



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2886</b>		DATE: <b>3/3/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Economic Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANISHA HOLMES PRODUCTION LLC</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-508-3950</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>DANISHA HOLMES PRODUCTION LLC</b>		TITLE: <b>CEO</b>
ADDRESS: <b>301 WEST ASHLEY STREET B3</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>thatgirlnisha@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2026 10:41 AM</b>

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2142 and HB2058. As someone who attended film school and is actively working to build a career in the film industry, I believe these bills would bring tremendous economic and creative benefits to Missouri.

Right now, our state has very few opportunities for filmmakers, actors, and production teams. Many talented people are forced to leave Missouri simply to find work in the industry. Passing these bills would help change that by encouraging more productions to film here, creating jobs and opening doors for those of us who want to build our careers at home.

I am also a small business owner working to grow my company, DaNisha Holmes Production.LLC My dream is to build a full production company in Missouri—not only for myself, but to provide opportunities for others who want to act, produce, or create content for streaming platforms here in the Midwest. These bills would make that dream far more achievable by supporting local filmmaking and attracting new projects to our state.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support and pass HB2142 and HB2058. These laws would give Missouri filmmakers the chance to grow, contribute to our economy, and keep creative talent here at home.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMMA SHANKAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION</b>		TITLE: <b>IMPACT STRATEGIST - POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2300 MAIN ST, #304</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64108</b>
EMAIL: <b>eshankland@healthforward.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 7:48 PM</b>	
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**Chair Gallick and members of the House Economic Development Committee:**

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in support of House Bill 2886, which would modify provisions for the broadband grant program. Health Forward is a public health foundation focused on advancing equitable health care access and outcomes. Access to high-speed internet and the devices needed to use it is essential for connecting people to fundamental components of health and well-being (1).

HB 2886 would strengthen the impact of the existing Broadband Grant Program by increasing the maximum broadband speeds in the definitions of “underserved” and “unserved” areas to upload and download speeds of 750 megabits-per-second and 500 megabits-per-second respectively. Updating these benchmarks will ensure public investments support infrastructure capable of meeting current and future needs, including telehealth digital health tools. By setting stronger standards, the program can help ensure infrastructure funded today will remain useful and effective for years to come.

HB 2886 would also clarify that low-Earth-orbit satellite, fixed wireless, and similar technologies cannot count as qualifying broadband service for purposes of determining eligibility under the grant program. While these technologies may offer short-term or lower-cost options in some settings, they often provide less reliable connectivity and may not support the consistent high-speed service needed for activities such as telemedicine, remote monitoring, and other digital health applications (2). Prioritizing long-term, reliable broadband infrastructure helps ensure that communities receive investments that truly close the digital divide.

According to the University of Missouri, more than 1.26 million Missourians lack access to high-speed internet, including more than 1.04 million people living in rural parts of the state (3). HB 2886 would be an important tool for rural communities, where lower population density often results in lower return on investment for broadband infrastructure (4). By strengthening the grant program, this bill would help bridge this gap and support equitable access to reliable high-speed internet across the state so that all Missourians can fully participate in the digital economy and access the services that support their health.

For these reasons, Health Forward asks Members of the Committee to vote yes on HB 2886. Please feel free to contact me at [eshankland@healthforward.org](mailto:eshankland@healthforward.org) with any questions or requests for additional

information.

Sincerely,

Emma Shankland  
Impact Strategist – Policy  
Health Forward Foundation

(1) Benda NC, Veinot TC, Sieck CJ, Ancker JS. Broadband internet access is a social determinant of health! *American Journal of Public Health*. 2020;110(8):1123–1125.  
<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305784>.

(2) National Conference of State Legislatures. (2024). Wired, wireless, or in orbit: Broadband technology modes explained. <https://www.ncsl.org/technology-and-communication/wired-wireless-or-in-orbit-broadband-technology-modes-explained>.

(3) Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES). (2024). Missouri broadband access. University of Missouri.  
<https://apps.cares.missouri.edu/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/3117e2cf745b45b5b77765b55c84e996>.

(4) Federal Communications Commission. (2020, December). Increasing broadband investment in low-income communities: Recommendations of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Council Increasing Broadband Investment in Low-Income Communities Working Group.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAY HARDENBROOK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>813-810-2066</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AARP</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3307 MISSOURI AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL: <b>jhardenbrook@aarp.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 7:49 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 11:35 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am Opposed to this Tax-Credit. We NEED to Cut \$2-Billion Dollars from the Annual State Budget and can not afford this Tax-Credit. Unknown Funding for Grants.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHANCE HEPOLA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>428 E CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>msmith@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 7:57 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE LODEWEGEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MCTA</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 1895</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2026 8:09 AM</b>

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

This notice is submitted to formally place the General Assembly on record regarding foreseeable constitutional, fiscal, and structural risks associated with HB 2886’s revisions to Missouri’s broadband grant program.

**Public Expenditure and Public Purpose (Mo. Const. Art. III, § 38(a))**

Broadband grants constitute public expenditures. Raising eligibility speed thresholds to 500–750 Mbps while excluding fixed wireless, cable, and low-Earth-orbit satellite access materially narrows qualifying technologies. If such exclusions operate to favor specific delivery models or vendors without demonstrable necessity tied to objective infrastructure standards, the program may invite challenge under Missouri’s public-purpose doctrine.

**Technology Exclusion and Classification Risk (Mo. Const. Art. III, § 40; U.S. Const. amend. XIV)**

The categorical exclusion of certain broadband technologies from consideration—regardless of performance—creates a statutory classification that must be rationally related to a legitimate statewide objective. If evidence shows comparable service capability, the exclusion framework may face equal-protection or special-law scrutiny.

**Right-of-First-Refusal Provision**

Granting a statutory “right of first refusal” to prior second-place federal applicants for recovered funds creates preferential treatment untethered to contemporaneous competitive scoring. Such structural favoritism may undermine procurement neutrality and increase litigation risk from other eligible providers.

**Challenge Process and Market Entrenchment**

The provider challenge mechanism, combined with elevated speed thresholds, may operate to entrench incumbent providers or preclude otherwise viable rural deployments. If the mechanism disproportionately forecloses market participation without transparent, performance-based justification, exposure to administrative or judicial review increases.

**Escalating Fiscal Exposure and Extended Sunset**

Extending the program sunset to 2030 while increasing performance benchmarks materially commits future appropriations without mandatory cost-benefit revalidation, return-on-investment reporting, or periodic legislative review triggers.

**Preemption and Federal Alignment Considerations**

**The bill references federal broadband speed standards under 7 U.S.C. § 950bb. Divergence from or reinterpretation of federal eligibility frameworks may create compliance conflicts or jeopardize coordination with federally funded broadband initiatives.**

**This notice reflects foreseeable areas of constitutional and fiscal vulnerability under Missouri constitutional constraints and established equal-protection principles.**

**Members are hereby on formal notice that material restructuring of grant eligibility, technology classifications, and preferential award mechanisms without strengthened accountability and evidentiary findings may invite judicial scrutiny and long-term fiscal consequence.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BJ TOMKSLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-522-6261</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR- OFFICE OF BROADBAND</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>301 W. HIGH ST</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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