



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 2/17/2021	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY KUO HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-993-5181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS (NCJWSTL)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 295 N. LINDBERGH BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: jbernstein@ncjwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:33 PM	
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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Amy Kuo Hammerman and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 627, which establishes a children's savings account program, on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. These deposits enable financially vulnerable children to accumulate assets despite limited household income. If funded with automatic, sizable, initial deposits when children are very young, a Child Development Account (CDA) may accumulate meaningful assets over time, even if the family cannot save. This will help level the playing field for those children who live in underserved communities to access the same higher education opportunities as their peers in wealthier communities. With more than 20 years of research, CDAs, which were first conceived of here in Missouri, have proven to have a positive impact on children's social and emotional development, to improve maternal emotional health, and to create more hope in parents about their children's future. With just a small investment, CDAs bring big returns. NCJWSTL encourages you to vote yes on HB 627.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 12:04 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill However, is it the responsibility of the State and the State Treasurer to open and maintain Savings Accounts? How many Savings Accounts and Tax Credit Programs does our State need?



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 12 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: CAdelstein@jcrctl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:26 PM	

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

We write to you today in support of HB 627, which establishes a Missouri Child Development Account program. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates, and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse, and social justice in St. Louis and beyond. The Old Testament is filled with many rules and laws about economics and justice. In Deuteronomy 15:4 it states “there will be no poor among you, however, because God will surely bless you in the land the God is giving you,” but then goes on to say in Deuteronomy 15:7, “if there is a poor man among you...then you are not to harden your heart or shut your hand from your poor brother. Instead you are to open your hand...and freely loan him whatever he needs.” Child Development Accounts (CDA) are one mechanism for leveling the playing field toward higher education by decreasing access due to financial barriers - helping those in need, and in the case of HB 627, at no cost to the State of Missouri. This concept, originally developed by Professor Michael Sherradan of Washington University, has been implemented successfully in seven states including our neighbors in Illinois, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Research into these existing programs shows that CDA’s boost aspirations and behaviors of parents and children. CDA’s promote attendance of trade and vocational schools, community colleges and universities. By increasing Missourians completion of quality education training and education, CDA aid in workforce development, while helping reduce student debt. CDAs have proven to be effective in positively changing families’ finances as well as on families’ beliefs and behaviors. CDA’s empower families to save for the future. They help children and families gain the confidence and motivation to achieve more. They offer hope and direction for a brighter future – for individuals and families, for businesses and organizations, and for Missouri. CDA’s are shown to benefit financially vulnerable families. A study from the successful CDA program in Oklahoma finds educational expectations and positive parenting scores are higher for mothers of children with CDAs. The effects of the CDA on maternal depressive symptoms and positive parenting practices were greater for families that participated in TANF or Head Start than for families that did not. One of the calls to action in the Forward Through Ferguson report is to create a platform for universal Child Development Accounts that are statewide and automatic. To invest in the future of Missouri children, we encourage you to support HB 627.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CRAIG STEVENSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-397-1274	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY & ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 1 CAMPBELL PLAZA STE 101			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL: cstevenson@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 11:13 AM	
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We appreciate and would like to go on record in support of Rep. Patterson's HB 627. For children to have successful careers, postsecondary education or career training will be required. Child Development Accounts (CDAs) are an evidence-based way to invest in a child and encourage family savings for these expenses which has been shown to have life-long benefits. Creating and encouraging investing through CDAs lowers disparities among educational savings can be different socioeconomic status, racial, and ethnic groups. In Oklahoma, CDAs have been shown to promote social emotional development in children, particularly among single mothers. Other benefits included increased educational expectations through secondary school, confidence, and parental financial literacy. Even CDAs with less than \$500 in total holdings have shown signs to increase college enrollment and graduation among low- and moderate-income children. Long-term, at-risk children with CDAs have an increased likelihood of having a savings account as an adult and have greater assets as young adults compared to low- and moderate-income young adults who did not have a CDA. Kids Win Missouri works to provide an evidence-based voice for policies for Missouri's children who may have one or more at-risk factors. Investing in our children through a CDA promotes good habits, encourages savings, and provides confidence to families. We look forward to working with the sponsor on this legislation and are excited about the impact that it will have on our children. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have and can be reached at 573-397-1274.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: D. SCOTT PENMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-6772
REPRESENTING: PARENTS AS TEACHERS		TITLE:
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: scott@penman.group	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 2:27 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID DWIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FORWARD THROUGH FERGUSON		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 20 S SARAH			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: david@forwardthroughferguson.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:23 PM	

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Forward Through Ferguson (FTF) is a non-profit organization created to be a catalyst for lasting positive change in the St. Louis region as outlined in the Ferguson Commission Report. Embracing the Commission’s mandate, FTF works to advance racially equitable systems and policies that ensure all people in the St. Louis region can thrive. We respectfully ask for your support of HB 627 to establish a statewide Child Development Account (CDA) policy in Missouri in the form of the “Show Me Child Savings Account Program.” The establishment of a statewide CDA policy was a signature priority recommendation of the Ferguson Commission Report, which was created with the input of over 3,000 community members, scholars, practitioners, business leaders, and educators in St. Louis and across the state of Missouri. Post-secondary education and training can be life-altering when it comes to future employment, annual earnings, and long-term health and well-being. Currently, Missourians with post-secondary education earn more than twice what their counterparts without post-secondary education earn. i Although college education is associated with higher earnings and an increased likelihood of consistent employment, only 28.6% of Missourians age 25 and older have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. ii, 3 However, affording a college education is an obstacle for many. Based on birth counts, college degree attainment, and poverty rates across Missouri, high needs span both rural and urban counties. iii, iv Some of Missouri’s areas of highest need have college attainment rates of less than 11%. 3, 4 A statewide Child Development Accounts (CDA) policy, such as the “Show Me Child Savings Account Program,” addresses these needs. Opened at birth, CDAs are long-term savings or investment accounts for postsecondary education, such as training and vocational programs, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. Benefits of CDAs include increased post-secondary education attendance and graduation rates; improved financial capability, educational aspirations, and well-being; and an investment in Missouri’s workforce and economy. Child Development Accounts are a low-cost way to increase post-secondary education outcomes. Children with even a small amount of college savings are three times more likely to attend college and four times more likely to graduate from college compared to children without college savings accounts. v Children with college savings also have better academic achievement, such as higher math scores, in comparison to children without college savings. vi Starting CDAs at birth maximizes the opportunity for savings growth and also allows children and parents to reap benefits that go beyond simply having money in an account. The existence of a CDA has a positive effect on children’s educational aspirations as well as parents’ educational expectations for their children. vii Mothers of children with CDAs experience significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms compared to mothers of children without CDAs. viii At the state level, Child Development Accounts will help change the way Missouri and its residents see the future and plan for it. By increasing access to quality post-secondary training and education, a statewide CDA policy will aid in workforce development and help ensure that our state and our children are

competitive in today's job market. Missouri children and families deserve the best. The "Show Me Child Savings Account Program" will increase the likelihood that children receive postsecondary training and education, better preparing them for their future careers and creating a more skilled workforce for Missouri. The "Show Me Child Savings Account Program" is a plan for the future backed by both research and the success of other existing statewide CDA policies. With just a small investment, CDAs yield big returns. They offer hope and direction for a brighter future – for children and families, for businesses and organizations, and for Missouri. For these reasons, we respectfully request your "yes" vote on HB 627.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUGLAS MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPONSORED-BUILD YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE (S-BYFF)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 10 W LOCKWOOD AVE			
CITY: WEBSTER GROVES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63119
EMAIL: dokmille@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:29 PM	

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Sponsored-Build Your Family's Future (S-BYFF) pilot is a non-profit activity currently being pursued under the auspices of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves. S-BYFF pilot is a sponsored 529 program for under-resourced families in the 63119 area code that was initiated in mid-2019, with technical assistance from MOST-Missouri, Ascensus, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries. We want to thank you for your sponsorship of HB 627 (2021), designed to establish a children's saving account program by modifying certain provisions of the Missouri Education Program, and to indicate our strong support for this program. In a couple of years S-BYFF pilot hopes to either expand or provide financial support to Missouri's children's savings account program. Notably, programs such as the one being considered in Missouri are often known as Child Development Accounts (CDAs), a concept that was originally developed here in Missouri and is now operational in at least six states in the US. The benefits for Missouri are evident. Post-secondary education and training can be life-altering when it comes to future employment, annual earnings, and long-term health and well-being. Currently, Missourians with post-secondary education earn more than twice what their counterparts without post-secondary education earn. Although a college education is associated with higher earnings and an increased likelihood of consistent employment, only 28.6% of Missourians age 25 and older have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. , 3However, affording a college education is an obstacle for many. Based on birth counts, college degree attainment, and poverty rates across Missouri, high needs span both rural and urban counties. , Some of Missouri's areas of highest need have college attainment rates of less than 11%.3, 4 A statewide CDA such as the one established by HB 627 addresses these needs. Opened at birth, CDAs are long-term savings/investment accounts for post-secondary education, such as training and vocational programs, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. Benefits of CDAs include increased post-secondary education attendance and graduation rates; improved financial capability, educational aspirations, and well-being; and an investment in a state's workforce and economy. Via these benefits, CDAs are a low-cost way to increase post-secondary education outcomes. Children with even a small amount of college savings are three times more likely to attend college and four times more likely to graduate from college compared to children without college savings accounts. Children with college savings also have better academic achievement, such as higher math scores, in comparison to children without college savings. CDAs also promote saving behavior, empowering families to save for the future. Caregivers of children with a Child Development Account are 15 times more likely to open their own state-sponsored 529 savings plan. Additionally, on average families with CDAs make more than four times as much individual contributions to their own 529 accounts than do families without CDAs.7While starting CDAs at birth maximizes the opportunity for savings growth, it also allows children and parents to reap benefits that go beyond simply having money in an account. The existence of a CDA has a positive

effect on children's educational aspirations as well as parents' educational expectations for their kids. In addition, CDAs enhance parental well-being and child development. Mothers of children with CDAs demonstrate significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms compared to mothers of children without CDAs. Similarly, children who have a CDA or other college savings in their name exhibit better social and emotional functioning as early as 4 years of age. At the state level, CDAs will help change the way Missouri and its residents see the future and plan for it. By increasing access to quality post-secondary training and education, a statewide CDA policy will aid in workforce development and help ensure that our state and our children are competitive in job markets both now and in the future. This proposed children's savings accounts for Missouri kids is a plan for the future backed by both research and the success of other existing statewide CDA policies. With just a small investment, CDAs yield big returns. They offer hope and direction for a brighter future – for children and families, for businesses and organizations, and for Missouri. For these reasons, we strongly urge passage of HB 627. Sincerely, Douglas K. Miller, MD Director, S-BYFF Pilot Program



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GARRETT WEBB		PHONE NUMBER: 2192291104	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 710A SOULARD STREET			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63104
EMAIL: webb@coestrategies.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 10:53 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. We support a stable financial foundation for Missouri children.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON		PHONE NUMBER: Purnell	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BJC HEALTHCARE		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT	
ADDRESS: 4901 FOREST PARK AVENUE, SUITE 1241			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: Jason.Purnell@bjc.org; ellie.harmon@bjc.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2021 4:58 PM
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While CDA policy is intended to help support long-term educational outcomes for children, social scientists have found many other positive health and developmental outcomes for both children and their parents, long before they are ready for post-secondary education and training. Findings published in JAMA Pediatrics (Journal of the American Medical Association), Social Science and Medicine, and other scientific journals detail a number of these positive effects. For example, we know that compared to those without them, children provided with CDAs at birth have better social and emotional development—which is critical for later success in school and at work—as early as 4 years of age. This could be because mothers of children with CDAs also report lower levels of symptoms for depression, and the caregivers of these children also maintain higher educational expectations and describe a sense of hope for their children’s futures. Indeed, the presence of such accounts confers benefits that go beyond financial preparation for college and other post-secondary training, making them an investment in both children and their families today and in the strong workforce and thriving economy of tomorrow. For these reasons, I urge you to support this legislation. This is not a silver bullet for pulling children out of poverty, but very seldom is there a policy solution that positively affects educational attainment while also addressing mental health and well-being outcomes for both children and their parents. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON PURNELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Jason.Purnell@bjc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:17 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I write you today on behalf of BJC HealthCare, our 31,000 employees and medical providers, and the families we serve to provide our support for House Bill 627, sponsored by Representative Jon Patterson. This year begins with the indisputable recognition that health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. We know that taking care of ourselves by eating well and staying active, not smoking, getting the recommended immunizations and screening tests, and seeing a doctor when we are sick all influence our overall health. What the COVID-19 pandemic has correspondingly reinforced is that our health is also determined in significant ways by access to social and economic opportunities; the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, food, and air; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships. The conditions in which we live, or social determinants of health (SDOH), explain, in part, why some Americans are healthier than others and why Americans more generally are not as healthy as they could be. It is for these reasons that I write to you today in support of Child Development Accounts, or CDAs. While CDA policy is intended to help support long-term educational outcomes for children, social scientists have found many other positive health and developmental outcomes for both children and their parents, long before they are ready for post-secondary education and training. Findings published in JAMA Pediatrics (Journal of the American Medical Association), Social Science and Medicine, and other scientific journals detail a number of these positive effects. For example, we know that compared to those without them, children provided with CDAs at birth have better social and emotional development—which is critical for later success in school and at work—as early as 4 years of age. This could be because mothers of children with CDAs also report lower levels of symptoms for depression, and the caregivers of these children also maintain higher educational expectations and describe a sense of hope for their children’s futures. Indeed, the presence of such accounts confers benefits that go beyond financial preparation for college and other post-secondary training, making them an investment in both children and their families today and in the strong workforce and thriving economy of tomorrow. For these reasons, I urge you to support this legislation. This is not a silver bullet for pulling children out of poverty, but very seldom is there a policy solution that positively affects educational attainment while also addressing mental health and well-being outcomes for both children and their parents. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA PETRIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-6092
REPRESENTING: CHILDRENS TRUST FUND, BJC HEALTHCARE, KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1805		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KENDRA COPANAS	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GENERATE HEALTH	TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1300 HAMPTON AVE, SUITE 111		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL: kcopanas@generatehealthstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:24 PM

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On behalf of Generate Health, an organization that mobilizes and inspires the St. Louis region to advance racial equity in pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health, I would like to thank you for sponsoring HB 627 which establishes a children's savings account program. This letter represents our support for HB 627 and details the numerous ways that a children's savings account program can help Missouri's children. Opened at birth, CDAs are long-term savings or investment accounts for post-secondary education, such as training and vocational programs, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. Benefits of CDAs include increased post-secondary education attendance and graduation rates; improved financial capability, educational aspirations, and well-being; and an investment in Missouri's workforce and economy. While starting CDAs at birth maximizes the opportunity for savings growth, it also allows children and parents to reap benefits that go beyond simply having money in an account. The existence of a CDA has a positive effect on children's educational aspirations as well as parents' educational expectations for their children. In addition, CDAs enhance parental well-being and child development. Mothers of children with CDAs experience significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms compared to mothers of children without CDAs. Similarly, children who have a CDA or other college savings in their name exhibit better social and emotional functioning as early as 4 years of age. Generate Health is pleased to go on record showing our support for HB 627 and urge the General Assembly to approve HB 627.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA RALLO		PHONE NUMBER: 314-330-8442
REPRESENTING: ALIGNED		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 450 CONWAY VILLAGE DR		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: linda@wearealigned.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:13 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI		TITLE: COMMISSIONER	
ADDRESS: P.O. B OX 142585			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 5:20 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCARLETT O'SHAUGHNESSY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-971-5398	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: SOCIAL WORK STUDENT INTERN	
ADDRESS: 5619 ROSA AVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63109
EMAIL: intern1@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 12:23 PM	

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To: Rep. Aaron Griesheimer, Chairman and Members of the Committee on Emerging Issues From:
 Christine Woody, Senior Policy Coordinator Empower MissouriRe:
 Our support for HB 627 Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our mission, we advocate that Missouri has a strong and accessible safety net, which includes the Missouri Children's Savings Account Program. We thank Representative Jonathan Patterson for sponsoring House Bill 627. House Bill 627 would benefit Missouri parents and children. Children's Savings Accounts (CDA) are long-term investments beginning at birth that maximizes a child's financial savings growth. CDAs have proven to promote Missourians' completion of quality training and education which leads to an increase in workforce development and reduction of student debt. Research from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work shows that investment in education works toward boosting the entire economy overall. CDAs help to establish widespread participation in asset building and more equitable distributions of public resources in Missouri. Other benefits contributed by CDAs are improved child development, parenting skills, workforce strength, and financial capability. Children with CDAs are 15 times more likely to have a 529 account opened by their parents, and 8 times more likely to have savings in that account. Empower Missouri, supports bills like HB 627 which will strengthen Missouri's safety net, and ensure parents have better support in accessing higher quality educational opportunities that prepare for a successful future for their children. We are asking you to please vote Do Pass on HB 627. Sincerely, Christine Woody, MSW Empower Missouri and The Food Security Coalition



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 2/17/2021
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE COOPER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DOUGLASS COMMUNITY SERVICES		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 711 GRAND AVE		
CITY: HANNIBAL	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63401
EMAIL: stephanie@douglassonline.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2021 3:19 PM

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

On behalf of Douglass Community Services, I would like to thank you for sponsoring, and go on record in support of, HB627, which establishes a children's savings account program. At Douglass Community Services, within our Head Start Department we are dedicated to making a lasting impact on children and families. We help improve the early learning, development, and health of babies and toddlers beginning as early as pregnancy and continuing through kindergarten. We pair trained professionals with parents and caregivers to help them identify and build upon their parenting skills so they can be their child's best first teacher. In July 2014, Terri Friedline and Nik Schuetz with the School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas, wrote: "...CDAs...are a preventive, economic intervention that can complement investments made by existing early childhood interventions and advance their mission of helping children reach their full potential. Poverty is an inhibitor of children's opportunities for educational and economic advancement. Federal, state, and local governments have dedicated substantial resources to mitigating the effects of poverty. CDAs are a complementary strategy with great potential but one that is underutilized. The positive outcomes of CDA ownership and development can be supported by appropriate policy design and by providing appropriate, intentional preparation to children about their CDAs." With more than 20 years of research, Child Development Accounts (CDAs)—which were first conceived of here in Missouri—have proven to have a positive impact on children's social and emotional development, to improve maternal emotional health, and to create more hope in parents about their children's future. With just a small investment, CDAs bring big returns. Douglass Community Services is pleased to support this pro-active public policy and urge the General Assembly to expeditiously approve HB627. Sincerely, Stephanie Cooper, LMSW, BSW, MSWCEO Douglass Community Services, Inc.



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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: TREASURER SCOTT FITZPATRICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: matt.choinka@treasurer.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 1:57 PM
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