



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2751		DATE: 1/27/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: ACTION NOW INITIATIVE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1717 WEST LOOP STE 1800			
CITY: HOUSTON		STATE: TX	ZIP: 77027
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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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: AMANDA MONROY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 4:26 PM

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

My name is Amanda Monroy. I am a second-year law student at St. Louis University School of Law. Prior to and during law school, I worked with families of incarcerated individuals as well as with populations receiving public benefits.

The MO House of Representatives should vote to pass HB2751 and lift the SNAP drug felony ban. Formerly incarcerated individuals are twice as likely to experience food insecurity. A 2017 study found that formerly incarcerated individuals with drug offences who had full access to SNAP benefits had a lower chance of returning to prison than those who did not have access to SNAP benefits. Upon release, drug felonies are the only felonies banned from receiving SNAP benefits.

Eliminating the SNAP drug felony ban has the potential to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals in Missouri prisons. Missouri has a higher per capita incarceration rate than the national average. Drug offenses account for a significant portion of Missouri's incarcerated population. When given full access to SNAP benefits, the likelihood of an individual returning to prison is reduced. Reducing food scarcity allows those re-entering into the community to focus on critical aspects for re-entry such as securing employment, housing, and support for substance use disorders, therefore reducing the likelihood of being arrested for a repeat offense. The drug felony ban continues to punish drug offenders even after their debt has already been paid to society. Missouri can reduce its recidivism rate by eliminating this SNAP drug felony ban. Ultimately, Missouri taxpayers bear the cost when an individual re-enters the justice system.

Food security is also critical to the family and household of the formerly incarcerated individual. Specifically, women incarcerated in Missouri are more likely to be incarcerated for drug offenses than men and more likely to have a child under 18. Families share food, reducing the number of people in a household who have access to SNAP reduces the food available to the entire household. Families that participate in SNAP have children who are less likely to be underweight, have developmental delays, and be in poor health compared to children in families with low incomes who do not participate in SNAP. Beyond health outcomes, compared to low-income children who do not receive SNAP benefits, children whose families receive SNAP do better in school, and as adults, become more economically self-sufficient. Eliminating the SNAP drug felony ban would allow families whose households would otherwise be eligible for SNAP have full access to the food security they need to thrive and be healthy.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AREEB HASAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 7:50 PM

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It's very clear that hunger leads to crime. By allowing nonviolent felons access to food, we solve two problems at once.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY N WINSLOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 7:04 PM	
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I support good time credits for positive conduct and earned time credits for the successful completion of programming



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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: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: christine@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 10:07 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Empower Missouri has spent more than 120 years fighting poverty in Missouri. Today, I am asking for your support of HB 2751 which provides support to some of our neighbors with the lowest incomes.

I have been with Empower Missouri since 2009. And the issue of the lifetime ban on SNAP for those with a drug related felony is an issue that we have worked on since before I started. For years and years we have been advocating for Missouri to completely opt out of this optional federal SNAP provision.

Over 10 years ago in 2014, I thought we had done it!

A bill was sponsored by then State Representative Paul Wieland and State Senator Kiki Curls.

At the time, because of compromises made to get the bill passed, the bill ended up not completely opting out of the ban, but modifying it instead.

At the time, even with the compromises and the modifications that were made, we thought it was a win! We celebrated.

And then, just a few years ago, after believing our work was truly helping those it was intended to help, I was informed by an attorney at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri who works with these individuals that they have rarely had a client who has a drug felony on their record qualify for SNAP because of all of the difficult modifications and stipulations within the current law.

So I looked into current law more closely.

The current law is complicated, and it is nearly impossible to navigate for SNAP applicants and makes the application process more complicated for the DSS workers who are processing it, even when there is an attorney who is an expert in law and specifically public benefits law helping out.

The current law is a prime example of red tape and bureaucracy that is not helping anyone.

But it is an easy fix and we can do it.

It is time to completely opt Missouri out of this lifetime SNAP ban.

A majority of other states have already fully opted out including states like Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, West Virginia and Louisiana.

Their law now states that having made a mistake and serving time for your mistake does not equate to a lifetime of punishment. Missouri needs to do the same. SNAP is an amazing program that can offer vital support to help ensure folks who are returning from incarceration succeed and not get stuck in the re-incarceration cycle. Denying people food assistance is not a way to support success which is why I am asking you to please pass House Bill 2751 out of this committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:34 AM

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Prohibiting former drug offenders from receiving food stamps is a form of double punishment not experienced by other offenders. The Church supports this legislation because it corrects this injustice while ensuring that former offenders are receiving (or have received) substance abuse treatment. "Finally, we must welcome ex-offenders back into society as full participating members, to the extent feasible." (Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops, par. 7)



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUG WRIGHT III		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO NAACP		TITLE: CHAIR PRISON SUPPORT CMTE	
ADDRESS: 111 W HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GABRIEL BO CORNELIUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE BOYD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 10:43 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES NORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. These bills would follow President Trump's First Step Act by incentivizing good behavior, education, and job training in prison by giving the federal standard for credit off a prison sentence when someone takes rehabilitative steps. This bill will help Missouri families get their loved ones back to work sooner, help taxpayers by saving money, and help correctional officers who are understaffed. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092	
REPRESENTING: FEEDING MISSOURI, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS- MO CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1805			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jessica@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 7:05 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. Specifically support 208.247 on SNAP benefits.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA TROUT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 10:41 AM	

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I used to volunteer with Keyway Center for for Diversion and Reentry's Advocacy Advisory Board. When working with them, we focused heavily on the lack of access to SNAP for drug related felonies as this was a huge barrier for folks. A bill like this went through years ago, but the office in charge of the paperwork doesn't exist, and it was if someone had 2 or less drug related felonies. When someone is charged with a drug related felony, it is rare there are less than two felony charges, so the bill really didn't have the intended impact, and thus, didn't decrease recidivism.

As you likely know, if someone can't get their basic needs met, like food, they are likely to go back to doing what they did to survive before. This is the opposite of what I believe legislators want. I believe this bill will decrease recidivism.

Furthermore, folks with violent felonies and who have directly harmed others can get access to SNAP, but folks who either harmed themselves, or sold drugs that were part of individual choice, cannot get these benefits. It simply doesn't make sense to me. Similarly, if you believe that drug use is a disorder rather than something to be punished, this would not fall in line with supporting rehabilitation.

For these reasons and many more, I want to express my support of this bill and ask that you vote to move it through committee.

Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN WALSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 6:44 AM	
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This bill will prevent some cruelty.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KHANIKA HARPER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-530-8331
REPRESENTING: JUSTICE FOR ALL		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 150256		
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63115
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA MARIE GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:39 AM
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Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. These bills would follow President Trump's First Step Act by incentivizing good behavior, education, and job training in prison by giving the federal standard for credit off a prison sentence when someone takes rehabilitative steps. This bill will help Missouri families get their loved ones back to work sooner, help taxpayers by saving money, and help correctional officers who are understaffed. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW CHARLES		PHONE NUMBER: 615-428-8206	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FAMM		TITLE: STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: NASHVILLE		STATE: TN	ZIP: 32708
EMAIL: mcharles@famm.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 1:35 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Thank you to Chair Mayhew, Vice Chair Cook, Ranking Minority Member Collins, and members of the Committee for considering this written statement in support of HB 2695 by Rep. Jamie Gragg (R-140), HB 2751 by Rep. Chad Perkins (R-040), and HB 2831 by Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D-077) – all relating to good and earned time credit within the state prison system.

These bills would, if passed, amend Missouri law to follow the model of President Trump’s First Step Act of 2018. They equip correctional staff with a vital safety tool and allow those in custody to earn credits for orderly, positive behavior and programming that reduces recidivism and prepares people for release by learning valuable skills and finding employment. FAMM supports these bills, and these bills support Missourians lifting themselves up, rehabilitating, and getting back to work to support their families. Conservative Political Action Committee polling shows that 70% of Americans favor programs that prepare people to leave prison job-ready and addiction free to become more productive members of our communities.

My name is Matthew Charles. I was sentenced to thirty-five years in federal prison in 1996 for drug offenses. I served 22 years before becoming a beneficiary of the First Step Act, which is President Trump’s landmark criminal justice legislation. I was the first beneficiary and was honored to attend the State of the Union address as President Trump’s guest in 2019. The President spoke about the new law implementing earned time credits and how I was a success story and not someone who needed to go back to prison. Since then, I have traveled the country speaking with state and federal lawmakers about my experience. I testify today on behalf of FAMM, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates sentencing and prison policies that are individualized, fair, protect public safety, and preserve families.

This legislation will benefit Missouri correctional staff, incarcerated people, and families of both. The Missouri Department of Corrections (MDOC) is a very large agency with a \$935 million dollar 2026 budget. MDOC employs over 10,000 people, incarcerates 23,000, and affects an untold number through the ripple impact on the families of those who live and work in its 19+ facilities. FAMM walks with families who are “doing the time” with their loved one. Families lose emotionally and economically when their loved one is incarcerated. Not only is income gone, but they must also often support the person inside financially. The state also loses on a mass scale from the economic impact of having so many people out of the workforce and unable to support their families. FAMM is in favor of earned and good time credits because we understand the importance of seeing people become rehabilitated and

therefore productive members of society, which reduces recidivism, adds to public safety, and causes safer prison environments.

90% of incarcerated people come home from state prison. These bills will help ensure that they leave state correctional facilities better than they came in. Earned and good time credits require active participation toward self-improvement while not keeping people past the point of necessity. This legislation prevents crime by giving people the tools and skills they need to take care of themselves and their family. The bills are good for families. They will save state resources long term by incentivizing vocational and work training, education, and treatment through “good time” and “earned time” credit – just like President Trump did in the federal system.

Missouri has a law purporting to do this, but it’s not used or functional because it doesn’t lay out any standards. RSMo 558.041. The federal First Step Act provides that incarcerated people in the federal system get 54 days off their sentence for every year of “exemplary” behavior while incarcerated, and 10 days off for every 30 days of participation in qualifying vocational and rehabilitative programming (getting a GED, substance abuse, parenting classes, financial literacy, etc.). These bills will allow incarcerated people in Missouri to earn credits off a prison sentence for exemplary behavior within the prison, vocational training, workforce development, parenting courses, and other rehabilitation. Important aspects of the legislation include:

? Eligibility – incarcerated people are eligible if they are not sentenced to death, life without probation or parole, or deemed a persistent offender, dangerous offender, or persistent sexual offender.

? Good time credit – an incarcerated person may receive credit toward the service of sentence of up to 54 days off each year subject to a yearly determination by the department of corrections that they displayed “exemplary compliance with institutional disciplinary regulations” the year before. This is the exact same time allowed off a sentence per year as in President Trump’s First Step Act.

? Earned time credit – an incarcerated person who successfully participates in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities shall earn 10 days of credit for every 30 days of successful participation. This is the exact same time allowed off a sentence per year as in President Trump’s First Step Act. Programs and activities include, but are not limited to, earning a high school diploma or GED, college diploma, vocational training certificates, successful employment, parenting and financial literacy courses, alcohol and drug treatment programs, restorative justice and faith-based programs.

? The bills would require MDOC to create policies with relevant details for these programs, including a petition to apply for credit for programs and activities completed between 2010 and the enactment date.

? There is no get out of jail free card but rather a “prove you’ve changed” record that is clearly reflected. First, the credits can be withdrawn or revoked if there is a violation of correctional policies, facility rules, or prisoner conduct rules. Second, the parole board shall retain all discretion and provide the same safety check and balance it provides now before any release.

These incentives not only promote good behavior; they also provide critical tools for our law enforcement community in corrections by giving them a safer, more orderly work environment. MDOC is facing a 30% staff turnover rate. Correctional staff leave prisons every day, and they bring the work home with them to their spouses, children, and communities. Violent, miserable prisons are bad for everyone. Safe, productive prisons are good for correctional staff, incarcerated people, and their respective families.

FAMM is happy to provide technical assistance and facilitate connections to further advance and implement the earned and good time credit legislation, which can be done using analog paper record systems and/or through computer technology which MDOC likely needs to move toward as it modernizes its systems. There are many organizations with expertise in these arenas which we can connect with.

Finally, of the three bills note that there is an important provision that is only in HB 2751 providing that criminal justice agencies grant data access to bona fide researchers and research organizations, i.e.

experts conducting research and statistical analysis. While the legislation does not allow direct public access, the provisions provide important transparency that will ultimately allow decisionmakers like you to determine what is working well, what is not working, and how to improve public policy in critical areas relating to public safety. FAMM supports this portion of Rep. Perkins' HB 2751.

Please reach out to alex@csga.com, mcharles@famm.org, and mgoellner@famm.org or (717) 945-9089 for more information or to discuss these matters further.

Thank you for considering our views.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ML SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-814-2910	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION		TITLE: OWNER/FOUNDER	
ADDRESS: 6845 CREST AVE			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:11 PM	
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I am in full support of this bill



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2751		DATE: 1/27/2026	
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
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: SHARON TURLINGTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 4:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As an attorney I have seen first hand how long sentences impact not only the individual sentenced but their family, friends and the community. Individuals who have been incarcerated and have demonstrated excellent behavior and have made a productive use of their time in prison should be given credit off of their sentences. The majority of individuals age out of criminal behavior and their conduct in prison is indicative of this. Additionally, it is increasingly expensive for tax payers to keep people who are no longer a threat to reoffend in prison.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:27 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the House Corrections Committee, please vote YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. These bills would follow President Trump's First Step Act by incentivizing good behavior, education, and job training in prison by giving the federal standard for credit off a prison sentence when someone takes rehabilitative steps. This bill will help Missouri families get their loved ones back to work sooner, help taxpayers by saving money, and help correctional officers who are understaffed. I encourage you to visit a prison and talk to both incarcerated people and staff, and VOTE YES on HB 2695, HB 2751, and HB 2831. Thank you.



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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: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-652-3114	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI, MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:50 PM
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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> 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: 1/24/2026 2:36 PM	
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while it is framed as a public-safety and reform measure, it bundles three profoundly different policies in a way that weakens constitutional protections, obscures accountability, and risks serious unintended harm.

This bill should not move forward as written.

I. Food Assistance Is Not a Criminal Sentence

HB 2751 repeals Missouri’s existing, carefully constructed framework that ties SNAP eligibility to treatment participation and compliance, and replaces it with a blanket exemption tied solely to conviction status.

Let me be clear: access to food is not a reward for good behavior, nor a penalty for bad behavior.

It is a basic stabilizing necessity.

But by stripping away individualized safeguards and replacing them with a broad statutory exemption, this bill eliminates oversight without addressing treatment access, relapse prevention, or long-term recovery infrastructure.

It shifts the conversation away from public health and toward symbolic policy — which helps no one and solves nothing.

Good intentions do not excuse poor policy design.

II. Sentencing Power Is Quietly Shifted Away from Courts

HB 2751 again rewrites section 558.041 — the same earned-time structure debated elsewhere — and does so in a way that expands administrative control over liberty while reducing transparency and proportionality.

Under this bill:

Earned time becomes mandatory in calculation, but

Revocation of all earned credit may occur based on internal policy, cumulative minor violations, or

parole revocation — without any requirement for independent adjudication.

Time credit directly affects the length of incarceration. That is a liberty interest, not a privilege.

When executive agencies can effectively lengthen or shorten confinement through internal policy rather than judicial process, the separation of powers is weakened, and constitutional due process is placed at risk.

Rehabilitation must be incentivized — but incentives lose legitimacy when they can be erased wholesale, arbitrarily, and without proportional review.

III. Unprecedented Data Sharing Raises Serious

Perhaps the most alarming section of HB 2751 is the creation of section 589.710, which mandates the sharing of personally identifiable criminal justice data with “bona fide researchers.”

Even with institutional review boards and stated safeguards, this provision:

Compels disclosure of deeply sensitive data across the entire criminal-justice continuum

Removes meaningful consent from the individuals whose data is shared

Creates a statutory pipeline of information that can be replicated, breached, or misused over time

We are told this is not “public disclosure.” But once data leaves the custody of the state, control is never absolute.

Missouri should not trade the privacy and dignity of its residents — particularly those under correctional supervision — for administrative convenience or academic curiosity.

IV. Bundling Masks Risk and Avoids Accountability

Each of these provisions — food assistance, sentence credits, and criminal-justice data sharing — raises separate legal, moral, and constitutional questions.

Bundling them together under the banner of “public safety” prevents proper scrutiny and forces lawmakers into false choices. That is not transparent governance.

Public safety is not achieved by:

Weakening due process,

Concentrating discretionary power in administrative hands, or

Treating incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people as data points rather than human beings.

A just government must be firm, restrained, and accountable.

HB 2751, as written, is none of these.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.