



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2461		DATE: 3/10/2026	
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means			
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: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760	
REPRESENTING: COMMUNITY SERVICES LEAGUE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE, SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 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: CHRISTINE WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-503-7277	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: FOOD SECURITY POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: christine@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2026 11:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Christine Woody and I am the Food Security Policy manager for Empower Missouri. We are a statewide non-profit organization that leads a statewide coalition on food security and food access. Many of our coalition members work for or volunteer at food pantries and food banks in Missouri. As you may know, over 12% of Missourians struggle with food insecurity. And in many rural counties and urban centers of our state that percentage is even higher. Our food pantries and food banks are the first lines of defense for those struggling with food insecurity. These organizations rely on donations of food and money to be able to provide for the thousands of individuals they see every month. Providing additional support to these entities through tax credits is one way to increase the help they can provide to families and individuals in communities across Missouri.

Passing HB 2461, will increase the amount of money in the Donated Food Tax Credit Fund, extend the sunset date of the fund and, if the fund runs out, allows tax credit recipients extra time to pay the additional taxes they owe to the State of Missouri.

Missouri has a long history of using tax credits to incentivize businesses, create jobs, increase economic activity and support community organizations. This Donated Food Tax Credit Fund is another such tax credit program and through this bill's passage, the legislature can provide additional support to vital community organizations and decrease food insecurity as well.

We respectfully ask this committee to vote yes on HB 2461.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-861-2623	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CIRCLE OF CONCERN		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 112 ST. LOUIS AVENUE			
CITY: VALLEY PARK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63088
EMAIL: cyndi@circleofconcern.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2026 12:35 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Greetings, Chairman McGirl and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Cyndi Miller, and I'm Executive Director of Circle of Concern Food Pantry in Valley Park, MO. Each month, we serve approximately 700 low-income households residing in the Parkway, Rockwood, Valley Park and Kirkwood School Districts, as well as the Fenton and High Ridge communities in Jefferson County. The largest groups we serve are single parent households with young children, seniors and those living with a disability. Each year, we support approximately 1300 unique households, offering wholesome foods and wraparound services, including: employment mentorship, counseling, scholarships, rent and utility assistance and children's programs.

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit is a wonderful asset to missions like ours. It encourages donors to give, and often encourages donors to give more -- with the knowledge that part of their donation will come back to them in the form of a tax credit.

In recent years, the food pantry tax credit fund has been fully depleted, resulting in partial credits to donors; and in many instances penalties and fees! You can imagine the difficult conversations we've had with donors.

We applaud Senator Amato's efforts to address this issue, and ask for your support of HB2461. The bill increases the fund, extends the sunset date of the credit and allows donors up to 60 days to pay any taxes due because of apportionment of the credit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Miller
 Executive Director
 Circle of Concern



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES BERGMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 3:52 PM	

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

My name is James Bergmann and I volunteer with the Marketplace Food Pantry in House Springs, Missouri. I strongly support the passage of HB 2461.

Across Missouri, the need for food assistance continues to rise. Recent data shows that more than 770,000 Missourians are currently food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from. Many counties in our state have food insecurity rates between 15% and 25% of the population.

At the same time, food pantries are facing declining donations while food prices continue to increase. The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit has been one of the most effective tools for encouraging charitable giving. It allows donors to continue supporting their local food pantries even during difficult economic times.

The proposed 70% tax credit in HB 2461 will strengthen that incentive. It will encourage existing donors to continue giving and attract new donors who want to make a meaningful impact in their communities. This program is not only compassionate, it is fiscally responsible. Food pantries stretch every donated dollar through volunteer labor and discounted food purchasing, allowing charitable contributions to go much further than government programs alone.

Most importantly, the current program expires at the end of this year. If it is not renewed, food pantries across Missouri will lose one of the most important tools we have to keep food on the tables of struggling families.

Passing HB 2461 ensures that Missouri continues a proven partnership between the state, local charities, and generous donors.

I respectfully urge this committee to support and advance HB 2461.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6044	
REPRESENTING: FEEDING MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 124 1/2 E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 7:31 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JOEY KEYS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-475-7570
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SOUTHEAST MISSOURI FOOD BANK		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 600 ST. HWY H		
CITY: SIKESTON	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63801
EMAIL: jkeys@semofoodbank.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 8:38 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of legislation expanding the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit to include donations made to food banks.

My name is Joey Keys, and I serve as CEO at Southeast Missouri Food Bank, which works with over a hundred partner agencies including food pantries, shelters, and community organizations across our region to provide food assistance to families facing hunger.

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit has played an important role in encouraging charitable giving to help address food insecurity in our state. Expanding this credit to include food banks would strengthen Missouri's hunger-relief network and allow donors additional opportunities to support organizations working to provide food to families in need.

Food banks serve as the central distribution hubs for the charitable food system. We acquire, store, and distribute millions of pounds of food each year to local pantries and meal programs that serve individuals and families in their communities. Financial donations are critical to this work because they allow food banks to purchase food in bulk, support transportation and storage, and respond quickly to increases in community need.

Every dollar donated to a food bank can typically provide multiple meals for families facing food insecurity. Expanding eligibility for the tax credit would help encourage additional charitable contributions and strengthen the resources available to the organizations responsible for distributing food across Missouri.

Food banks and food pantries operate as partners in the same system, working together to ensure food reaches people who need it most. Including food banks in the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit would support that system and help improve access to food assistance across the state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting Missouri families and communities.

Sincerely,
 Joey Keys
 CEO
 Southeast Missouri Food Bank



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN SWAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 2:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Kathryn Swan
3926 Annwood
Cape Girardeau MO 63701
kathrynswan@yahoo.com
573.270.0017

March 10, 2026

Re: Testimony for HB 2461
Kathryn Swan
Cape Girardeau MO 63701

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

This testimony is in support of HB 2461 which modifies provisions related to tax credits for food banks. Food banks around the state provide a perfect example of successful community partnerships that address our most fundamental need for nutritious food.

The Southeast Missouri Food Bank, with locations in Sikeston and Cape Girardeau, is the Feeding America network food bank for the 16 counties in southeast Missouri. This organization serves more than 140 hunger-relief organizations including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters, Backpacks for Fridays, mobile food pantries and more. We target our struggling neighbors from all walks of life who face food insecurity – adults, children, veterans, and seniors.

The current economic situation with dwindling federal funds has a negative impact on our food banks. While we appreciate the availability of state NAP tax credits to incentivize businesses to help us, we would be grateful for a mechanism that would encourage individual donations to our cause, like other Benevolent Tax Credit programs.

In comparison with the other Benevolent Tax Credits, the current food pantry tax credit has a lower percentage of tax credit, a lower maximum tax credit and a cap. The Domestic Violence Shelter, Maternity Home and Pregnancy Resource Center tax credits allow 70% of the donation to be claimed, a maximum from \$50,000 - \$100,000 and no state cap. (A spreadsheet is below for your review.) These

community shelters, homes and centers benefit significantly from the generosity of committed local donors helping local people in need.

The proposed changes in HB 2461 will encourage more individual investment to build healthier communities by:

- Addressing the immediate needs of food-insecure neighbors,
- Increasing access to nutritious food,
- Ensuring our children have access to the food that they need to grow and thrive,
- Providing seniors with nutritious meals, and
- Reducing our dependence on federal funds.

Ultimately, a decrease in financial resources for our food banks could also result in an increased cost of state government social service programs.

We believe that no one should face hunger. Therefore, I urge your support for HB 2461 to benefit all food banks in the state to “Help more, Reach more, and Feed more.”

Thank you,

Kathryn Swan
Former State Representative, District 147 (2012-2020)
Board member, Southeast Missouri Food Bank

MISSOURI TAX CREDIT COMPARISON - 9.18.25

Name of Tax Credit

% of donation allowable to claim by a taxpayer per tax year

Maximum tax credit allowable per taxpayer per tax year

Total cumulative amount of tax credits allowed by all taxpayers per fiscal year

Food Pantry 50% (includes soup kitchens & local homeless shelters)	\$2,500.00	\$1,750,000.00	
Domestic Violence Shelter	70%	\$50,000.00	No limit
Maternity Home	70%	\$100,000.00	No limit
Pregnancy Resource Center	70%	\$50,000.00	No limit



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY BUCKMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 660-833-8939	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FEEDING MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: kim@feedingmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 2:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable Chairman McGirl and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Feeding Missouri, the statewide association of Missouri’s six regional food banks, I am writing to express support for House Bill 2461, sponsored by Representative Phil Amato, and House Bill 2457, sponsored by Representative Pattie Mansur, which address Missouri’s donated food tax credit.

Feeding Missouri works to strengthen and support the network of food banks serving every county in Missouri and the City of St. Louis through more than 1,200 community and faith-based hunger-relief programs.

Across Missouri, demand for food assistance continues to grow while traditional sources of surplus food have become less available. At the same time, the cost of purchasing food to help fill those gaps has continued to rise. Now more than ever, food banks rely on private donations to help stabilize communities and ensure local programs have the food they need to serve their neighbors.

HB 2461 and HB 2457 provide a practical way to strengthen Missouri’s hunger-relief system by encouraging private donations of food or funds to hunger-relief organizations.

Food banks play a critical role in this system. They collect food from farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and community partners and distribute it efficiently through a network of local food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and other programs across the state.

When you strengthen food banks, you strengthen every pantry, soup kitchen, shelter, and community they serve.

Through their partnerships, infrastructure, and logistics capacity, food banks maximize the impact of donations and help ensure resources reach communities across Missouri where they are needed most.

By building on Missouri’s existing tax credit and encouraging private donations, these bills help ensure local hunger-relief organizations have the resources needed to serve their communities while leveraging community support rather than expanding government programs.

Sincerely,

Kim Buckman, Director of Advocacy & Communications
Feeding Missouri - Missouri Food Bank Association



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LEIGH ANNE HAUN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-6561	
REPRESENTING: FEEDING MISSOURI		TITLE: FOUNDING DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK LAUER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2026 4:02 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Mark Lauer and I serve as Director of the Marketplace Food Pantry in House Springs, Missouri. I'm here today to strongly support the passage of HB 2461.

Across Missouri, the need for food assistance continues to rise. Recent data shows that more than 770,000 Missourians are currently food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from. Many counties in our state have food insecurity rates between 15% and 25% of the population.

At the same time, food pantries are facing declining donations while food prices continue to increase. The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit has been one of the most effective tools for encouraging charitable giving. It allows donors to continue supporting their local food pantries even during difficult economic times.

The proposed 70% tax credit in HB 2461 will strengthen that incentive. It will encourage existing donors to continue giving and attract new donors who want to make a meaningful impact in their communities. This program is not only compassionate—it is fiscally responsible. Food pantries stretch every donated dollar through volunteer labor and discounted food purchasing, allowing charitable contributions to go much further than government programs alone.

Most importantly, the current program expires at the end of this year. If it is not renewed, food pantries across Missouri will lose one of the most important tools we have to keep food on the tables of struggling families.

Passing HB 2461 ensures that Missouri continues a proven partnership between the state, local charities, and generous donors.

I respectfully urge this committee to support and advance HB 2461.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY LOUISE MANTOAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2026 10:39 PM	
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Chairman and members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the passage of HB2461. The Faith Community Market Place Food Pantry located in House Springs Missouri relies heavily upon business contributors to help support the men, woman and children in desperate need of food donations. Many food pantries are finding it difficult to keep up with the increase demand and are deeply burdened when they have to turn people away for lack of food. The Missouri Food Pantry tax credit is proven to be a tremendous resource that not only encourages but incentivize charitable giving. It is my belief that the proposed 70% tax credit in HB2461 would increase donations greatly needed for struggling families. I personally have placed food in a local food pantry box only to see it picked up minutes later, so I can vouch that the demand and need is real. My hope is that your compassion and love for our community runs deep and you pass HB2461. Programs like this do make a meaningful impact to every one within the supply chain. To the donors it provides a renewed sense of purpose. To volunteers it gives great joy in knowing their time is well appreciated and making a difference, and to the recipient it provides peace in knowing they will be able to feed their family during their journey through difficult times. In closing I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your time and consideration into making this decision. I know it is often hard to budget programs like this, but I have faith in the process and trust in a meaningful outcome. Thank you so much.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN LAUER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 11:43 AM
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The proposed 70% tax credit in HB 2461 will strengthen donor's incentive. It will encourage existing donors to continue giving and attract new donors who want to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

This program is not only compassionate—it is fiscally responsible. Food pantries stretch every donated dollar through volunteer labor and discounted food purchasing, allowing charitable contributions to go much further than government programs alone.

Most importantly, the current program expires at the end of this year. If it is not renewed, food pantries across Missouri will lose one of the most important tools we have to keep food on the tables of struggling families.

Passing HB 2461 ensures that Missouri continues a proven partnership between the state, local charities, and generous donors.

I respectfully urge this committee to support and advance HB 2461.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REV. MEREDITH JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-776-1410	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ISAIAH 58 MINISTRIES		TITLE: PROGRAM DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2149 S GRAND BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL: meredith@i58ministries.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:09 AM	

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My name is Meredith Jackson, and I am the Program Director at Isaiah 58 Ministries. Isaiah 58 Ministries serves those living in hunger and poverty in South St Louis and has been doing this work for over 55 years. In 2025, we had over 39,000 visits for support and the ministry moved over 6,000 pounds of food every week.

We are grateful for our many sources of support as we work to feed our community. We have amazing community partners who help supply us with food and goods. We also have a deep well of financial donors, who help us sustain the infrastructure necessary to serve our guests. The additional support of tax credits encourages our donors to give generously to our work, allowing us to increase the services we can offer.

HB 2461 will increase the Donated Food Pantry Tax Credit Fund, which is well utilized every year and often runs out of available funds. In the event that the fund runs out, the bill will also allow tax credit recipients extra time to pay the additional taxes that they owe. This elimination of the penalties is of particular interest to us, because we have had donors tell us that they are discouraged when they applied for the tax credit to find the fund depleted - and then were hit with additional penalties and late fees.

This tax credit helps feed people across the state of Missouri. We respectfully ask you support HB 2461, and vote yes for this increase in food pantry support.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RYAN DEBOEF		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6944	
REPRESENTING: CROSSLINES COMMUNITY OUTREACH; VICTORY MISSION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 100 E. HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ryan@hahndeboef.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 6:05 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-727-4406
REPRESENTING: KANBE's MARKETS		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: tyler.vertexgov@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 6:11 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 8:29 AM	
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The objective of encouraging charitable food donations to assist Missouri residents facing food insecurity is commendable. However, several provisions of the bill warrant clarification to avoid foreseeable legal and administrative complications.

First, subsection 2 prohibits a taxpayer from claiming the credit if the taxpayer "employs persons who are not authorized to work in the United States." The bill does not specify the evidentiary standard or administrative process by which such a determination would be made.

Because federal immigration employment verification is governed primarily through federal law and federal enforcement mechanisms, the absence of a clear state determination standard raises potential due process and equal protection concerns under both the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 2 of the Missouri Constitution. Without clarification, the Department of Revenue could be placed in the position of making eligibility determinations without defined authority or procedural safeguards.

Second, the expansion of tax credit values from fifty percent to up to seventy percent of the donation value, combined with the increase in the statewide cap and extension of the sunset date to 2032, increases the program's long-term fiscal exposure. Although tax credit programs are common legislative tools, Missouri courts have historically scrutinized programs that function as de facto appropriations outside the normal appropriations process. Clarifying the fiscal oversight structure of the program would reduce potential challenges.

These concerns do not necessarily preclude the passage of the legislation. However, they represent foreseeable areas of administrative and constitutional vulnerability. The General Assembly may wish to clarify enforcement standards and eligibility criteria to ensure that the statute operates consistently with both federal law and Missouri constitutional requirements.

Respectfully submitted for the legislative record.