.21 (33% reduction) will NOT save Missouri money. Cuts to low-cost, preventive services shift costs into higher-cost systems such as emergency care, crisis response, and institutional placements.

Very few Missouri small businesses can absorb a reimbursement cut of 33%. Day habilitation is labor-intensive healthcare, and like any small business, reductions of this size result in staff losses, reduced capacity, and program closures.

Rate cuts don't just affect providers. Every \$1 of funding cut removes \$1.60 from local economies, reducing jobs and income for working Missouri families following a historical increase in inflation.

State Operated Facilities are not equivalent to services delivered in the community- they are much less effective, and years of published fiscal data clearly show State operated institutional and crisis-based care services are significantly more expensive and less predictable than community-based day services. They directly expand the size and add to the cost of state government- now and into the future.

If you have concerns about trying to balance the budget on the backs of some of our most vulnerable citizens and their families- don't just take our word for it- we encourage you to speak to someone you know personally about how important these services are to them and their loved ones.

Thank you to each of the committee members for your time today, and for your leadership on this important issue. Should you feel it helpful, we would be happy to provide further information to you and other Committee members. Please feel free to contact me or our Chief Financial Officer, Steve Bruce at 573-875-6181, or via email at jsweeney@woodhaventeam.org, or sbruce@woodhaventeam.org.

Respectfully submitted:
Dr. Joy Sweeney, Ph.D. - CEO
Steve Bruce, MPA - CFO
Greg Bell, COO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE BRUCE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-875-6181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOODHAVEN LEARNING CENTER		TITLE: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 1405 HATHMAN PLACE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: Sbruce@woodhaventeam.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:30 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable Members of the House Budget Committee:

Thank you for your attention to the services we provide to Missourians. As you may know, Woodhaven is a conservatively led nonprofit organization that supports individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). We have provided services to Missourians for over 61 years, and we value your partnership in ensuring they continue to receive the support they need.

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We recognize the difficult choices you face related to the state's budget and spending priorities. We empathize with the nature of decisions you will be asked to make and know ours are not the only voices you will hear regarding the cuts included in the proposed budget.

We need your continued leadership in making sure the Committee understands the true impact of these cuts. We have provided an economic impact analysis, utilizing Woodhaven's own day program services as an example of the similar or greater impact that would be felt in hundreds of Missouri's communities. Using figures from our previous year's day habilitation services and a conservative input / output modifier of 1.6 for healthcare services obtained from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, \$1.54 million dollars would be removed from our local economy every year if the cuts to day habilitation services were to go into effect July 1, 2026.

We know Missourians expect value for their tax dollars and for their elected officials to make wise investments. According to MO DMH's own publicly available data, there are 103 Day Habilitation programs currently operating in MO, providing services to 51 unique counties and their neighbors,

representing almost all of Missouri.

We strongly urge the Missouri House to maintain current funding until the Missouri Department of Mental Health and their actuarial contractor can partner with providers, the legislature, and other stakeholders by conducting a thorough and accurate rate study in the very near future, utilizing real and accurate factual data based on documented financial and programmatic information.

The bottom line is- rate cuts to DD services are wrong for Missouri.

- A 33% rate cut does not save Missouri money. Cuts remove millions from local economies, destabilize an already understaffed healthcare workforce, and increases reliance on more expensive state-run systems, directly growing the size and cost of state government when budgets are tight.
- Maintaining day habilitation rates actually preserves taxpayer dollars by serving as a cost containment strategy - preventing cost escalation into significantly more burdensome institutional and emergency care.

Maintaining current day habilitation rates IS the fiscally responsible choice for Missouri taxpayers. We urge you and your colleagues to protect these vital services. We need your voice to help us ensure a stable, dignified life for Missourians with developmental disabilities. The individuals we provide services to are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors, fellow church members, and friends.

You may know someone affected by a developmental disability in your district, or perhaps your own family has been affected by a DD diagnosis.

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Very few Missouri small businesses can absorb a reimbursement cut of 33%. Day habilitation is labor-intensive healthcare, and like any small business, reductions of this size result in staff losses, reduced capacity, and program closures.

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If you have concerns about trying to balance the budget on the backs of some of our most vulnerable citizens and their families- don't just take our word for it- we encourage you to speak to someone you know personally about how important these services are to them and their loved ones.

Thank you to each of the committee members for your time today, and for your leadership on this important issue. Should you feel it helpful, we would be happy to provide further information to you and other Committee members. Please feel free to contact me or our Chief Financial Officer, Steve Bruce at 573-875-6181, or via email at jsweeney@woodhaventeam.org, or sbruce@woodhaventeam.org.

Respectfully submitted:
Dr. Joy Sweeney, Ph.D. - CEO
Steve Bruce, MPA - CFO
Greg Bell, COO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE KULCSAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:54 PM

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

While I agree the budget needs to be balanced, I don't think cutting funding from disabled individuals is the way to balance the budget. Instead of cuts, the Missouri government should be increasing funding in support of disabled adults and DD services.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN A JUHALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I want give my testimony about how important the Day Services at DPI, Developing Potential, Inc., are to the community - the Greater K.C. area. With the removal of Sheltered Workshops and other areas, people with IDD's, Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, need a place to go and continue to learn and grow. Having cuts will drive away co-workers and will endanger the lives of people with disabilities in their homes or in the communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUE GREIFZU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:34 PM

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

We must not cut the funding from the most vulnerable people in our state. The people that are disabled need this they can't go out and work. They can't go make extra money. This affects me and my family personally I'm sure there is other money from fraud or dead. People are illegals collecting benefits that could be used instead of Cutting, American citizen disability funds. Please change your mind and do not cut from the our most vulnerable citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN DRATH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped [Insert your personal story of your experience with these services and why they are important.]

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My mother, Judy Green, fiercely advocated for those with disabilities since the 1970's when most were hidden or warehoused. From baking cookies to raise funds for Truman Neurological Center to hosting coffees for political candidates, including Mike Cierpoit, she carried on.

Mom introduced many candidates to the program of Developing Potential Inc (DPI). Several candidates thought that the men and women in that program were ALL that were here in the KC area. That is just not so. That is the problem.

My sister, Nancy, is developmentally disabled. When COVID hit and the world was about to lockdown, we brought her home from a group home and she has been here since. Families without SDS cannot afford to have their loved ones live at home.

My Nancy has an active life going to her day program at DPI, physical therapy twice a week and volunteering when available.

Self Directed Services (SDS) is the program that allows Nancy to live at home with family where she is loved and cared for. She is happy with her life.

I am Nancy's primary caregiver. No benefits - no sick pay - no vacation – lots of unpaid hours. I pay my insurance with the ACA. You are proposing to cut my wages by 30%.

There is no job I can get that will support myself and allow me to pay for another caregiver. If my SDS pay is cut by 30% I will not be able to pay my bills and will have to seek support from Missouri Social Services.

These proposed cuts are inhumane for the disabled and those that serve and care for them.

Thank you,
Susan Green



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN NEWTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Community Specialist (CS) services are not an optional add-on within Missouri's waiver system. This code is utilized across all waiver programs and serves as a foundational support for individuals with disabilities and their families. Eliminating or significantly reducing this service would have devastating and far-reaching consequences—not only for providers, but for families, individuals, and ultimately Missouri taxpayers.

I also want to address the statement made yesterday indicating that only 300 clients would be impacted by changes to Community Specialist services. That number most likely reflects only those individuals utilizing this support under the Self-Directed Services Waiver. It does not reflect the full scope of impact. Community Specialist (T1016) is utilized across all Missouri waivers, serving thousands of individuals and supporting numerous provider organizations statewide. Limiting the analysis to a subset of one waiver presents an incomplete and potentially misleading picture of the true consequences of this proposal. I respectfully urge the committee to conduct a comprehensive review and ensure that all data across every waiver program is examined before decisions are made that will significantly affect individuals with disabilities, families, and provider organizations throughout Missouri.

If T1016 is cut, multiple small and mid-sized provider organizations across the state could be forced to close their doors. This would result in layoffs of hundreds of workers and destabilize a workforce that is already fragile. Beyond the economic impact, the human cost would be immeasurable. Individuals who are currently living successfully in their family homes may lose the supports that make that stability possible. Community Specialists also play a critical role in Missouri's technology-first approach for adults with disabilities. However, technology without training and ongoing support is ineffective. When individuals receive taxpayer-funded assistive technology but lack the education and troubleshooting support provided by a Community Specialist, that technology is at high risk of abandonment. Devices sit unused on shelves, while individuals require increased face-to-face staffing that could have been prevented. Without CS services, Missouri risks wasting both the technology investment and the opportunity for increased independence.

It is also critical to address the contractual obligations the State of Missouri has entered into with provider organizations across this state. The Adam Morgan Foundation entered into a five-year contract with the Missouri Department of Mental Health two years ago to provide Community Specialist services under T1016. We have three years remaining on that legally binding agreement. We built our staffing model, operational structure, and financial commitments—including signing a five-year commercial lease—based on the terms of that contract.

Unilaterally eliminating or materially altering the Community Specialist code mid-contract raises serious legal concerns. Contracts are enforceable obligations, not symbolic agreements. Providers entered into these agreements in good faith, relying on the stability and continuity of state

commitments. Abruptly dismantling the funding mechanism directly tied to those contracts could constitute a breach of contract and expose the state to significant legal liability.

Beyond the immediate financial harm to providers, failure to honor existing agreements undermines trust between the state and the community-based organizations that carry out its services. Providers cannot responsibly invest in workforce development, infrastructure, and long-term innovation if contractual commitments can be withdrawn without remedy. If existing contracts are not honored, providers may have no choice but to seek legal review to protect their organizations, their employees, and the individuals they serve. That outcome would divert public resources toward litigation rather than services—an unnecessary and avoidable consequence.

This is not simply a budget line item. It represents real families, real workers, real businesses, and legally binding agreements that underpin Missouri's commitment to community-based services.

I urge you to fully examine the human, financial, and legal consequences of this proposal. Preserving Community Specialist services protects families, strengthens Missouri's workforce, safeguards taxpayer investments, and upholds the integrity of state contracts.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Missourians with disabilities and the families who support them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN NEWTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 4:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Eliminating Community Specialist (CS) services would cause significant and lasting harm to Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These professionals play a critical role in ensuring that Medicaid-funded assistive technology is implemented effectively. Without proper training, customization, and ongoing support, devices that give individuals a voice and greater independence often go unused. Removing these services not only undermines the purpose of the technology but also results in wasted taxpayer dollars and diminished outcomes for the very people these programs are designed to support.

This change would also directly impact organizations such as the Adam Morgan Foundation, which provides technology-based supports that promote communication, autonomy, and community participation. Community Specialist services are the backbone of these efforts. Without them, the progress made by individuals and families across Missouri will be reversed.

I have personally worked with individuals who began communicating for the first time at age 72, and others who were once viewed as incapable but now use their devices to express preferences, report concerns, and advocate for themselves—including reporting abuse. These life-changing outcomes are only possible because of the training, consistency, and relationship-based support that Community Specialists provide.

Eliminating the T1016 code would also result in job loss across the state, reducing Missouri's tax base while simultaneously stripping individuals with IDD of their voices, their independence, and their safety. Cutting this service does not reduce waste—it creates it. Eliminating the T1016 code would also result in job loss across the state, reducing Missouri's tax base while simultaneously stripping individuals with IDD of their voices, their independence, and their safety. Cutting this service does not reduce waste—it creates it.

There are many ways to adjust the budget, but eliminating Community Specialist services harms a vulnerable population of Missourians—a population that any one of us could join at any time.

Protecting these services protects independence, dignity, and the responsible use of public funds.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SHUMWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 7:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Adults with Disabilities need help.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SIMMONS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:55 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN STELLING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing today to ask you to oppose the proposed budget cuts to the Day Habilitation Services (from \$10.81 per 15-minute unit to \$7.21 per 15-minute unit).

I work at an Independent Living Center, in which we offer Day Hab services to many adult individuals (consumers, but we call them "friends") with developmental disabilities. The program is attended by an average of 30 consumers each day. The consumers are gaining much-needed physical, emotional and social skills by coming to Day Hab. And, likewise, their parents, guardians and/or caregivers, are able to keep their own jobs in the community and/or enjoy some respite time from their caregiving responsibilities.

When a parent has a child with developmental disabilities, the responsibility of caring for that child doesn't end when they legally become an adult. In most cases, it is a lifetime of care for the adult in the parent's home. Please consider this when discussing and deciding the proposed cut. The Day Hab Services are so important to so many of your Missouri constituents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE BUNDY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:45 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped so many Missourians who are getting their lives on track.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)
Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)
Family to Family Program – Amount struck from Governor’s FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)
Thank you very much for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE DUFEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My friend in StLouis has a son with Cerebral Palsy. He depends on the SDS PA program for his care. Please do not cut this program. Do not cut salaries for PCAs. And please maintain the Day Hab program. Cuts to these very fragile support systems could prove dangerous to his health and future. Please do not cut services for this very vulnerable population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE HUME		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CLEANEARTH4KIDS.ORG		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65810
EMAIL: s@cleanearth4kids.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

CleanEarth4Kids.org asks you to please vote no on HB 2010. The proposed cuts will harm some of the most vulnerable in our state and take away families' abilities to provide quality and loving care at home. Please take action to improve SDS instead of destroying it.
Our children's health and future depend on the actions we take today!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to ask for reconsideration of the extreme proposed cuts to the self directed services budget. My son Collin is profoundly disabled adult, uses a wheelchair due to spina bifida, has a rare genetic disorder, and has the developmental age of a four-year-old. He requires a feeding tube, regular catheterization to maintain kidney function, diaper changes, daily enema program, monitoring for his shunt, and round-the-clock supervision. My current caregiver performs tasks that typically require a nurse or CNA. I perform or provide the staff training, manage staff recruiting and management, scheduling, payroll, the monthly summaries of care. This is unpaid work that I provide to receive the services for my son.

Please remember that Self-Directed PAs do not receive insurance or benefits, retirement plans, or paid time off . Any further reduction in pay will make it nearly impossible for us to find or retain qualified care.

This is more than a wage issue; it is a critical matter of access to care. When medically complex Missourians cannot be supported in their communities due to insufficient reimbursement rates, the only remaining alternative is institutional placement, which costs substantially more than the current self-directed support model.

These cuts will potentially impact my ability to stay employed outside of the home and my ability to provide medical insurance for my family. My son Collin is old enough for full Medicaid benefits, but because I am able, I still keep him on my private insurance.

I urge you to consider the long-term fiscal and personal impact of these cuts and support the families and individuals who rely on these essential services. I know it is difficult, but I ask you to put yourselves in the shoes of a disabled Missourian. How would you like to be cared for...in your home with community supports or in a state nursing institution? These are vulnerable members of our community, not a line item in a budget.

Thank you for your attention.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SYLVIA STREU		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget Committee members,

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped me to have a better understanding of what my son experienced as a service member, and continues to experience as someone who came home with a medical diagnosis that he didn't leave with.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget
Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27
Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000
(CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMICO JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 2:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMILLA HOUSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing as a constituent, and as the parent of a person with a developmental disability. My daughter, Carley, accesses Day Services through our local provider, SADI, Semo Alliance for Disability Independence, as well as Self-Directed Support services in our home.

Carley was born with Down syndrome, and will be 29 years old next week. She was nominated for and voted prom queen of Cape Central High School in 2015, a highlight of her high school career. Since high school, Carley has attended SADI, “college” as we lovingly refer to it. It is a huge part of her life, and I am grateful for the continuation of “schooling” she is able to receive because of this important program and the amazing staff. SADI provides services to Carley and others with a variety of developmental disabilities. Carley works on independent living skills, crucial for gaining independence. SADI offers community-based instruction, taking Carley and fellow consumers on a variety of outings, allowing them to become meaningful members of their community. It provides a safe, structured environment, supports learning, peer socialization, and skill building that I cannot replicate at home. These programs make it possible for parents to work, and helps prevent caregiver burnout, as well.

The Self-Directed Support services allow me to hire skilled, compassionate, and loving individuals to work with my daughter in our home. They assist Carley with daily living skills, self-care skills, and assure she consumes only gluten-free food, as she has Celiac disease, as well. Bathing, toileting, and other self-care situations are a part of our daily lives..... yes, at age 29. I am grateful for my wonderful staff I’ve had over the years, helping Carley live a productive life. I am also grateful to be able to shower (without my daughter eloping, getting into gluten-containing foods, or turning on the stove). In addition, I am thankful to have staff for Carley so I can lead the DivorceCare ministry. Unfortunately, but just a part of life, the young ladies I hire grow up, graduate, get married, and start families of their own. I am then left to find new staff to replace them. It is challenging enough to find the right person to take an in-home PA caregiver job, but the pay that I am able to offer makes the job a little more enticing.

I am thankful for so many opportunities Carley has in Cape Girardeau, but am saddened, shocked, and literally sick at the thought that these programs she relies on, that I rely on, are being threatened and will suffer at the hand of the proposed FY 27 budget cuts. I’ve just heard about these proposed cuts this week, and understand voting is next week. I am panicked!! The harm that the budget cuts would do to these essential programs is monumental. Cuts of this size could lead to reduced programming, staff shortages, and even program closures. I encourage you to take a tour of SADI and see for yourself how the programming works. They would love to show you around!

I can only imagine the difficulty I would have finding in-home staff if I was unable to pay them a fair,

well-deserved wage. The wage is extremely important, as there are no other benefits attached to this position, such as insurance or paid time off. In order to find a good, quality employee that I can trust, the wage is essential.

I am a single mom. I care for my daughter on my own, but with SDS and SADI, I do not feel like I'm doing it on my own. As I said, I can't bear to think of what the proposed budget cuts would do to my daughter and to me. The impact of not having a day program for Carley to attend, and not having staff to assist in the home would put my family in crisis and reduce the independence and well-being of my girl.

I respectfully urge you to speak with the Governor's staff and budget/appropriations leadership and advocate for NO CUTS to Day Services or to Self-Directed Services. This is critical to ensure that individuals like Carley can continue receiving the support they need.

Thank you so much for your time, for listening to your constituents, and for protecting programs that support people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the workforce who support us.

Please know that your actions have a direct impact on families like mine. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely and with much appreciation,

Tamilla House

573-979-1161

tamillahouse@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY CEESAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 4:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cutting funding for day programs utilized by Missouri's most vulnerable citizens isn't just a mere budget adjustment. It is a direct assault on their independence and safety.

These programs provide adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities with essential aspects of human experience. These are social interaction, vocational training, and development of life skills.

These programs are the bedrock that provide these necessary aspects of existence for these individuals, our friends may require a little more assistance but are just as deserving and capable. Before day programs, self-directed services, group homes and individualized supported living there were dehumanizing institutions. People were thrown away by society; their only crime was needing some extra support.

When my friends miss a day at program, they return with a huge smile on their face. They know they are safe, loved, and supported in their goals.

My friends are not worth less than anyone. My friends are not disposable. My friends are people.

My friends are amazing.

Signed, a concerned DSP



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAMMY HICKMAN LCSW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am reaching out today in strong support of reinstating the House Bill 2010 funding detailed below. This funding has helped not only so many people who have mental health challenges and their families but also the providers who help them with trainings and collaborative services.

I respectfully ask that you please consider reinstating \$122,487 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment in HB 2010 (line 10.130). For decades this funding has been competitively bid and helped to provide the following services:

Parent Ombudsman and Education Services - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget

Recommendations: \$43,005 (CRD.GV.167)

Mental Health Training Services for Healthcare Professionals - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$19,482 (CRD.GV.168)

Family to Family Program - Amount struck from Governor's FY27 Budget Recommendations: \$60,000 (CRD.GV.169)

Thank you very much for your consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TANYA BELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:13 PM

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

Our 22yr old son is part of the SDS program. It has been very beneficial to him and us. He is completely dependent on 24/7 care as he doesn't, walk, talk, can't sit up on his own. He has to be fed and changed and is reliant on us and our employee to do everything for him. As this is a very tiring and demanding job it is hard to find people we would trust to help take care of him. He has to be lifted and moved to be able to be changed and fed and bathed and everything.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TARA & JASON WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TARA E ARNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have a 16.5 year old with nonspeaking autism who will soon be entering the adult with disabilities phase of life. Accessing services for this age group is already difficult. My son will 'graduate' before his 18th birthday and there's a good chance we will have to fight our local school district to access 18-21 services. He will not be eligible for medicaid and day programs at that point. And even when he becomes eligible, the existing wait list for a waiver to access these programs is already 12-24 months long. These cuts will make these services less attainable. There's a decent chance I will have to quit my job to be a stay at home mom to my adult son when that time comes. And honestly, we may have to consider a move to a state that properly serves adults with disabilities. It's more cost effective for families to direct care for adults with disabilities than institutionalize. Let's also not forget the abuse that happened in those facilities - and will happen again if you populate them with our most vulnerable citizens. It's a gross disservice to families and this population.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAYLOR WISE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 1:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I work full time as a PA with an individual receiving self-directed services making \$26/hr. The competitive rate for direct support professionals through a company in Springfield is \$21-22 starting, and includes company-sponsored health insurance, and paid time off/sick time accrual. None of these benefits are available to those employed by an individual utilizing self-directed services. The higher pay rate allows me to pay out of pocket for health insurance (over \$600/month) and have some money reserved for the loss in pay I would experience if I had to miss work due to illness. A drop in pay would force me to leave my job, as I could not provide health insurance or a safeguard for sick days at \$22/hr. I also work part time for a company servicing those in ISL settings. I have seen horrific things happen while working in companies. I have been told that the houses "just needed a body" in reference to meeting staffing to client ratios. I have seen clients be physically and financially abused or severely neglected by staff, reported to DMH as I am mandated to do, only to be told by DMH that since the client "is okay" (meaning not seriously physically injured or dead, thanks to intervention by other staff), the perpetrating staff should keep their job. I have seen this several times in my almost decade long career in the field. My self-directed client has been a victim of abuse while in a company. Self-directed services allowed her to hire staff that she trusts and more importantly fire staff that don't do their job or don't treat her with the respect and dignity she deserves without pushback by a company or DMH. I have watched my client struggle to find good long-term staff. She finally has a good crew. Not a single one of her staff could stay on full time at a lower rate. She would lose all of her staff. Companies have already failed her time and time again. Her mother is disabled. Where would she turn to?

Self-directed services are proven to be cheaper to tax payers than ISL services. Please do not make cuts to this program. They are already at a disadvantage not being able to provide benefits or the security in hours that a company can provide. Lowering the pay will indirectly make the program unsustainable for those utilizing it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TAYON FLIEG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my absolute disgust and outrage over HB 2010 (Deaton) and the devastating cuts to DMH funding.

I work for a provider that serves people with developmental disabilities (Day Hab, PA, Group PA, ISLs, etc.), and we are already feeling the damage. These cuts will force programs to shrink, staff to leave, and vulnerable people to lose the support they rely on to survive and live with dignity.

You are using your power to harm people who cannot fight back. This is cruel, reckless, and inhumane. The DD community will suffer in ways you clearly do not understand — and the long-term consequences will cost taxpayers far more than what you are “saving.”

Real solutions exist: protect DMH funding, prioritize disability services in the budget, reallocate funds from wasteful spending, and involve providers and families in budget decisions before making cuts that destroy lives.

Do better. Our community deserves better.

-Tayon Flieg



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TED ZLOTOPOLSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 2010 will have a significant adverse impact on my loved one in a day program. There are moral and financial reasons to NOT support these budget cuts. First, my loved one has Down's Syndrome and Tourette's Syndrome and would love to work at a real job in the community and has tried various times unsuccessfully. The alternative to day program is for him to stay home in isolation. This is not only harmful to his mental health but will cost the State more money as they will need to subsidize his time at home. Since he has been in day program, he has thrived like never before. It's the solution to his personal needs. It's a huge boost to his happiness, morale, and sense of purpose. His time at Day Program is very productive and stimulating. It has produced more benefits for him than I can list here. If the State cuts these benefits, it will cost the State more money to support his needs at home. Finally, taking from the most vulnerable in our society is not God's will for our Leaders. Taking from mentally incapacitated people is taking the easy way out. We need our Leaders to be able to face challenges without always taking the easy way out by taking from the weak. Please do not make these cuts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERESA ANN DOOLITTLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 7:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm sure you have heard many stories of why this is so wrong. But here is my story. I am a mother to 4 special needs adult children, in which two are receiving self directed personal assistants. My adult children have struggled throughout their lives and I have been there fighting with them the whole way. From spending 4 hours attending IEP meetings, multiple weekly speech, occupational, and physical therapies to advocating for them now as disabled adults. One of my sons is medically fragile and the other has autism among other life threatening medical disorders. We have used agencies in the past and none of them were able to have dependable and reliable aides. I have had people come in our home disrupting our peace of mind by stealing money from us, with one even hitting our family pet. One of my sons even lived in a facility for a year, but when we were able to choose the people who work for my sons, it was a game changer! So with this program my sons have had the same workers since we changed from agency based aides and facility care to self directed employees. I just don't get why this is being taken from our most vulnerable community, when they don't even know what is happening. My sons and family will severely be affected both financially and mentally with this drastic change to the services they receive. How can cutting "Human Infrastructure" be more important than funding I-70 expansion? Well its not and more importantly its morally failing our community of disabled by valued human beings.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERESA D KONRADY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 2:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Teresa Konrady, and I am the parent and primary caregiver of an adult son with autism who relies on Missouri's developmental disability services to live safely and with dignity in our community.

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 2010 because decisions made in this appropriations bill have real and immediate consequences for families like mine. These are not abstract budget numbers. For my son, these services are essential to his health, safety, and daily functioning.

My son requires consistent, structured support to meet his basic needs, manage anxiety, and remain stable in his home environment. Self-Directed Supports allow me, as someone who knows him best, to provide individualized, responsive care. Any reductions, eliminations, or uncertainty in funding or my designation as his caregiver directly threaten that stability. When supports are disrupted, the result is often crisis rather than savings.

Cuts to developmental disability services do not eliminate costs. They shift them. When community-based supports are weakened, individuals with significant disabilities are more likely to experience emergency room visits, psychiatric hospitalizations, or placement in more restrictive and expensive settings. Preventative, consistent care is both the humane and fiscally responsible choice.

I am also concerned about the impact of funding decisions on caregivers and direct support professionals. Rate reductions or service eliminations increase turnover and burnout and reduce continuity of care. For individuals with autism, frequent caregiver changes can be destabilizing and harmful.

Missouri has committed to supporting people with disabilities in the least restrictive environment possible. HB 2010, as written, risks undermining that commitment. My son deserves the right to safety, consistency, and a life supported in his community rather than pushed toward crisis.

I urge legislators to oppose any provisions in HB 2010 that reduce, cap, or destabilize funding. I urge legislators to oppose wording that makes it more difficult for family, guardians, payees, POAs, and parent caregivers to be designated to provide developmental disability services, including Self-Directed Supports. These services are not line items. They are lifelines for individuals with disabilities and the families who care for them.

Thank you for considering my perspective and the real impact this bill may have on Missouri families.

Teresa Konrady
Parent and Caregiver of an Adult with Autism
Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERESA VEJROSTA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello. My name is Teresa, and I'm writing as a Missouri mother and full-time caregiver to my daughter Abby, who has Rett syndrome.

Rett syndrome is not "special needs" in the way people casually imagine. Abby is nonverbal. She is non-ambulatory. She is tube-fed. She is epileptic. She needs constant hands-on care and medical oversight—every day, every night. What we provide at home is not babysitting. It is hospital-level care.

I want to be very clear about what these proposed SDS cuts mean in a real home.

First: cutting caregiver pay doesn't "trim fat." It breaks families.

I'm paid for 40 hours a week, but my daughter's care is 24/7. There is no clock-out. There's lifting, positioning, medications, monitoring, hygiene care, equipment management, seizures, infections, appointments, and emergencies—often all in the same day.

We were told the proposed cuts would reduce the Medical Personal Assistant rate—families like mine—down to a cap that effectively means a cut of about \$9.96 an hour for some of us. That's not a minor adjustment. That is rent money. That is the power bill. That is the vehicle that gets our child to specialists. That is literally the difference between keeping our children safely at home—or not.

Second: cutting supplies is not "tightening the belt." It is asking families to choose which basic human needs get met.

When our children turn 21, Medicaid often stops covering things like briefs, hygiene supplies, dental support, and incontinence supplies. That does not mean our children stop needing them. It just means the cost gets dumped onto families already living on one income—because many of us cannot work outside the home.

So I need someone to explain this to me like I'm five: If you cut our pay, and you cut supplies, how are you expecting us to fund what Medicaid won't? With what money? From where?

Third: these cuts don't save money. They shift costs into the most expensive place possible: the hospital—or institutions.

We are keeping medically fragile Missourians out of hospitals every single day. And hospital care is not

cheap. Estimated hospital inpatient-day expenses in Missouri are around \$2,957 per day, and ICU-level care is commonly cited around \$2,200 to \$6,000 per day—often more depending on the patient's needs. ?

So when you reduce support for in-home care, what happens?

Families burn out. Care becomes unsafe. Kids get hospitalized for preventable complications. Or they get forced into institutional settings—not because the family doesn't love them, but because the system made home care impossible.

And I want to say this plainly: Missouri has a moral and ethical duty to keep our children safe at home when home is the best place for them. These cuts would do the opposite.

For 18 years, many of us were forced to stay under the poverty level to keep our kids alive and covered. SDS finally gave some families a fragile stability—enough to survive, not thrive. And now, just when we are barely holding on, we're being told the floor is going to be pulled out from under us.

I'm asking you to protect the SDS budget. Protect caregiver pay. Protect supplies and basic care needs.

Because if Missouri cuts these services, you won't just be balancing a spreadsheet.

You will be deciding—on paper—whether families like mine can keep our children at home, safe, clean, nourished, and alive.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERI WOODS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 12:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My granddaughter was born at 24 weeks . She was born deaf ,she is legally blind , intellectually behind . Has severer tremors , neurological meltdown behaviors along with autism . My son is a single dad and must work . Her mom has left her , her grandma and grandpa and aunt has recently passed. Her psychiatrist states she can not be in a workshop at this time because if her behaviors and tremors . We just started in March of 2025 using SDS . My granddaughter loves then and they live her . They follow her ISP and try and teach her to contribute by doing chores , like make her bed , put away her laundry ect .. Alexis finally has structure and stability in her life . Her 2 caregivers have given her that . My granddaughter did not ask to be born with all of the disabilities she has and deserves to have dignity, support and love . Her dad is trying his best but also needs to work . If there is a budget cut we will must likely lose our caregivers who we love and trust her with Alexis . Why would anyone want to take away that from the most vulnerable people? This cannot happen . They deserve better . The 2 career have ate both single parents . They are working hard to keep Alexis feeling love and a sence os security . But they also have to be able to pay their bills to support their families. Please please do not let this budget cut happen . Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TERRI DALLAS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-210-8760	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PONY BIRD, INC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1615 VINE SCHOOL RD			
CITY: HERCULANEUM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63048
EMAIL: tmdallas@ponybird.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:14 PM

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

I am an employee of Pony Bird and have worked with this organization for over 40 years. I understand the importance of providing Day Services not only to individuals with DD but to their families as well. Please oppose this bill for the peace of mind of families that are served by Day Programs in Jefferson County and throughout our State.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERRI DATICA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 11:39 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Terri Datica, a constituent residing in Gladstone MO, and I'm writing to urge you to oppose the proposed cuts to Missouri's Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program. My 21-year-old son Diego has lived with profound disabilities and medical complexities since birth, and SDS is the reason we've been able to keep him safe, stable, and at home with our family — rather than institutionalized at a cost to the state of over \$600,000 per year.

Diego has a contagious smile, loves the KCFD, and exploring KC! He is non-ambulatory, non-weight bearing, and fully dependent for all activities of daily living. His diagnoses include cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and multiple medical fragilities. He requires 24/7 care.

Because of Self-Directed Supports through his MO Comprehensive Waiver, our family has successfully built and retained a small, highly trained team to support him in his home. He is happy, medically stable, and thriving. We have one DSP who has stayed with us for 6 years and three others for over 2 years. That stability, and the continuity of care it creates, became possible with the pay rate increase implemented in 2021.

Diego's current annual SDS Comprehensive Waiver budget is \$231,792. That funds round-the-clock support in his natural home. By contrast, institutional care for someone with Diego's needs would exceed \$600,000 annually, not including the loss of person-centered routines, specialized safeguards, and the medical oversight our team provides every day.

As Diego's Direct Representative, I manage all aspects of his care with no compensation. That includes hiring, onboarding, training, scheduling and backup coverage, daily documentation, payroll processing, Medicaid compliance, team communication, inventory and supply management, transportation coordination, and ongoing advocacy. In a residential or ISL setting, this level of care would require multiple rotating staff, nursing oversight, and administrative overhead, at dramatically higher cost. Many parents like me lovingly sacrifice careers and long-term financial stability to keep our loved ones safe at home.

I'm also deeply concerned about proposals that would eliminate or reduce key SDS supports, including:

- Community Specialist: We have used Community Specialist services over the years to navigate school transitions, access inclusivity in our community, coordinate systems of care, and manage

crises. This is one of the few flexible, preventative supports that helps families avoid breakdowns that lead to hospitalizations or placement. Eliminating this service will erase the required RN Oversight for Med Aides. Med Aides are required for any individual that receives medication, which most of the individuals on Waivers need.

- Individual Goods and Services (IDGS): Eliminating IDGS would directly harm Diego's safety and stability at home by removing the ability to address essential gaps with targeted, cost-effective supports that are not otherwise covered.

The Governor's budget targets families who provide care through SDS, where families find, hire, train, and manage caregivers without the overhead costs of an agency model. If SDS rates are cut, families will lose staff. When that happens, the options are limited and dangerous: attempt to use provider agencies that already lack capacity, or pursue residential placement that also lacks capacity and costs the state far more.

SDS is one of Missouri's most cost-effective models for supporting individuals with disabilities. Staff turnover is lower, budgets are routinely minimized, and families report high satisfaction and stability. The proposed cuts will not reduce long-term spending. They will shift costs to crises, hospitalizations, and institutional care.

I respectfully ask you to:

1. Oppose proposed reductions to SDS rates.
2. Protect Community Specialist and IDGS as essential, preventative supports.

Ensure fairness and parity across service models so families using SDS are not singled out for disproportionate cuts.

On behalf of my family, and the other 3,526 Missouri families who rely on SDS, I urge you to fight against these proposed cuts.

Respectfully,
Terri Datica, Mother / Legal Guardian & Conservator / Designated Representative of Diego Datica
Clay County, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERRI WYNNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 9:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Sometimes things may look good on paper for budget cuts not realizing the individuals it will affect, i.e. budget cuts for Day Service programs. This cut will affect adult individuals served by Developing Potential & other day service programs throughout the state.

Now, a personal note, let us put a face on the importance of day services. Our son, Jeremy, at age seven showed signs of developmental & physical disabilities. Before that, he ran, swam, played little league baseball. By age nine he was in a wheelchair. From that age forward we started advocating for services. A life we never expected. We promised him, we'd never give up on him. After a brief illness, Jeremy passed away unexpectedly in May. So now, with broken hearts we will continue to advocate for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Though Jeremy was disabled, it didn't stop him from loving others, loving life, leading a full & happy life while being in pain many days & many thanks goes to his day program, Developing Potential.

We coached a special needs softball team for 20 plus years & Jeremy was our catcher, in a wheelchair. These special athletes would have volunteer buddies to help them bat, run the bases or push them in wheelchairs. While Jeremy was in high school a physical therapist told us to get all the services & equipment he needed because once eighteen, it would be harder to get services for our adult son. We witnessed, while coaching the special needs softball athletes buddies would want to buddy the little, cute, young special needs athletes. After years of coaching & help from a youth group this changed, friendships developed.

Before high graduation we searched for places for Jeremy to attend after he'd graduate. A place to give him purpose, engaged in mental & physical stimulation, develop friendships in a safe & loving environment. We found that at Developing Potential. He looked forward to going each morning.

We knew while he was there, Jeremy was safe, loved & treated with dignity. He learned life skills, was given choices for activities, community involvement, clubs for him to join & develop friendships. This gave us opportunities to work & being productive members in our community.

It may be hard for you to understand but Jeremy was one of fortunate special needs individuals, being involved in special needs softball, in high school & beyond he was an honorary member of Blue Springs & Rockhurst Football teams. After graduation he went to his day program, Developing Potential for 18 years until his passing. Many do not have these other opportunities & only have their day programs. We will advocate for them.

These individuals get little or no attention or respect because they aren't able to pay taxes nor vote. We will speak for them! They do have worth. Jeremy has influenced many during his short lifetime. He is still influencing, that's why we're here now advocating. Our special needs population is someone's child no matter their age. After high school graduation these individuals need a safe place to continue to thrive, treated with dignity, have friendships & give them a purpose. The alternative to many, is sitting at home or placed in a nursing home without proper care, nor love or dignity.

We are asking you...PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THE BUDGET CUTS TO DD SERVICES!

Thank you,
Steve & Terri Wynne
Lee's Summit, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THEODORE VINCENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 10:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Teddy Vincent, and I'm writing today because I've learned that Missouri's proposed budget (HB10) includes cuts to Medicaid Self-Directed Supports (SDS). These SDS services help my friend, Anna Montaldo, exercise her independence and live a safer & more productive life in her community.

Anna hires her own caregivers at a fair wage to provide her with support for everyday life & tasks. With the changes proposed by HB10, caregiver pay would be capped below \$23/hour, which will result in wage reduction and loss of disability service provider (DSP) support. This greatly impacts Anna's ability to work, access healthcare, and complete day-to-day tasks like going to the gym (or just leaving the house in general).

SDS works. Not only do they allow Missourians like Anna to contribute to their communities, but they actually save money over time when compared to the alternative, which is residential therapeutic facilities (see page 87 of the MO budget document at <https://budplan.oa.mo.gov/media/pdf/fy27-dmh-program-descriptions-book>). Please consider this call to oppose cuts to SDS in HB10. I appreciate your time and consideration, and thank you all for continuing to work hard for the people of Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THERESA GONNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:19 AM

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

Harms support for those with disabilities and creates more bureaucratic red tape. Vote this down!!!!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THERESA HARMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Please don't cut funding for adults with disabilities.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THERESE M BRAUCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am providing testimony as the aunt of a child with a significant disability who relies on Self Directed Supports, which his family oversees. My nephew has built positive relationships with his caregivers, who are reliable, trustworthy, qualified, open to learning and adapting as needed. Further, they are always mindful of and advocating for his needs. The turnover rate of his caregivers has been extremely low, and they report fulfillment in their role, all expressing their happiness working with my nephew. The feeling is mutual, as he is always so excited to see them. This speaks to the positive relationship they have built and the level of comfort he feels with his caregivers, which makes a tremendous difference for him and his daily living. Further, my nephew has a legal right to live in his community with proper supports, which is provided by Self Directed Supports.

With the proposed budget cuts, his family stands to lose qualified caregivers, as they cannot absorb this decrease in pay. His family will not be able to find/retain new qualified and trustworthy caregivers because of this wage. They may need to rely on agency services. Agencies across Missouri have struggled for years to hire and retain staff. Many cannot accept new clients, cannot fill shifts, or have stopped contracting with the Department of Mental Health altogether. If families lose employees because of these proposals, and agencies cannot replace them, the state is responsible for the consequences. Additionally, one of his parents may need to leave their employment to care for their son, and will no longer be contributing taxpayers in the State of Missouri.

I implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly impacted if House Bill 10 is passed. Providing safe, affordable home-based care should remain a priority.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY MEEHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 1:21 PM

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

Families need help to care for members with disabilities and special needs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY MINYARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Members of the Budget Committee,

My name is Tiffany Minyard, and I am a Missouri native and resident. I respectfully submit this testimony to urge the Committee to restore full funding for Self-Directed Services (SDS) and day services in HB 2010. These services are essential lifelines for Missourians with developmental disabilities and the families who care for them.

My Family's Story:

My family is directly impacted by the proposed cuts. I serve as co-guardian, along with my parents and brother, for my severely handicapped sister, Amber.

When Amber was 3.5 weeks old, she contracted a rare form of bacterial meningitis, which left her with severe intellectual disability and Cerebral Palsy. She is non-mobile, non-verbal, legally blind and is an amputee.

Despite her disabilities, Amber has a ready smile for anyone who will engage with her. She has a great sense of humor and laughs at anyone's jokes, even if she doesn't understand the punch line. She loves the Andy Griffith Show and Wheel of Fortune. She loves ice cream and listening to my dad's made up stories, which always include her as the hero. Amber is a joy and her life is a gift.

For nearly 47 years, my parents have faithfully cared for Amber in their home, because we know keeping her with her family is best for her health and well-being. Today, however, they are 80 and 78 years old and facing their own serious health challenges.

For many years, our family has relied on Self-Directed Services and funding for Amber's day program to make home care possible.

SDS and Day Services are not optional. They are essential supports that allow families like ours to keep loved ones at home and in the community.

Without these services:

- Families will lose critical respite and care support.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities will lose meaningful community engagement.
- The direct support workforce that provides this care will be further destabilized.

Most importantly, many individuals may be forced into institutional settings or Individualized Supported Living (ISL) arrangements—options that are significantly more expensive for the state than SDS or Day Services.

While I understand the need to eliminate waste in government spending, these programs are not waste. They are cost-effective, community-based solutions that reflect our shared responsibility to care for the most vulnerable Missourians.

As members of the Budget Committee, you have the authority to:

-Amend HB 2010 to restore full funding for Day Services and Self-Directed Services.

-Examine whether these cuts will actually increase state costs by driving individuals into higher-cost institutional care.

-Advocate within the committee and with legislative leadership to prioritize this critical funding

-Work with the Governor's office to identify alternative budget solutions.

The individuals who rely on these services are Missourians you represent. Their families—and the workers who care for them—are depending on your leadership.

I respectfully urge you to restore funding for DD services and oppose cuts to Day Services and Self-Directed Services.

Please use your position to protect individuals with disabilities like my sister, Amber.

Respectfully,

**Tiffany Minyard
Ozark, Missouri**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TINA MONROE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 6:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I work with a young man that uses direct services. He is a blessing to me.
I think taking away their voice and putting them into a care facility is unhealthy for them.
Many facilities do not give the care that is needed and often are neglected.
Please do not make a decision for them.
Let them have their voice.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TISHIA BELL TURBYFILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 8:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My children all heavily rely on Community Specialist Services. This helps us avoid more costly medical settings by giving them the tools to live in their own homes with support. We worry if this funding goes away, the foster system will be setting a influx of Special needs individuals that were hotlined by mandated reporters at the hospital. Mandated reporters are trained to hotline everything abs let the professionals at DFS determine which are sensory issues causing them to appear unkempt or when it's true neglect. The in home specialists are highly trained to see the difference between autism mannerisms and signs if abuse. Can you imagine how much more costly it will be having all of these people in the hospital because they're incapable of living completely without support. It is more fiscally responsible to keep funding the SWAP.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TOMAS ALBERTO PAREDES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The budget cuts for peoples with disabilities are sickening. These cuts will make the life of my 6 year old cousin who is refined to a wheelchair much harder. As someone living in Kansas, it's embarrassing I have to come to the aid to defend my Missourian cousin's disability. It's a disgrace that the state of Missouri is actively making the lives of its citizens worse.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACY THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Honorable House Budget members,
I am reaching out today in support of reinstating House Bill 2010. My son was diagnosed over a decade ago with schizoaffective disorder and NAMI has been an invaluable resource for me.
Please reconsider reinstating \$122487 for Mental Health Adult Community treatment in HB 2010.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TREE SATURDAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2026 8:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

- Wage cuts will push experienced workers out of the field
- Recruitment and retention will become even more difficult
- DSPs provide skilled, demanding, essential care and deserve fair pay

This Cut Will Cost the State More

- When SDS fails, individuals are forced into group homes, nursing facilities, or other restrictive settings or force families to quit their jobs to care for loved ones removing them from the workforce.
- These options cost the state significantly more than SDS
- This is not a savings—it is a cost shift with worse outcomes

Forced Into Restrictive Environments

- People may lose their homes, routines, and community connections
- Budget decisions should not force institutionalization
- Missouri should uphold its commitment to community-based services

Clear Message to Legislators

- Protect Self-Directed Services (SDS)
- Maintain sustainable DSP wages
- Do not balance the budget on the backs of people with disabilities
- SDS works and saves money long-term

Strong communities include everyone. SDS keeps people where they belong—at home, in their communities, with dignity and choice.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRISHA CRISMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 5:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Trisha Crismon, and I am the parent and legal guardian of my son, Lucas. I am writing to state clearly and unequivocally that Med PCA in-home services are medically necessary, life-sustaining, and irreplaceable for Lucas. Any reduction in these services—or in the rates that make them possible—would place him at serious risk.

Lucas has complex medical needs and is non-speaking, which makes him exceptionally vulnerable. He cannot reliably report mistreatment, advocate for himself, or alert others when something is wrong. Because of this, where and how Lucas receives care is not a matter of preference—it is a matter of safety and survival.

Our family has firsthand experience with the mistreatment and abuse that can occur in residential care facilities. We know what happens when medically fragile, disabled individuals are placed in understaffed and institutional environments. Recent reporting on neglect and deaths in Missouri facilities only reinforces what families like ours already know to be true.

Lucas would not survive in a facility.

Med PCA in-home services allow Lucas to receive individualized, medically appropriate care in a familiar and stable environment. His caregivers are trained specifically to meet his medical needs, recognize subtle nonverbal cues, and respond immediately to changes in his condition.

Since receiving Med PCA services:

- Lucas has remained safe and medically stable
- He has made meaningful progress rather than regressing
- His care is consistent and responsive
- He is able to remain at home with his family

This level of care cannot be replicated in residential facilities.

It is also critical to understand that families like ours do not have natural supports. We do not have extended family who can step in to help care for our son. Even with consistent Med PCA staffing, only one parent is able to work, due to Lucas's extensive medical and daily care needs.

The stability provided by trained Med PCA staff is what allows our family to function at all. Losing staff would be devastating, not only for Lucas, but for our family's physical and mental health. The strain of

attempting to replace medically trained caregivers—or going without them—would significantly impact our ability to safely care for our son.

If something were to happen to myself or my husband due to burnout, illness, or exhaustion, Lucas would have no safety net. Without in-home Med PCA services, he would inevitably be forced into a facility—an outcome we know would put his life at risk.

Currently, Lucas's Med PCA caregivers earn \$32.00 per hour. Even at this rate, these positions come with no overtime pay, no sick leave, no PTO, no health insurance, and no benefits of any kind. Caregivers accept these roles because of their dedication and because the pay at least acknowledges the level of skill and responsibility required.

Under the proposed changes, that wage would be cut to \$22.88 per hour.

This is not a minor adjustment. It is a nearly 30% pay cut for highly trained medical caregivers.

It is unrealistic—and unsafe—to expect Med PCA caregivers, who perform medically complex tasks, to earn the same wage as standard PCA workers. These roles are not equivalent. Med PCA staff have advanced training and are entrusted with the health and safety of individuals who cannot advocate for themselves.

The Impact of These Cuts on Lucas

A cut from \$32.00 to \$22.88 per hour will result in caregivers leaving. There is no way to retain medically trained staff at that wage when they can earn equal or higher pay elsewhere—with benefits and far less responsibility.

When Med PCA staff leave:

- Care plans collapse
- Medically fragile individuals lose in-home support
- Families are left with no option but institutional care

For Lucas, this would mean forced placement into a residential facility—an environment we know, from personal experience, would place him at serious risk of harm.

Civil Rights Implications

Federal law is clear. Under the ADA and the Supreme Court's "At Risk of Institutionalization" doctrine, states violate civil rights protections when policy decisions place individuals at serious risk of being forced into institutions.

The outcome matters more than the justification.

Policies that drive medically trained caregivers out of the workforce and dismantle in-home supports directly place individuals like Lucas at risk of institutionalization, regardless of any rate study or fiscal rationale.

Med PCA in-home services are not optional for Lucas. They are not a luxury. They are the only reason he is able to live safely at home.

Cutting Med PCA wages to a level that makes it impossible to retain qualified caregivers will undo years of progress and place Lucas in immediate danger. He needs and deserves medically trained caregivers who are compensated in a way that reflects the skill, responsibility, and risk of the care they provide.

Anything less puts his life, his safety, and his civil rights at risk.

Sincerely,
Trisha Crismon
Mother and Legal Guardian of Lucas Crismon



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS, MISSOURI (NAMI MO)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: tyler.vertexgov@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 2:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We would respectfully ask that the House Budget Committee consider reinstate a total of \$122,487 in section 10.130 of HB 2010 for Mental Health Adult Community Treatment. These funds were recommended by the Dept. of Mental Health, but removed in the governor's recommendations. These funds for decades have helped to fund vital mental health services including; 1) Mental Health Training for Healthcare Professionals (\$19,482 cut in CRD.GV.168) 2) Parent Ombudsman and Education Services (\$43,005 cut in CRD.GV.167), and 3) the Family to Family Program (\$60,000 cut in CRD.GV.169). These programs have helped Missouri families, children, veterans, healthcare providers, and many other vital groups train to cope with the real world impacts of living with serious mental illnesses (such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and many others). This programming helps to keep those with serious mental illnesses out of our state healthcare and criminal justice systems and incurring substantial financial cost, for a very reasonable proactive investment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: V NICOLE DAVID PENNINGTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 7:00 PM

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The proposed cuts to disability care will devastate families who need it the most. The programs that would be cut offer much-needed support for families and people with developmental disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VALERI FARMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 9:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have two high needs disabled adult nephews. They are non-verbal and require full time care. Self-directed services funding, allow them to live next door to their parents with access to caregivers. They require an individual assistant each when leaving their home. SDS allows them to attend family events gatherings with the support of their assistant. Without these this funding, the family would be faced with a difficult decision to potentially institutionalize, costing the state significantly more money.

- Protect Self-Directed Services (SDS)
- Maintain sustainable DSP wages
- Do not balance the budget on the backs of people with disabilities
- SDS works and saves money long-term



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VICI MANNING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2026 1:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Governor's proposed budget, as filed under HB10 (MO House of Representatives), is of grave concern to me and all people who know disabled persons.

Cuts to Self Directed Services (SDS), a part of Medicaid, will endanger my ability to keep my daughter safely in my home. This proposed budget will make it even more difficult to find and hire people to help me care for my disabled family members. The result of this budget may actually be that without support; our family member may have to move to a residential facility at state expense. These agencies are not currently able to handle a large influx of clients and are also more expensive to the state.

This bill also includes many cuts to Medicaid programs such as a 33% cut to Day Services for individuals with developmental disabilities. These services are essential for individualized opportunities, community connections, and overall, meaningful days. Cuts would deeply impact individuals, families, and local providers like Community Living, Inc.

Being disabled is one minority group that anyone can join, at any time, due to an unexpected injury or accident. So it is in everyone's best interest to support this community and take care of our disabled people. SDS is the most effective use of funding for providing services for our most vulnerable citizens.

I am 70 years old, soon to be 71, with a bad back, pre-diabetes and difficulty walking. My 24 year old daughter has Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Developmental Delay and Anxiety issues. My husband is also already on disability due to his back issues. With help provided by SDS funds I had planned to continue to keep my daughter at home for as long as possible. These cuts have shortened that plan immensely.

We are looking for your help in rectifying this issue and asking that cuts to Medicaid programs, such as SDS, are not allowed. The funding should remain, and no cuts made.

Respectfully,
Vici Manning

1851 Dougherty Terrace Drive, Ballwin, MO. 63021
636-236-1962



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VICTORIA MCMULLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 8:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

SDS cuts

Our family has been using Self-Directed Support Medicaid services for the past 25 years to support our 46-year-old son. Ron has multiple disabilities that include intellectual disability (secondary to extreme prematurity and hydrocephaly), mixed type cerebral palsy and autism. He had 6 shunt failures in the first 6 years of his life. Ron was adopted at age five. At that time his prognosis was not good as he was not expected to be able to walk at and to have serious trouble with developing verbal communication skills.

However, with support from his family and friends, Ron has been able to overcome many obstacles to exceed original expectations. Ron needs physical and behavioral supports for all activities of daily living. He partially participates by engaging in the core motor components of activities or verbally directing the activity. He needs assistance with accessing materials. Individuals supporting Ron must listen and observe carefully to understand his communication. He needs encouragement to participate in new activities. Ron can advocate for many of his needs/wants. Ron expresses to staff when he is hungry or thirsty or needs to use the toilet. Ron can also communicate to staff when there are activities or items that he wants around the home. Ron has a calendar where staff will paste picture cards that reflect the activities that Ron engaged in that day. Staff will review with Ron what each of these pictures is and go over Ron's day with him. Ron's apartment is the basement of his parents' house, so Ron sees his mom and dad daily. Ron sees his brother and sister as well as extended family at family get-togethers and on holidays. Ron has many friends he enjoys seeing. Ron has great relationships with a few of his peers from school and with former staff who are still a part of Ron's life. Ron needs physical and behavioral supports to access community recreational settings. Staff also support Ron in contacting friends and family through phone calls, greeting cards, and Facebook.

Ron experiences a variety of chronic pain conditions. His mobility is decreasing as he ages. His doctors tell us that we should expect his health to continue to decline over the next few years. Staff provide encouragement in appropriately communicating about pain and physical needs and provide appropriate physical, medical and behavioral supports based on Ron's communication and their assessment of his well-being throughout the day. As Ron's continues to experience accelerated aging and as we, his parents age, we want him to age in place and die peacefully at home. Unfortunately, without adequately trained and paid staff, we may have to move him out of home at a much greater cost to the taxpayers. Even worse, he will be at risk for spending his days confused and angry and possibly restrained physically or chemically due to misunderstandings about his communicative and behavioral support needs.

Missouri families caring for a loved one with a disability in their own homes are under attack, with the only plausible outcome being to institutionalize them. The Governor's budget targets those families who are providing this care with the help of paid caregivers that they find, hire and train on their own

without the added expense of a home health agency (providers). The providers are not receiving cuts to their PA services but are receiving cuts to day habilitation programs.

In short, the \$6.96 effective hourly rate reduction (\$29.04 to 23.88), regular SDS PA families will LOSE THEIR EMPLOYEES and not be able to hire new ones. The impact is even greater for Med PA families. The CSR for these services for the past 10 years states that SDS will have the same rates as providers for these identical services. Three years ago, the DMH ignored this CSR and did not provide the legislated increases to SDS. The following year, they filed with CMS to freeze the SDS wages without a rate study or CSR in agreement. The Mercer rate studies completed over the last 2 years confirmed the PA rates to be within range for both SDS and Providers for the SAME JOB. DMH has now informed that they are going to change the CSR to meet their current financial needs, calling for public comment next week.

SDS is the most effective use of funding for providing services to Missouri's most vulnerable citizens. The proposed budget ignores this fact. Unlike the provider model and the habilitation centers, SDS staff turnover is extremely low, budgets are routinely minimized, abuse and neglect are nonexistent, and client satisfaction is extremely high. And this service enables families to stay together in their natural homes, have jobs, and be productive taxpayers for this Great State.

The proposed budget will not reduce the spending on this state's most vulnerable population. Rather, it will dramatically increase the future financial burden by forcing these families to stop using the service and seek other ways to keep their loved ones safe and healthy. This could be by attempting to use a local provider for in-home services. However, there is no capacity for the existing providers to absorb these families in their PA service, nor is there any provision in the budget to provide for this expansion. This would then force families to separate and send their loved ones to a residential service provider. However, there is no capacity in the residential provider network, nor increased budget for them either. The only outcome this budget suggests is institutionalization in the state's habilitation centers at a cost of over \$600,000 per year per client. The proposed changes are ethically and fiscally irresponsible.

As members of Self-Directed Supports-MO, the only group that is comprised entirely of families and individuals using self-directed supports, we implore legislators to listen to the stakeholders who will be directly affected. Agency providers are currently shielded from cuts in PA services but have proposed cuts for their day habilitation services. We seek equity across all services, for SDS and Providers, as has been the existing governing CSRs for 10 years.

There must be other ways to keep our families together and to help with balancing the state budget for FY26 more equitably and humanely. Medicaid cuts of any kind do not represent the population of the Show-Me State, we can do better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VINCENT TAORMINA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:05 AM

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I strongly oppose these draconian cuts to support staff for adults with disabilities. It's absolutely ridiculous, evil, and outright wrong



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VIRGINIA VOM BEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2026 5:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please no cuts for sds services. My grandson uses these services and cutting these would be devastating for him. It also isn't fair to make POA and Payee pay noble to be employees. You are discriminating against single parents. SDs is way cheaper than the alternatives. Please no cuts to Medicaid! These people need this to live happy healthy lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VONDA POWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 2:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Greetings to the Budget Committee.

While our family is not in attendance today, we will be there on February 25th for Disability Rights Legislative Day. We hope to meet with many of you at that time.

Our family is so very grateful to have a Medicaid waiver that provides self-directed services (SDS) for our young adult son, Adam Powell. Without these services, our son would undoubtedly be in a congregate living setting. Adam is nonverbal with autism, and requires assistance with many basic skills.

Through the love and support of staff, Adam is able to be successful.

If the proposed budget cuts go through, our staff will be financially devastated. Staff receive no benefits of any kind. Robust pay allows us to purchase every benefit out of pocket.

Adam is thriving as a vibrant part of our community. He volunteers numerous times weekly, attends church each Sunday, and is well known and loved throughout Liberty, Missouri. His life would be vastly different if he was forced to move into a congregate setting.

We implore you to vote AGAINST any budget cuts to the SDS program.

Help us keep Adam safe, healthy, and at home where he belongs.

Sincerely,

Vonda Powell



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WENDY MELLAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We are writing to you as residents of Missouri. Our daughter Tricia is a living miracle. She is on three forms of life support (24/7 ventilation, Oxygen 24/7, and 8 to 10 continuous IV medications including being fed through her heart , not the stomach)! She is clearly disabled and she relies on the Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program administered by the Missouri Department of Mental Health. This program has been an invaluable lifeline for our family, enabling her to manage and direct personalized care in our home rather than in a hospital 24/7 like she lived in for 10.5 months straight when she first landed on the ventilator. We basically run a mini ICU in our home because there is nowhere (no facility on earth) that can house her other than a hospital ICU or ICU step-down unit in a hospital that literally costs millions of dollars as you might imagine not to mention is life threatening and not the way to live. Recent and proposed budget cuts to SDS and related home and community-based services (HCBS) under Missouri's Medicaid waivers seriously threaten this essential support. We **URGE YOU TO OPPOSE** these cuts and advocate for full funding of SDS to ensure families can continue providing safe, dignified, and cost-effective care for our loved ones. Our daughter would absolutely not be alive without this program. She does , in her words, "have a decent quality of life despite her health challenges." She encourages, inspires , and empowers other patients and families around the world to live their best lives despite any disabilities or challenges. She has saved many lives herself according to people who follow her and who have reached out to her these past few years. She is making a powerful contribution to society.

The SDS program empowers individuals with developmental disabilities—like our daughter Tricia—and their families to exercise greater choice and control over their supports. Through SDS, we can hire, train, and manage caregivers—often family members or trusted community providers—to deliver tailored services right in the comfort of our home. This approach not only promotes Tricia's independence, dignity, and well-being but also delivers substantial cost savings to the state. According to data from the Department of Mental Health, the average annual cost per person for SDS is approximately \$48,534, compared to over \$600,000 for care in state-operated facilities and millions of dollars in our daughter's case if she were to be stuck in a hospital. By keeping Tricia at home, SDS reduces the strain on institutional resources and helps prevent costly hospitalizations or placements that would burden Missouri's budget.

Regrettably, ongoing federal and state budget pressures—including anticipated reductions in federal Medicaid funding of up to 14% (potentially \$11-18 billion over the next decade for Missouri)—have already led to constraints on SDS. In fiscal year 2025, new applicants were placed on waitlists due to funding limitations, and fiscal year 2026 budget discussions continue to highlight the risks of further reductions, including cuts to Medicaid HCBS and related programs. These funding shortfalls directly

endanger our family's ability to keep Tricia safely at home. Without adequate resources she may have to turn to less suitable alternatives that are not only far more expensive for taxpayers but also disruptive to her stability, health, and happiness and in her case most likely land her six feet under very quickly due to hospital acquired infections and complications she runs into in the hospitals.

These funding challenges severely cripple our ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare providers. SDS reimbursement rates are already under pressure, and additional cuts would make it nearly impossible to offer competitive wages in today's labor market. Caregivers are the backbone of this program, but inadequate pay deters potential hires, resulting in staffing shortages that compromise the quality and safety of care for vulnerable individuals like Tricia. Agencies have tried and were not able to produce any qualified nurses to care for our daughter given the current shortage of nurses and the lower pay that already is in place these past few years. Dropping pay in the SDS program by 1/3 (almost \$10 an hour) for a medical personal care assistant will most likely cause us to lose the help we have in addition to trouble attracting qualified help. Protecting SDS funding is essential—not only for fiscal responsibility but also to support Missouri's most vulnerable citizens and avoid a costly shift back to institutional models.

I respectfully ask you to champion the restoration and expansion of funding for SDS in the current and upcoming budget cycles. By investing in this program, you will help families like ours maintain community-based care for loved ones like Tricia, achieve long-term savings for the state, and ensure that individuals with disabilities can live fulfilling lives surrounded by family. Please consider the profound human impact of these decisions and stand with Missouri families in need. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this further or share more about our experiences with Tricia's care and her contribution to society. We truly believe she is still with us today thanks to this great program. Please help us keep this program and funding together.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your dedication to serving the people of Missouri.

Sincerely
Wendy and Patrick Melland



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WENDY ORSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am with the Behavioral Health Network of Greater St. Louis (BHN), an intermediary organization comprised of leadership from multiple sectors of healthcare working together to improve behavioral health outcomes in the region. I am writing in opposition to the Governor's recommendation to reduce funding for EPICC Peer Recovery by \$250,000 (Bill Section 10.115).

The EPICC program is a statewide, evidence-based public health initiative that provides 24/7 peer recovery response to individuals experiencing overdose and substance use crises, linking them to treatment, recovery supports, and harm reduction services. In FY2025 alone, EPICC served 5,376 Missourians, responding across five regions and generating an average of 447 referrals per month. Since its launch, EPICC staff have responded to more than 29,000 referrals, demonstrating sustained and growing demand for this life-saving program.

EPICC is not only reaching people — it is keeping them engaged in care. Of those served in FY2025, 50% maintained their engagement with care and support services beyond the one-month mark. This is particularly significant given the complex barriers faced by EPICC participants, including housing instability, justice involvement, and transportation challenges.

EPICC plays a critical role in overdose prevention. In FY2025, EPICC provided: Overdose education to 4,067 individuals; Naloxone to 3,071 individuals. These services directly reduce overdose deaths and prevent repeat emergency department utilization.

The proposed elimination of \$250,000 in General Revenue funding by Governor Kehoe would severely undermine EPICC's capacity to: maintain 24/7 peer response coverage; Staff certified peer specialists across Missouri; Sustain hospital, EMS, and community partnerships; Provide naloxone and overdose education at scale.

Without this funding, Missouri will see: fewer individuals reached at crisis points, increased emergency room utilization and incarceration costs, higher overdose mortality, and greater long-term financial burden on the healthcare and justice systems.

EPICC is not a discretionary program — it is a proven, cost-effective public safety and public health intervention that saves lives while reducing system-wide costs. Protecting this \$250,000 in General Revenue is essential to sustaining EPICC's life-saving impact and ensuring Missouri continues its commitment to recovery-oriented systems of care. On

behalf of the Behavioral Health Network and our coalition of healthcare providers, we respectfully urge the committee to reject this proposed funding cut and reaffirm the state's commitment to saving lives, strengthening communities, and reducing the long-term costs associated with untreated substance

use disorder.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WILL SCHUMAKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 4:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Do not cut the budget for Day Service Programs. My son is severely disabled and attends the day program at Choices for People in Rolla. Cutting funding that could take away day services would negatively impact not only the people that attend them but also the family members. If you have ever been to programs like these you would know how important they are to the people and communities they are in.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YAN DALLAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 8:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My daughter has autism and anxiety . Her day program DPI in lees summit helps her to have social life and her life skill . She is very happy to attend there every day . I can't image how she will be without the day service or the quality of the day service decrease . As a parent with disability kid , we worry about our kids safety and happiness all the time . We hope you can consider the kids life and help them to improve bit not worse .
Thank you for your time and attentions .



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YVETTE KARCHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:17 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Yvette Karcher, and I am writing as a constituent in O'Fallon, a single mother, and the sole caregiver for my daughter, Megan, through the self-directed services program. I am deeply concerned about the proposed wage cuts to the caregiver program that allows me to care for her at home. A reduction in wages would have a serious and destabilizing impact on our family. I currently work two other jobs to make ends meet while caring for Megan full-time. Our budget is already stretched thin, and a pay reduction would create untenable financial pressure, threatening our ability to provide her with safe and consistent care.

Megan is medically complex, with conditions that are not well known or well understood by many medical professionals. I have witnessed my daughter stop breathing multiple times. I have witnessed my daughter go into anaphylactic shot multiple times. These can happen at any moment of any day because of her conditions. Even Emergency Room personnel frequently do not know how to appropriately treat her conditions without my direct involvement. Because of this, I am certain that a residential or institutional placement would not be able to meet her needs safely or effectively. In addition to her medical complexity and autism, Megan also lives with C-PTSD, and being removed from her primary caregiver and home environment would be profoundly harmful to her physical and emotional well-being.

The caregiver program allows Megan to remain at home, where she is safest and most stable, while also saving the state the significantly higher costs associated with residential care, repeated emergency visits, or hospitalizations. Cutting wages for caregivers threatens the sustainability of this arrangement—not because caregivers are unwilling, but because we are being pushed beyond what is financially possible. I get paid 40 hours per week, but actually take care of her 24 hours a day. Residential programs are much more costly and understaffed.

I am asking you to please reconsider these proposed wage cuts and to recognize the essential role that family caregivers play in caring for medically fragile individuals. These programs are not only compassionate—they are cost-effective, humane, and necessary. Why would the committee recommend a solution that would overwhelm the system, damage care to patients, and cost more money?

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and for considering the real impact these decisions have on families like mine. I would welcome the opportunity to share more about our situation if that would be helpful.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YVONNE CLARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 9:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, I am writing concerning the HB 10 that is proposed to cut SDS pay rates. I am the mother and guardian of a 28 year old daughter that relies on SDS. A little about my daughter, Tabitha...she was hit by a drunk driver when she was 18, after she had graduated high school and was going to college. This caused her to become permanently and totally disabled. She has a severe TBI throughout her brain, has short term and long term memory loss, has no balance, has limited mobility of her right side, a huge choking hazzard (silent aspiration), wheelchair bound and today 10 years later, is still 24/7 care and will always be. Hence the reason we now use SDS. She has 3 staff, one full time and 2 part timers. She is approved for 70 hours a week - 10 hours a day. This is so I can work but once I get home, I am her caretaker. So yes, I have 2 full time jobs!

Tabitha's staff work with her during the day so I can work and provide a roof over our heads. I had to purchase an accessible house, accessible van and pay for guardianship, so yes, I will never get to retire. Tabitha's staff work with her daily on all of her ADL's as she is not able shower, toilet herself, fix meals, take meds, etc without assistance. Tabitha never feels hungry or thirsty so staff has to remind her to drink liquids, they prepare her meals so she will eat. Staff takes her to 4 therapies she has weekly. They take her on outings to the store, out for walks helping her walk her service dog. They take her to doctors appointments. Tabitha participates in Special Olympics and if events happen during their shifts, they take her. She goes to socials with the Arc of the Ozarks so she can visit with her friends. They help her live her best life possible. Life ended for the Tabitha I knew that day on 12/5/15 when the drunk driver hit her. This is her new life. Life is a challenge but we have learned to "wing it". Our new norm is to have staff in my house for those times I am working.

We tried having nurses come in to take care of her while I worked...nurses that were paid high dollar to NOT take care of Tabitha per my instructions, nurses paid high dollar to smoke around my daughter (because Tabitha was non verbal at that time thinking I wouldn't find out). I tried adult day cares for awhile, only to have her left unattended in her wheelchair, never re-positioned, maybe in a wet pull-up, or to have the daycare shut down with no notice.

SDS has been our 100% go to for about the last 5 years. Staff do not get paid holidays, vacation pay, sick time, insurance, no benefits at all other than their pay rate. Staff never know if Tabitha is going to have an up or down day, on or off day, good or bad day, every day is a different day. Tabitha has to take naps, sometimes multiple times a day to "reset her brain". She get brain fatigue and at times, can not function. She has about a 2 hour time frame for her best brain function.

Please forward this to the proper people to stop this proposal of a 30% rate cut for SDS employees. Staff can not take that big of a cut. Can you? Can anyone? Don't hurt the citizens of Missouri that are our most vulnerable citizens, those that can't do for themselves and absolutely need this help. If this cut is allowed to be passed at a 30% rate cut, I WILL lose staff! Their mortgages, vehicle payments, families depend on their income. I depend on my/Tabitha's staff.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Yvonne Clark, mother/guardian of Tabitha Clark
1132 N Oak Park Dr
Springfield, MO 65802
417-379-6353**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZACHARY HEMMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Zach. My mom and dad and PA Dustyn call me Bub! I am 26 years old. I have disabilities. I use the SDS program for support in my home and when I go places. Because I have help, I can work on my farm, Bub and Moose Farms. I am a Chicken Whisperer!

I am a good advocate. I said no more seclusion rooms. [Context: Zach visited Jefferson City multiple times and also Washington DC, in 2009 to tell his story about improper restraint and seclusion room use. He used to enjoy discussing history, current events, and politics, but has become increasingly distraught over the past 10 years, especially during COVID and about "angry people."]

When asked what would happen if he lost his support people due to proposed budget cuts to the SDS program:

I'm afraid I won't be able to work on my farm.

I'm afraid of getting hurt because I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do if an emergency happens or a stranger comes. It might get too loud.

I would hurt myself and break things if no one was with me and I was angry or sad.

Who would help me fact check?

I won't eat different foods because I am afraid of choking.

If I can't live in my home with my mom and my dad and my brother and my parrot and my cat and my chickens, I'll shut down and probably be suicidal.

[Context: Zach's support people use and help Zach apply dialectical behavior therapy skills and self-regulation tools to guide Zach through overwhelming anxiety and sensory overstimulation, and also due to his inability to recognize and manage unsafe behaviors.]

When asked how the SDS program does and will help him:

I'm not afraid of going out to places because I have help.

I get to do things I enjoy.

I take care of animals like chickens.

I make sure my grass has straight lines.

I can sell eggs, flowers, and vegetables. I can give it away to people who need it.

I want to build another coop for turkeys.

I want to fix up an old tractor.

I got my hunter safety conservation license. I have hunting buddies! I can't do that without help!

I worked at a Farmer's Market and at Kroger. I need help remembering how to get ready and get me there. I don't work at Kroger anymore because they changed the store and built a gas station.

Customers were mad. I thought they were mad at me. I like working on my farm.

I still want to learn more mechanical things.

[Information not in brackets was verbally stated by Zach and typed by Zach's mom Angelique Hemmer. Zach Hemmer is a registered and participating voter who lives at 40 Countryside Estates Drive, Troy, MO 63379]



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZAYN HEIKKILA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:44 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, I am the father of a 22 year old girl who was born at 23 weeks and only weighed 1lb 5oz and was given a less than 5% chance to live or be anything more than a vegetable. My daughter has something called Dandy-Walker syndrome and is missing the cortical part of her brain that regulates emotions. She also has CP , but she doesn't let anything stop her. She went from being non-verbal to talking up a storm. She went from strictly wheelchair, to only needing a wheelchair for longer distances. We have been through all the steps, because it's required to try, of putting her in an ISL or agency. Every single agency has turned her away because of her very aggressive behaviors at times. Even the ARC has denied her due to this. She only has family care for her because we know how to deal with her best and make it least restrictive for her. Our family members alternate shifts to make sure she is cared for. We attempted hiring outside of the family once and within the week, she called us asking to come and get her. If her SDS is cut, we will be required to work outside of the home and there will be nobody there to care for her. As of now, I work full time with her, my wife works 2 jobs, we are not asking for handouts. The care on top of the SDS financially is quite a bit. We have had to pay out of pocket for wheelchairs, replacing broken items, various things. She requires 24hr care, as she needs assistance with feeding, toileting, hygiene, bathing, dressing, cooking, everything. The state is also reducing the approved hours for her care, stating that there should be natural support provided. But since overtime has already been taken away, we already provide MANY hours of natural care, as she is our daughter. My problem is that, if this cut is made, we will have to work outside of the home, her sisters will have to do the same, and who will be left to care for her when every single agency has sent her away. Karla Phillips is her support coordinator at Abilities First in Springfield, MO and has stated that with her level of care, she would need 3-1 staff. Which is true, but what agency can afford 3-1 staff? We are always providing care, even if we aren't on the clock, so only 1 person is claiming those hours. So her costs would automatically triple. She is sweet, loving, caring, very smart, loves to learn sign language, has goals! I do not believe that she deserves to be put in a home, that would automatically disturb her routine and make her life miserable. She has stability at home, she feels safe at home, and her own desire is to stay in her home where things are familiar. Please stand against this bill, as it would put so many at risk and make their lives far more difficult. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ADRIATIK LIKCANI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 204 E. MARKET ST.			
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDON STEENBERGEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-6263	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION OF RECOVERY SUPPORT PROVIDERS		TITLE: EXEC. DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1305 SOUTHWEST BLVD.			
CITY: JEFF CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA MAYO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:26 PM

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Nami is an extremely important resources for ems, fire and police. most of their services are free and are extremely helpful for mental health for kids. It would be a mistake removing them from your budget.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER ROTERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 8:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As the parent of adult twins with Down Syndrome, self-directed support funding is critical to the daily interactions my daughters have with their personal care attendants (PCAs) and their community. This funding allows my daughters to continue working on skills at home to support them in their endeavor to independent living. It enables them to participate in the community with assistance from their PCAs. The funding also allows our family some financial stability that hasn't been afforded in the past as my wife is able to work as a PCA under the current funding. I strongly ask for your support in restoring the critical funding for SDS that greatly benefits those with individuals to be supported, live in their homes, and be included in their community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE SCHWARTZ & FAITH EWING		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-4913	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DAY SOLUTIONS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CLIENT	
ADDRESS: 210 EL MERCADO PLAZA			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: danielle@daysolutions.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I Danielle Schwartz will testify as a business owner is support of fully funding day program services. I will also assist my client, Faith Ewing, in testifying as well



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDY GRAINGER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-584-0778	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED		TITLE: CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 9150 E 41ST TER			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64133
EMAIL: judyg@cddkc.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 3:06 PM

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I plan to share information on how cuts to DD services in HB 2010 will impact the individuals and families served by the Center for Developmental Disabilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE AND MASON KEATHLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:08 PM

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I Julie Keathley will be testifying in support of funding for day program services. My son, Mason, currently receives day program services and I will help Mason testify as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE KERCKHOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 405-437-7743	
REPRESENTING: SELF DIRECTED SERVICES; DAY PROGRAMS		TITLE: MOM	
ADDRESS: 1306 WHITE ORCHARD LANE			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: julie.kerckhoff@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:19 AM

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

Reducing the pay of sds workers and Day program workers to 93% seems logical but the reality is we are barely able to gather enough qualified workers as is with the competitive pay we presently have. If the cut happens, you will be pulling the program effectiveness because the workers are the heart of the most effective programs for the disabled in the state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURISA BALLEW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORETTA (LORI) ROSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA CRISTINA GARCIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 10:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representative Dirk Deaton,

I am emailing this letter to you because I am a single mom for my 31 year old son, Alex, who has significant developmental disabilities. What this means is that he needs maximum assistance with all of his activities of daily living, plus he is nonverbal, and cannot communicate any of his needs, nor tell if he is in any kind of pain!

Could you imagine if you were in pain, and couldn't tell anyone? I emphasize this because Alex developed scoliosis when he was 15 years of age, and had spinal fusion surgery, so he has a 15" metal rod in his back. His back actually looks very deformed, and just looking at it seems painful.

Alex wears a diaper, needs assistance with eating, showering, grooming, getting dressed, and toileting, not to mention all other areas of life – finances, leisure activities, doctor appointments, Medicaid, SSA, Dept. of Mental Health, and so forth.

As you know, budget cuts seem inevitable for Medicaid waivers through the Dept. of Mental Health, which Alex has the Community Waiver. Currently, he has two caregivers who come to their home, and they assist him with all of his ADLs – Activities of Daily Living, and they involve him in meaningful activities throughout the day, and take him out into the community. Alex must be attended to at all times.

He also attends a day program one longer day, and two shorter days per week. Alex and I utilize the SDS – Self Directed Supports Program and Adult Day Center through the Department of Mental Health. These programs allow for Alex to be at home, and not in an institution. Being in an institution is very costly. **PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDING TO HB10.**

Could you imagine if you had to live in an institution? Unthinkable!

I work from home which allows me to have the flexibility when caregiver situations arise.

So my plea to you is to **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND TO NOT CUT BUDGET HB10, THAT ALLOWS FOR FUNDING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS POPULATION OF HUMANITY!**

I ask you to put yourself in Alex's shoes. I am very grateful to be able to manage my son's care through

the resources of the Department of Mental Health. PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDING TO HB10.

I really appreciate your time, consideration, and efforts to keep as much funding as possible for people with developmental disabilities. PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDING TO HB10.

Thank you very much, and God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Maria Cristina Garcia

443 Coachway Ln

Hazelwood, MO 63042



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY QUANDT		PHONE NUMBER: 608-333-4429	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 100 N TUCKER BLVD STE 840			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: maryquandt@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 9:30 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missouri Appleseed has had the opportunity to work closely with sheriffs and county jail administrators across the state. These relationships led to our survey and report on Mental Health Needs in Missouri Jails. Sheriffs reported substantial concerns about DMH's ability to meet the needs of individuals being held on the competency restoration waitlist. Procedurally, DMH staff turnover and lack of staff in critical roles has been an enormous roadblock for jails attempting to provide necessary services to individuals in their custody. DMH's proposed reduction in hourly wages from \$22/hour to \$16/hour will increase these staffing problems by increasing staff burnout, turnover, and position vacancies. Missouri Appleseed encourages the Budget committee to reconsider this decrease in funding.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN CONNELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-301-7305	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED		TITLE: DIR. OF DEV.	
ADDRESS: 8770 MANCHESTER RD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 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 2010		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RIISA RAWLINS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-898-4049	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMISSION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 1 CAMPBELL PLAZA, SUITE 2A			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL: rrawlins@chcmmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chair Deaton and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Riisa Rawlins, and I serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM). CHCM evaluates legislation through a practical, bipartisan lens—considering how policy decisions affect public health, workforce stability, and the long-term economic resilience of Missouri’s communities.

I submit this testimony in strong support of the \$556,500 budget allocation for the GROW STL initiative.

GROW STL is a coordinated partnership of six community-based organizations that provide direct street outreach to individuals experiencing substance use disorder. Through on-the-ground engagement, these teams connect Missourians to treatment, recovery services, and stabilizing supports that reduce crisis-driven system use.

The program’s impact is both measurable and growing. In FY24, GROW STL provided outreach services to 6,199 individuals, up from 4,393 the previous year. This increase reflects both rising need and the effectiveness of the model. GROW STL was initially established using temporary funding that is now expiring; continued state investment is essential to avoid disruption of these services.

From a fiscal and public safety standpoint, this allocation represents a responsible use of public funds. Successful connections to treatment reduce repeat emergency department utilization, overdoses, and avoidable interactions with law enforcement and first responders. They also increase the likelihood that individuals can stabilize, return to the workforce, and contribute to their families and communities.

This approach prioritizes early intervention over downstream crisis response. It is cost-conscious, evidence-aligned, and responsive to the realities facing Missouri communities. At a time of sustained substance use challenges, maintaining proven outreach capacity is critical.

Thank you for your consideration and for your stewardship of Missouri’s resources.

Respectfully,
Riisa Rawlins, CEO Community Health Commission of Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RYAN MELTON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-529-9608	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 2312 ANNIE BAXTER			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64801
EMAIL: rmelton@cssmo.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 8:02 AM
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I am the President and Chief Executive Officer for Community Support Services of Missouri. I am here to speak against the proposed rate cuts to Day Hab services provided through the Department of Developmental Disabilities.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON MERTZLUFFT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-301-7307	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS: 8770 MANCHESTER RD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SONJA GILLESPIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN PALOMO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 11:52 AM
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My grandson has autism and ADHD. He came to live with me in Gladstone, MO when his mother died in February 2021. I have received a great amount of assistance because funds were available to give emotional support to me and my grandson. Fortunately I had people helping to get the appropriate help and have been assisted by the funds that were available. Now my grandson is ready to graduate High School and move out of my home. He will continue to need assistance through his adult life. Please continue to provide funds to help people that need financial support to continue throughout their lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YURIY KIRICHOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:05 AM
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My wife, Polina, and I are the parents of two children. Our 13-year-old son, Eli, is a typical child, while our 22-year-old daughter, Alice, has severe autism and significant developmental delay. We are both professors at Washington University in St. Louis with demanding professional responsibilities. My wife conducts research in reproductive biology, and I focus on diabetes and obesity. Our work is dedicated to discovering new scientific insights and translating them into treatments for infertility and metabolic disease.

Despite our professional commitments, our greatest responsibility is to our children. We rely on Missouri's Self-Directed Services (SDS) program to keep our daughter at home, where she belongs — with her family.

Even at the current reimbursement rates, it is already extremely difficult to find and retain qualified caregivers. Caring for a person with significant disabilities requires patience, skill, and commitment. If caregiver pay rates are reduced as proposed in the new budget, we will simply be unable to find individuals willing to provide the care our daughter needs.

Without SDS support at sustainable rates, one of us would likely have to leave our career to provide full-time care. This would have profound financial consequences for our family and would reduce our ability to continue contributing to Missouri's research, innovation, and economic development. Most importantly, without adequate support, our daughter would be at serious risk of institutionalization.

We strongly believe in the value of family and in the principle that every child — regardless of disability — deserves to grow up and live in a loving home. We love our daughter deeply and are committed to keeping her with us, surrounded by care and dignity.

We use SDS funds responsibly and efficiently. We personally invest many unpaid hours recruiting, training, scheduling, and supervising caregivers to ensure that every dollar is used effectively.

We respectfully ask for your support in preserving funding for the Self-Directed Services program and maintaining current caregiver pay rates. Doing so will protect families like ours, strengthen communities, and uphold Missouri's commitment to its most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.