



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2151		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX EATON		PHONE NUMBER: 513-616-9860	
REPRESENTING: OZARK TECH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1001 EAST CHESTNUT EXPRESSWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65802
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	

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



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN MILLNER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8787
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT/CEO
ADDRESS: 2420 HYDE PARK RD		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: brian.millner@mccatoday.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 6:57 AM

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The Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant is an important scholarship for allowing adults to take advantage of an opportunity to go back to college for additional education and training. The current earnings caps are preventing some potential students from the benefits of this program as the wage cap for an individual is right at the threshold where someone might need training to earn a family-supporting wage but makes just a bit too much for the current Fast Track grant. The Missouri Community College Association is supportive of HB2151 in that raising the cap will allow more lower-to-middle income individuals to get trained for a better career opportunity for themselves and their family.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHANCE HEPOLA		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BARDGETT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-409-2855	
REPRESENTING: MO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 16141 SWINGLEY RIDGE RD.			
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63017
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY GIDDENS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6203	
REPRESENTING: METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, GREATER KC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI MERCADO		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: tmercado@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 1:16 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chairwoman Gallick and members of the House Committee on Economic Development: ??

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 2151, sponsored by Representative Travis Wilson. ??

Access to a trained workforce remains one of the top challenges facing employers and has a direct impact on business growth and economic competitiveness. The Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant continues to serve as an important program that encourages adults to pursue training in high-need employment areas by providing tuition support to eligible participants. By expanding access to in-demand credentials and apprenticeships, this program strengthens Missouri’s workforce pipeline and enhances our ability to attract and retain talent across key industries.

In recent years, the Missouri General Assembly has made meaningful improvements to Fast Track, including transitioning the program from a loan to a grant structure and extending its sunset. These changes have helped increase participation and maximize the program’s impact. Institutions in Southwest Missouri, including Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University, have seen strong utilization of the program, demonstrating both regional demand and its effectiveness as a workforce development tool.

However, the current income eligibility caps limit access for many working adults who would benefit from additional training but exceed the existing thresholds. By increasing the maximum gross income eligibility and indexing those caps to inflation moving forward, this proposal ensures the program remains accessible, adaptable, and aligned with real-world economic conditions. Expanding eligibility will allow more Missourians to pursue high-demand credentials while helping employers fill critical workforce gaps.

We respectfully encourage your support of this legislation to strengthen and modernize the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant as a proven component of Missouri’s workforce development strategy.

Sincerely,??

Matt Morrow??
 President and CEO??
 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce??

**202 S John Q Hammons Parkway??
Springfield, MO 65806**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:25 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill and the Loss of yet over \$1-Million in additional Tax-Credits. Our State is Facing a \$2-Billion Deficit and needs to cut in a lot of different places to achieve a Balance-Budget.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/13/2026 10:23 AM
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Chair and Members of the Committee:

HB 2151 expands income eligibility for the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant from \$40,000 to \$50,000 for single filers and from \$80,000 to \$100,000 for joint filers, then permanently indexes those caps to inflation.

There has been no demonstrated failure of the current thresholds.

No utilization study is cited.

No unmet demand analysis is presented.

No workforce placement data justifies expansion.

The program was designed to target nontraditional, lower-income adults entering high-need occupations. Raising income caps without tightening accountability shifts the program from targeted intervention to broad subsidy.

If funds are limited, expansion does not create more opportunity — it redistributes opportunity upward.

If funds are sufficient, the legislature should ask why the existing target population is not exhausting current appropriations before widening the pool.

Automatic CPI indexing removes future legislative review. Income caps will rise without additional data, oversight, or debate. That is a structural expansion of eligibility authority without a structural expansion of accountability.

Workforce programs must be calibrated, not politically expanded.

Before raising thresholds, the General Assembly should require:

- Completion rate reporting**
- Three-year employment obligation tracking**
- Verified placement in designated occupational shortage areas**
- Cost-per-placement analysis**

Absent that data, this bill is not reform. It is enlargement.

Public dollars tied to workforce strategy should be precise, measured, and performance-conditioned — not automatically inflation-adjusted and broadened by default.

For those reasons, HB 2151 should not advance in its current form.