



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2481		DATE: 2/25/2026
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 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: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2		
CITY: BALLWIN	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 5:54 AM

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

The Freedom Principle believes it is essential that public assistance programs like SNAP are reserved for individuals who are lawfully present in the United States and who meet eligibility requirements. This bill helps ensure that limited state resources are directed to those who truly need them, preventing misuse and fraud within our vital safety net programs. By requiring stricter verification and prioritizing compliance with federal standards, HB 2481 increases accountability and integrity in public benefit distribution. Additionally, by seeking to exclude candy and soft drinks from SNAP purchases, the bill promotes healthier choices for Missouri families, supporting long-term wellness and reducing future health care costs. HB 2481 is a practical and necessary step to protect our communities, our health, and the responsible use of public funds.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANA BUTLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 3:14 PM	

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

HB 2481 ensures that only United States citizens, nationals, and certain qualified or eligible aliens can receive public benefits such as SNAP (food assistance) and MO HealthNet (medical assistance). They establish strict verification procedures for citizenship and immigration status to prevent individuals unlawfully present in the U.S. from accessing these taxpayer-funded programs. This safeguards program integrity, preserves limited state resources, and aligns with federal laws on eligibility. Public benefits should prioritize American citizens and legal residents—not illegals who should not receive taxpayer-funded assistance.

Commonsense reforms promote accountability, protect Missouri's budget, and ensure assistance goes where it's intended: to help eligible American citizens and families in genuine need.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875	
REPRESENTING: FGA ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH., SUITE 200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 11:25 AM
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Another duplicate bill using ballot candy to trick voters and waste tax dollars for protections that are already in place by 208.009 of Rsmo and the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program. This is to punish and restrict non profits who help those in need including children. Children should not be made to suffer because the government prejudice.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-6139	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: FOOD SECURITY POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: HENRIO THELEMAQUE		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: henrio@ttglobby.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 5:38 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 186S			
CITY: JEFF CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:27 PM
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I am writing to register my strong opposition to House Bill 2481. These bills represent a cruel and counterproductive attack on our most vulnerable residents. They would create needless barriers to food and healthcare, punish families, and ultimately cost our state more than they would save.

HB 2481 adds insult to injury. Telling families what food they can and cannot buy with their meager SNAP benefits is paternalistic and condescending. People who rely on food assistance are already making difficult choices to stretch every dollar. A parent should be allowed to buy a modest treat for a child. This provision does nothing to improve nutrition; it only adds stigma and requires the state to waste resources annually begging the federal government for a waiver that will never come.

These bills operate from a false premise that our public benefits systems are overrun with ineligible immigrants. In reality, federal law already strictly limits immigrant eligibility for these programs. These bills do not close a loophole. They build a wall of paperwork and bureaucracy that will hurt U.S. citizen children, the elderly, and people with disabilities who need help the most. The only thing these bills will accomplish is to increase administrative costs, deny food to hungry kids, and push more families into deeper poverty.

I urge you to reject these harmful bills.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:26 PM

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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: 2/24/2026 12:44 PM

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HB 2481 invites avoidable constitutional and federal compliance problems.

1. Federal Preemption Risk (SNAP is federally governed).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is administered under federal statute and regulation (7 U.S.C. §2011 et seq.; 7 C.F.R. Parts 271–285). While states administer SNAP, they must operate within federally authorized eligibility frameworks and options. Provisions mandating specific income-counting methods, repeated immigration verification beyond federal requirements, and automatic suspension mechanisms risk conflict with federal regulations and invite preemption challenges.

2. Procedural Due Process Concerns.

The bill requires immediate suspension or termination of benefits when lawful presence cannot be verified through SAVE or related systems. SNAP benefits constitute a protected property interest. Summary suspension based on verification uncertainty—particularly when caused by system delay or database mismatch—creates foreseeable Fourteenth Amendment due process exposure if adequate notice and opportunity to contest are not provided before deprivation.

3. Arbitrary Household Impact.

Requiring full inclusion of income from ineligible household members while denying their participation may produce disproportionate reductions to otherwise eligible children. When state deviations from federal options result in inconsistent treatment of similarly situated households, equal protection and administrative law challenges become foreseeable.

4. Waiver Mandate Structure.

Requiring annual waiver requests to USDA regardless of federal posture converts a federal policy question into recurring state litigation and compliance risk.

This legislation creates legal vulnerability without demonstrable constitutional necessity. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a Do Not Pass vote.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA (MANDI) ADAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-5222	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES, FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION		TITLE: DIVISION DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 615 HOWERTON COURT			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER LOVEALL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-522-3724	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES		TITLE: FISCAL MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 615 HOWERTON CT.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-5189	
REPRESENTING: MPCA - MO PETROLEUM & CONVENIENCE ASSN.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVE, SUITE 200			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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