



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 253</b>		DATE: <b>2/23/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DIANNE ELY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY R. BYRNE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PETER RADECKI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY M SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rsmith0451@msn.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 9:17 AM</b>
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All seats on Springfield's school board are at-large. There is no zone breakdown for the largest school district in the state. As a result, students and schools on the north and west sides of the district, many in lower income areas, receive zero neighborhood representation on the school board. The last time I checked, ALL of the seven directors serving on the board reside south of Sunshine Street, representing more affluent parts of the city. For schools and students (and teachers) to get fair representation from their elected school board, a simple zone system should be applied. I haven't looked at this bill, but anything that provides representation to ALL neighborhoods would be a big step forward for fair representation on Springfield's school board. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROY HOLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2021 1:32 AM</b>
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**I Opposed to this Bill. This is Special-Interest Legislation and makes little sense.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DR. DENISE FREDRICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Idenisefredrick@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2021 9:03 PM</b>
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February 22, 2021 Statement of Opposition to HB 253 Submitted By: Dr. Denise Fredrick As a board member serving Missouri's largest school district, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 253 due to the potential for serious harm to effective board governance. Currently, the Springfield R-XII Board of Education consists of seven at-large members, elected by constituents of the Springfield community, to serve the best interests of all 23,500 students. The at-large designation of the seven seats best ensures that a board member's perspective is rightfully focused on what is best for the entire district and equity for all students. Sub-districts would cause candidates to adopt a narrow focus that may not advance the district's broader, overall mission or represent students districtwide. In fact, by creating sub-districts, HB 253 threatens to inject divisiveness into the heart of a community, creating barriers for citizens to pursue public service because of where they may reside, while limiting the ability of voters to select their representatives due to newly-imposed barriers for potential candidates. A specific address does not make any candidate better qualified to serve as a board member. Instead, a person's lived experience and education prepare them for public service. The Springfield R-XII Board of Education supports maintaining the current election structure for at-large school board seats to ensure all board members are voted on by voters throughout the entire district. Our board opposes any legislation that erodes the authority of local school boards and undermines the voice of local leaders. Our board also opposes any legislation that would diminish local control, increase bureaucratic and administrative burdens, and/or allow the governance of public school districts to be removed from local boards of education. In fact, HB 253 is an affront to local control and runs counter to all the aforementioned policy statements. For all these reasons, I respectfully submit my testimony in opposition to HB 253.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GERRY LEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-766-2818</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>		TITLE: <b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3888 E LINWOOD TERRACE</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65809</b>
EMAIL: <b>glee@spsmail.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2021 4:27 PM</b>	

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My name is Gerry Lee, and I am a member of the Springfield Board of Education. I am testifying in opposition to HB 253. HB 253 is the classic example of a “solution looking for a problem”. I have listed a few indicators of a school board that is focused on moving the entire school district forward and educating all students to meet high standards. Since this bill is directed at Springfield Public Schools, I will include specific examples of how Springfield Public Schools Board of Education has been successfully utilizing an at-large election system. Great school boards have a clear vision for the district. School boards set the vision and goals for the entire district and measure the success of the district and superintendent against the goals. SPS’s Strategic Plan supports all students especially our under-represented and under-resourced students. Great school boards work as a team. SPS Board of Education currently collaborates very well because we are on the same page for all students. Sub-districting automatically creates a division in board members and could make it difficult to function as a cohesive team. Great school boards adopt a fiscally sound district budget. SPS Board of Education pays significant attention to our finances. We not only monitor the fiscal health of our district but focus on providing equity of resources in our district. SPS invested in technology and internet access for all students with our 1:1 programs. Our latest bond issue (\$168M) invested a significant portion to the areas of most need, rehabbing or constructing new school facilities. SPS has significantly expanded our early childhood program with new hubs on the north side of our district. Great school boards focus on what is best for all students. SPS focuses on student achievement and implementing policies that will ensure success for all students. Equity is not just a geographic issue. SPS has under-resourced students across our entire district. It is to no one’s advantage to pit school board members against each other to get more resources into their district. The focus must stay on all the students in the district. The bill itself implies the division of priorities between board members referenced on lines 30-31, “The at-large districts shall represent the entire school district.” To me this means as a sub-district elected school board member, I will not be focused on all the students in the district and that is a travesty. SPS’s commitment to supporting schools with high FRL rates is greater now than ever before on all fronts. It makes no sense to break up a system that works extremely well for all students. HB 253 is not needed and therefore should not be passed. Thank you for your service and consideration.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT MORROW</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-862-5567</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT AND CEO</b>
ADDRESS: <b>202 S. JOHN Q. HAMMONS PARKWAY</b>		
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65806</b>
EMAIL: <b>lmustoe@springfieldchamber.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2021 4:06 PM</b>

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Dear Chairman Basye and members of the House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education: On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our over 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of opposition for House Bill 253. In the current Springfield Public Schools (SPS) district, all seven school board positions are at-large seats that represent the entire SPS district. The current board works to evaluate and represent the district as a whole to make financial, operational and policy decisions. This bill would alter this structure, dividing the district up into five smaller zones, with a representative for each zone, with only two at-large seats. From our understanding, no other school district in the state is structured this way, and implementing a new structure in the state's largest district could create unintended consequences. The Chamber is opposed to modifications that might negatively impact decisions being made from a district-wide perspective or are driven by the representation of one zone of the district over another. The Chamber, along with many partners, has been a part of an effort to recruit quality candidates for the board of education for over a decade. That group is thoughtful and intentional about working to recruit candidates to represent all geographic regions of the community. This effort has proven to be an effective approach, and forcing candidates from five, much-smaller individual zones, may not result in the most qualified candidates running for school board. The Chamber supports this current structure of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education comprised of seven at-large positions with three-year terms, and we thank you for your consideration of opposition to HB 253. Sincerely, Matt Morrow President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce 202 S John Q Hammons Parkway Springfield, MO 65806