



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3416		DATE: 4/7/2026
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development		
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: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/3/2026 8:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Our education system is being gutted at every level. Protecting funding at any level of schooling is important. I want to see all gambling legislation that has passed with promises about helping fund education, actually do that.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA PEARSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 12:17 AM
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HBCU's help meet a critical need for education to students who otherwise may not have access to post secondary education. It is in Missouri's best interest to ensure that all education all institutions including HBCU's have the funds they need to educate our workforce. In order for our state to be competitive a strong educational system is required.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 1:29 PM

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I believe HBCUs are necessary to communities, specifically underserved communities. I grew up on the campus of an HBCU: Lincoln University. My father was a professor there from 1967-2000. I attended for a semester and a summer, as well as completed 25 graduate hours there for continuing ed though piecemeal. I saw first hand the first-generation students from diverse backgrounds come to Lincoln and thrive. I saw the cultural richness it injected into my hometown. HBCUs are absolutely vital supports in the communities they serve. On an even more personal note, I want to tell you the pride I felt when Dr. Mosely specifically mentioned the nursing program of LU. My dad was the microbiology professor for 2 or more generations of nurses who continue to serve Mid-MO and beyond.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEAD VOLUNTEER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 12:36 PM	

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The Missouri Equity Education Partnership supports this bill as it supports diversity and inclusion. HBCUs play vital roles in marginalized communities as well as the community as large. They deserve our support.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER FLEMING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2026 1:59 PM
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We need to fund our HBCUs.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN B. MOSELEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-681-5042	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LINCOLN UNIV		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 820 CHESTNUT ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY MAXWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2026 7:34 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN HERMANN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2026 10:48 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a career educator and a resident of mid-Missouri. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3416, the Strengthening HBCUs Act.

I believe building a strong state depends on a robust and equitable higher education system. Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have provided high-quality education and economic mobility for Missourians for generations, often while being historically underfunded compared to our other land-grant institutions.

By creating a dedicated fund, HB 3416 provides the consistent, predictable financial foundation these institutions need to thrive without competing for limited general revenue. This bill is a common-sense investment in our state's future. I urge the committee to vote Yes on HB 3416.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lauren A Hermann



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2026 4:56 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 4:56 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2026 8:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. OF COURSE! Please advance this bill!		



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: YVONNE THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-755-9354	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN, INC.- METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS CHAPTER		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63303
EMAIL: president@ncbwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2026 10:35 PM	
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Statement of Support for HB 3416

I stand in full and unapologetic support of HB 3416 because investing in HBCUs is not just a policy decision, it is a commitment to equity, legacy, and the future.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities have always been more than institutions of higher learning. They are pillars of opportunity, engines of economic mobility, and safe spaces where excellence is nurtured, not questioned. They have produced leaders, innovators, healthcare professionals, educators, and change agents and many of whom continue to pour back into the very communities that need them most.

But let's be clear, HBCUs have done more with less for far too long.

HB 3416 is not about charity. It is about justice. It is about ensuring that these institutions receive the funding, resources, and infrastructure necessary to not only survive but to thrive in a competitive educational landscape.

When we fund HBCUs, we are funding access.
 We are funding innovation.
 We are funding generational impact.

As a product of a historically Black college, I know firsthand the power of what these institutions represent. They don't just educate, you leave transformed, equipped, and empowered to lead with purpose.

This bill is an investment in students who deserve every opportunity to succeed without barriers rooted in systemic inequities. It is an investment in communities that rely on these institutions as anchors of hope and progress.

So today, I don't just support HB 3416—I advocate for it.

Because when we strengthen HBCUs, we strengthen our future.

And that is something worth standing for.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 11:47 PM	

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I am Opposed to this Bill and treating one State College or University over another Institution of Higher Learning.



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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: 4/7/2026 7:00 AM	
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This bill is not controversial because of who it benefits. It is controversial because of how it rewires state funding authority to do it.

HB 3416 does not create new funding—it intercepts existing education revenue streams at the front of the line. By taking one percent of gaming proceeds and one percent of lottery proceeds before those funds reach the school district bond fund and the classroom trust fund, the bill is not supplementing education funding—it is reordering it.

That means existing obligations are reduced before they are ever fulfilled, without any requirement to replace what is being diverted.

That is a structural shift in priority, not a neutral allocation.

More importantly, this bill removes those funds from legislative control going forward. The creation of a nonreverting fund that “stands appropriated without further legislative action” is not a technical detail—it is a permanent surrender of appropriation authority. Once enacted, these funds will flow automatically, without annual review, without adjustment, and without meaningful legislative oversight.

That is a direct bypass of the core function of this body: to appropriate and evaluate public spending.

This is not how most public funds operate—and there is a reason for that.

Appropriation authority is the legislature’s primary accountability tool. When you remove that, you are not just funding a program—you are locking in a funding stream beyond reach.

The bill also creates a legally inconsistent framework by tying eligibility and permissible uses to federal HBCU program definitions while explicitly removing the requirement that institutions participate in or receive federal funding under those programs. In effect, the state adopts federal categories but not federal oversight. That produces a system where funds are guided by external definitions but operate without the corresponding federal compliance structure.

That is not alignment—it is selective adoption without accountability.

And the most serious issue is the precedent.

**If this body authorizes:
pre-distribution diversion of dedicated funds,
permanent nonreverting accounts, and
standing appropriations outside the budget process,
then there is no limiting principle left.**

This mechanism can be replicated for any priority, any institution, any program. Over time, the appropriations process becomes fragmented, discretionary oversight erodes, and more and more public money operates outside the legislature's direct control.

That is not a single policy decision. That is a structural shift in how state government manages money.

Support for institutions—any institutions—should not come at the cost of surrendering fiscal control, weakening transparency, or bypassing the constitutional role of this body.

This bill does all three.

For those reasons, I stand in opposition.