



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2408</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Legislative Review</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRETT WILHELM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2026 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DENNIS MILLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2026 11:12 AM</b>
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I am asking the committee to support HB 2408. As a deaf/blind individual who has used SSP services in the past I know how valuable they are. For some deaf/blind individuals it can mean the difference between participating in their community or not leaving their home. As we continue to live longer the need for this service will only increase. Having a cap on the amount of funding to provide SSP services could keep those who really need a SSP from being able to get one. Please support HB 2408



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LYDIA OLMSTED</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/5/2026 4:39 PM</b>	

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**HB 2408 appropriately authorizes targeted grant funding to support deaf-blind Missourians across the lifespan, including children, adults working toward independence, and trained support service providers.**

**The bill is narrowly tailored, administratively sound, and consistent with Missouri’s constitutional obligations to protect vulnerable populations without imposing unfunded mandates.**

**Lawful, Limited, and Appropriation-Dependent**

**Importantly, HB 2408 is expressly subject to appropriations, preserving legislative fiscal control and avoiding any automatic entitlement or structural mandate.**

**This respects both the General Assembly’s budgetary authority and the Hancock Amendment’s prohibition on unfunded obligations imposed on the state or its political subdivisions.**

**The use of a request-for-proposal (RFP) process further ensures transparency, competitiveness, and accountability in the distribution of grant funds.**

**Equity for Rural and Underserved Communities**

**Deaf-blind individuals and families in rural Missouri face compounded barriers: geographic isolation, limited service providers, and reduced access to specialized training. By allowing grants to organizations that provide family advocates, independence support, and provider training, HB 2408 helps close service gaps without centralizing control or excluding small or rural nonprofits.**

**This is a practical accessibility measure, not a symbolic one.**

**Workforce Development Without Bureaucratic Expansion**

**The inclusion of grants for training and certification of support service providers strengthens Missouri’s care workforce without creating new agencies, boards, or regulatory burdens. This approach expands capacity rather than bureaucracy — a distinction too often ignored in social-service legislation.**

**Constitutional Consistency**

**HB 2408 aligns with:**

**Equal protection principles by facilitating access to essential supports,  
Article IV fiscal controls through appropriations-based funding,  
and Hancock Amendment constraints by avoiding compulsory local expenditures.**

**The bill empowers service delivery while maintaining constitutional guardrails.**

#### **Conclusion**

**HB 2408 is an example of restrained, responsible policymaking. It identifies a real need, authorizes lawful support, preserves fiscal oversight, and avoids overreach.**

**When legislation is narrow, transparent, and grounded in real community need, it strengthens public trust. HB 2408 reflects that standard and should move forward.**

**For these reasons, HB 2408 merits support.**



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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHEILA WRIGHT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-679-5258</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>7928 NW MILREY DR.</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64152</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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