



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2831		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: ANITA J SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 2:30 AM
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			
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 earned time credits for the successful completion of programming



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFTON DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-590-1107	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION		TITLE: ORGANIZER	
ADDRESS: 4608 DERBY RIDGE DR			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: cliftonx19@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:06 PM	
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Submitted by:
 Clifton Davis, on behalf of the Missouri Justice Coalition

?

House Bill 2831 represents a meaningful and pragmatic step toward a more effective, humane, and evidence-based correctional system in Missouri. By expanding and standardizing the availability of good time credit for incarcerated individuals who engage in education, treatment, and restorative programming, this bill aligns accountability with rehabilitation and public safety.

HB 2831 recognizes that transformation should be encouraged, not ignored. The bill requires the Department of Corrections to award good time credit—ranging from five to 360 days—for individuals who complete qualifying programs, including earning educational credentials, completing substance abuse treatment, engaging in restorative justice work, or participating in other approved rehabilitative activities. These incentives reinforce positive behavior, reduce institutional misconduct, and support successful reentry.

The Missouri Justice Coalition strongly supports the bill’s inclusion of retroactive eligibility, allowing individuals to petition for credit for programs completed as far back as January 1, 2010. This provision acknowledges that rehabilitation does not begin when legislation is enacted; many individuals have already invested years of effort in self-improvement without meaningful recognition. Providing an opportunity for earned credit honors that work and promotes fairness.

Importantly, HB 2831 maintains public safety safeguards. The bill does not mandate release and preserves the discretion of the parole board to determine release decisions. Instead, it establishes a structured incentive system that rewards measurable achievements while allowing correctional authorities to manage risk appropriately.

From a fiscal perspective, the bill is also sound policy. Educational and treatment programs are proven to reduce recidivism, lower long-term incarceration costs, and improve institutional safety. Incentivizing participation in these programs benefits not only incarcerated individuals, but also correctional staff, families, and communities across Missouri.

HB 2831 reflects a balanced approach—one that values accountability, rehabilitation, and responsible

governance. It encourages individuals to take ownership of their growth while strengthening the overall effectiveness of Missouri's correctional system.

For these reasons, the Missouri Justice Coalition respectfully supports House Bill 2831 and urges its advancement.



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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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Certain inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. For that reason the MCC supports.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE FEEBACK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 1:38 PM	
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There are people that are incarcerated that are innocent because of the corruption that goes on in our court rooms and then there are people that are guilty. Maybe of the act maybe a bad choices but regardless there needs to be room for reform. What is the point in going in and trying to do the right things and taking classes to improve and working a full-time job if you're not going to get rewarded. Further, I think that they should take a better look at the good time Credit on the types of felonies that are exempt from this. There are instances such as in my son's case, though he is not alone, but the type of felony is inaccurate either due to a plea bargain or due to the corruption., etc. For instance, my son's felony class got changed randomly after there were decisions made that was an agreement between two attorneys. It had nothing to do with what he was being accused of. So it's important to understand that there are a lot of variables behind a classification and it may not fit the crime. There's a whole story behind my son's conviction. What you see on paper is not accurate and that's the same for people across our prisons. My son has a corrupt judge and a corrupt attorney. It was a first time probation violation that he was in a courtroom addressing and the judge just threw 20 years. Medical Conditions metal in his body from having had a hip surgery that never gotten removed, etc. there's so much more that goes on.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENA		PHONE NUMBER: 417-260-2003	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COLLECTIVELY CHANGING CORRECTIONS		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 102			
CITY: ROBY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65557
EMAIL: cccforchange24@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 3:55 PM	
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Those in custody should be recognized for making good use of their time while incarcerated. What incentive do they have to do better, otherwise?



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUG WRIGHT III		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO NAACP		TITLE:	
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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GWEN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-324-9656	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 4016 WINNEBAGO STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: gwen@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 7:59 PM	

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As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration.

HBs 2831 and 2695 would expand the ability for individuals committed to the Department of Corrections to earn good time and earned time credit. This expansion would have a positive impact on incarcerated individuals, their loved ones, the environment within correctional facilities, and ultimately, Missouri communities. The availability of such credits based on the merits of a person's behavior can make the prison environment safer for other incarcerated individuals and correctional officers. By incentivizing good behavior, rather than punishing bad behavior, good time credits help incarcerated individuals develop positive habits that lead to reduced recidivism outcomes after their release. The earned time programs named in these bills incorporate educational opportunities, vocational training, and rehabilitation, all critical elements in preparing individuals for reentry and improving community safety for all.

In order to ensure that these bills and other legislation have the intended impact of promoting program participation for incarcerated individuals (thereby reducing recidivism), the legislature may also consider increased resources for rehabilitative and educational programs in the Department of Corrections. We trust the legislature will consider this as part of the appropriations process. Thank you for your time and consideration. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HBs 2831 and 2695 out of this committee.



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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
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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: JERIKA WHITE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-357-3236	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3407 S JEFFERSON AVE			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KERRY COWGILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:31 AM	
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Encourage positive behavior



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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: 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: 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:
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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 2831		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
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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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COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: SHEENA ROGERS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-635-9030
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SHOW ME JUSTICE FOR ALL		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 6412 TIGER RD		
CITY: PIERCE CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65723
EMAIL: showmejustice4all@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:51 AM

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My name is Sheena Rogers. I am the founder and director of Show Me Justice for All. I work directly with people who have been incarcerated and with those who are trying to rebuild their lives after prison. I'm here today because this issue is not theoretical to me, it's personal.

I support Good Time Credit because I have lived on both sides of hopelessness and hope.

I know what it looks like when someone is locked in a system where nothing they do matters. Where they can do everything right, work, follow the rules, take every class offered, and still be told it makes no difference. That kind of system doesn't build responsibility. It breaks people.

But I've also seen what happens when people are given a reason to try.

When incarcerated individuals know their choices matter, when effort is recognized, when growth is rewarded, behavior changes. Attitudes change. People change. Not because they are forced to, but because they choose to.

Good Time Credit is not a free pass. It is earned. And that matters.

It rewards people for doing exactly what we say we want them to do:

- Following rules.
- Completing programming.
- Working jobs.
- Mentoring others.
- Taking accountability seriously.

When we remove incentives, we remove one of the strongest tools corrections has to maintain order, safety, and rehabilitation.

From a public safety standpoint, Good Time Credit works. Facilities are safer when people have something to lose. Staff are safer when behavior is incentivized. And communities are safer when individuals are released having practiced discipline, structure, and responsibility instead of sitting in hopelessness.

From a fiscal standpoint, this matters too. Missouri spends significant taxpayer dollars to incarcerate

people longer than necessary, even when they've demonstrated reform. Good Time Credit reduces costs while maintaining accountability. That should matter to every Missourian, regardless of political party.

But beyond policy and numbers, this is about something deeper. Hope. Hope is not weakness. Hope is a correctional tool.

When people believe change is possible, many rise to meet that expectation. When they believe nothing matters, we should not be surprised when outcomes get worse instead of better.

Good Time Credit sends a clear message, if you choose to do better, we will recognize it.

That message does not excuse past harm. It does not minimize accountability. It reinforces responsibility. It aligns consequences with purpose.

I believe in Good Time Credit because I believe people are capable of change, because I have seen it with my own eyes, over and over again. I also am an example of change. I had life without parole and served 25 years in Missouri prison. I believe Missouri can be smart, fair, and focused on outcomes that actually work.

If we want safer prisons, safer communities, and better reentry outcomes, we must support policies that reward reform, not just punish failure.

Good Time Credit is one of those policies.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheena Rogers



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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
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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			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRINA MUHAMMAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 1:02 PM	
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Good time credit is very important to a person incarcerated because it gives an incentive to do better



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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:	
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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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LOCKE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-9180	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS		TITLE: COLE COUNTY PROSECUTOR	
ADDRESS: 311 E HIGH #300			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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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: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 2:47 PM	
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I respectfully oppose House Bill 2831 because it restructures Missouri’s good-time credit system in a manner that undermines due process, invites arbitrary enforcement, and exposes the state to unnecessary legal and financial risk.

While the stated goal appears to be consistency and accountability, the bill as written achieves the opposite.

I. Vague Standards Create Arbitrary Punishment

HB 2831 mandates that offenders “shall” receive credit, but then allows the Department of Corrections to rescind earned credit based on:

“major conduct violations,”

cumulative minor violations, or parole revocation,

all pursuant to internal departmental policy, not statute.

The bill provides no clear statutory definitions, no proportional limits, and no required procedural safeguards before previously earned liberty-affecting credit is taken away. This invites inconsistent application across facilities and staff — the very definition of arbitrary enforcement.

Liberty interests cannot hinge on vague standards.

II. Separation of Powers Is Weakened

Good-time credit directly affects the length of incarceration. That is not an administrative detail — it is a sentencing consequence.

HB 2831 effectively allows an executive agency to:
 determine eligibility,
 define qualifying conduct,
 revoke accumulated credit,
 and retroactively apply rules through policy rather than law.

This shifts practical sentencing authority away from courts and into administrative discretion, raising serious separation-of-powers and due-process concerns.

III. Retroactive and Internally Conflicting

The bill attempts to address retroactive credit eligibility through a narrow petition window, while also stating that “all provisions apply retroactively” to offenses committed after 2009.

This internal inconsistency creates confusion for:

incarcerated individuals,

correctional staff,

parole authorities,

and the courts.

Confusing statutes do not promote public safety — they generate litigation, administrative burden, and inconsistent outcomes.

IV. Increased Litigation and Financial Exposure

When a statute:

lacks clear standards,

relies on internal policy,

affects sentence length,

and applies retroactively,

the result is predictable: lawsuits.

HB 2831 exposes the state to:

due-process challenges,

equal-protection claims based on inconsistent application,

and costly habeas or civil-rights litigation.

Taxpayers ultimately bear the cost of poorly drafted laws.

V. Accountability Requires Clarity, Not Discretion

Rehabilitation and accountability matter. But true accountability requires clear rules, proportional consequences, and transparent processes — not open-ended discretion and policy-based punishment.

A system that gives with one hand and takes away with the other, without clear guardrails, does not build trust or improve behavior.

HB 2831 expands administrative power, weakens constitutional protections, and creates unnecessary legal risk without demonstrable public-safety benefit.

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