



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HCR 30</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Oversight</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>AMY BLOUIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-518-8867</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT &amp; CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1 CAMPBELL PLAZA, SUITE 101-BUILDING A</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL: <b>ablouin@mobudget.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 8:51 PM</b>	

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILLS 1085, 1083, 1050, 1036, 1035, 873 and HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30 Amy Blouin, President & CEO Missouri Budget Project 314-518-8867 ablouin@mobudget.org The Missouri Budget Project supports House Bills 1085, 1083, 1050, 1036, 1035, 873 and House Concurrent Resolution 30. Each of the measures would forgive the repayment of federal unemployment overpayments that were made during the COVID crisis, and House Bill 873 would additionally forgive repayment of state unemployment overpayments. The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) reportedly overpaid 46,000 Missourians federal and state unemployment benefits totaling \$150 million. The overpayments are largely recognized as having been made due to administrative errors, rather than attempts to defraud the system. Individuals that testified before the Special Committee on Government Oversight described similar experiences, essentially documenting DLIR’s failings in administering special pandemic benefits. Although we appreciate that the Department faced significant challenges in administering rapid federal program changes, attempts to collect overpayments due to administrative failings will only harm the families who were most impacted by the economic fallout due to COVID, many of whom are still struggling to make ends meet under reduced wages. Requiring repayment would also harm Missouri’s local economies, as families would be forced to divert a significant portion of their incomes to repayment. In effect, requiring repayment would reduce the amount of income that is circulating in local economies at a time when Missouri’s economic conditions remain fragile, and could impede our economic recovery. Alternatively, forgiving both the state and the federal overpayments could have a stimulus effect on Missouri’s recovery. Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, has testified many times before Congress on the stimulative effect of various fiscal policies. Zandi found that the “bang for the buck” of unemployment benefits is \$1.49. The stimulative impact of state and federal unemployment benefits coupled with the knowledge that overpayments were largely due to administrative errors and understanding that Missourians faced significant stretches of unemployment due to the unusual nature of the pandemic, we support all of the bills before you today. But, due to the extraordinary nature of the pandemic, we would encourage you to approve a measure that includes forgiveness for both the federal and state overpayments.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY GREENHALGH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>amygreenhalgh@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 1:21 PM</b>
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I am a musician, and lost my work and income as Covid-19 arrived last year. I claimed unemployment after May 2020, because my work had disappeared. There was no fraud or intent to get any benefits to which I was not entitled. I have been paying taxes and putting money into Missouri's economy. I only claimed benefits for the few months I had zero income. Recently I have been working a minimum wage job scanning packages because I am frightened of dealing with DES again. I keep receiving billing statements in excess of \$10,000 to pay back to unemployment. I filed an appeal back in August 2020, and I've been waiting to hear about a hearing date meanwhile still receiving bills. Those benefits enabled me to get through a difficult summer of 2020. I would much rather work than receive benefits, but that wasn't possible last summer. I don't believe I was overpaid by the State. I implore you to help all of us in this situation. Sincerely, Amy



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRADLEY D SCHERFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
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CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bdscherff123@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 8:48 PM</b>
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I was notified that I had been overpaid benefits of almost \$3000 due to errors in calculating income for self employed people who were eligible to receive PUA benefits. I have since repaid most of it but feel it is unfair to ask us to repay money sent out when the error was NOT our fault. If forgiveness is granted I would hope money already repaid will be returned.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRANDON BARNES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brandoncomic@me.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 4:07 PM</b>
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Last year I worked at a video store in Kansas City, when the pandemic hit, I was forced to leave that job due to our management team refusing to take the pandemic seriously, and take basic safety precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. At that time I was living with two immunocompromised adults including a mother who had recently been hospitalized for asthma. Expecting a lockdown, and knowing it wasn't safe to look for another retail job, I filed for unemployment and was approved. I looked for remote work during this time, but was unable to find employment. I didn't cheat the system, or lie about my circumstances or conditions in any way. In May the unemployment office determined I had been overpaid and didn't qualify for unemployment, and would need to pay back every penny I'd received. Since then I've been awaiting an appeal to that decision. I've since found a job in Colorado, but am barely making ends meet. I'm now being told that even though I have an appeal in progress, my wages will be garnished and I will have to pay back a large amount of money I used at the time to scrape by and survive. I'm now being punished for the failings of a system I in no way manipulated. Being forced to pay back survival funds is immoral, and if the governor continues down the path will force many struggling Americans deeper into poverty.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARLES W BRAZEALE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cbrazeale@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 5:10 PM</b>
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Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, Thank you for taking the time to consider a possible correction to the current actions of the State Department of Labor in regard to the recoupment of unemployment benefits paid out last year during the pandemic. I realize that the state's system was overwhelmed, and it's possible that the state overpaid those who legitimately applied. I also realize that in any system relying on humans, there is great possibility for error. I believe the BIGGEST error being made is by the Department of Labor in their stubborn and ill-informed stance demanding repayment of benefits from Missouri citizens who did not intend to defraud anyone, but merely applied for and were granted unemployment benefits. If there have been errors made, they have all been made by the State of Missouri, not our fellow citizens who were forced out of work in the midst of COVID-19. I am the CFO for the City of St. Charles School District. We laid off bus drivers, para professionals, secretaries, custodians, and other classified staff during the height of school and business closures last Spring. These people were not on a summer break, they were furloughed due to the pandemic. I submit this testimony to you for your consideration on behalf of my fellow employees. I was fortunate enough to not be negatively financially impacted, however, when I see who among our employees was impacted, they are our lowest paid and most vulnerable. Please do whatever is necessary to stop the efforts to recoup unemployment benefits paid out to these people months after they actually received the payments. Again, to sum up the situation; many of our fellow citizens made legitimate application for unemployment benefits. That the State of Missouri was not able to correct accept, process, and pay these applications according to their rules, should not now be held against those who are among our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for your public service to our state.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELAD GROSS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>elad.j.gross@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 8:13 AM</b>
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I am a Missouri taxpayer. I support the state forgiving overpayments made to Missourians through no fault of their own.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIC PHAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ericpham24@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 3:19 PM</b>
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During the COVID-19 lockdown I was without a job and had to rely on Unemployment COVID payments. I had stopped requesting money around the time of August and since then returned back to work. A few months after I've received a letter saying I was not eligible for Unemployment money, however I was long done using the Unemployment benefits because of my job. Soon after I've received many threat letters saying I must pay back \$4,496 or else I maybe get legal actions against me. I'm currently a full time college student who works part time and it's been stressful enough that I used some of that money to pay for my tuition and groceries to support me and my family. I've constantly tried to get in contact with Unemployment and try to appeal but no one was able to help me in any form of way.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>7200 MADISON AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64114</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOHN LEEMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Johnmleeman@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 8:56 AM</b>
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I was going to school to work for Boeing when it was shut down due to covid. I called unemployment informed them that I quit my last job to go to the school and then I was told that I could get unemployment benefits because of the shut down. I received 4000+ dollars in 7 or 8 weeks of unemployment benefits. I was then informed, even though I told them I quit my job, that my unemployment claim was denied. They want me to payback the amount but I have a job where I make around 400 dollars every 2 weeks.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARISSA S CROZIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rissacrozier@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 4:07 PM</b>
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My name is Marissa Crozier and I work in the theatre industry in St. Louis. In March of 2020, I was laid off by my employer, St. Louis Community College due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I normally work this position from January - June and August - November every year. In June and July, I work for other theatre companies, such as Opera Theatre of St. Louis and The Muny and I also freelance for other companies throughout the year. All of the companies I normally work for have closed temporarily due to the pandemic. In 2020, I received unemployment benefits from March until August. In September, I received notice from the Division of Employment Security that the weeks that I claimed in June, July and August were denied. I appealed the denial and received a notice that my appeal was received and that I should wait to be notified of a hearing date for my appeal. I am still waiting on this hearing date. In the meantime, I have received letters informing me that I owe back the state of Missouri almost \$8000 and my subsequent claims for unemployment have been kept to pay back what I owe. I firmly believe that I am entitled to that money because I was unable to work due to the pandemic. My entire industry has been shut down for the foreseeable future and I need that assistance to keep the lights on.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL G KOVACH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mike120360@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 7:19 AM</b>
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I do not have the finances to pay tax on the unemployment stimulus that I previously recieved, If i had money i would not have filed unemployment



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NICOLE KEIPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Nikkid2184@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 5:31 PM</b>
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Hello. My name is Nicole Keiper. I reside in Greene County at 3314 West Madison Street Springfield, Missouri 65802. My testimony is in support of HCR30. I am receiving unemployment assistance due to being the primary caretaker for my 2 special needs children. They are being schooled in hybrid and virtual manners preventing me from working full-time. I have a wonderful job that reduced my hours to part-time to allow me to meet the needs of my family. Currently, I work any weekend hours that are made available to me. My husband works full-time as a laborer for a safety service company. In April I filed for unemployment as a traditional claim due to the nature of my employer voluntarily reducing my hours. In June, my employer asked me to return to full-time status. I was unable to do so with the summer care I had planned for my children being unavailable. I am not able to enroll them in many traditional options because of their complex medical and special needs. I called to report this change to the DES. This change was not processed by the State until the end of June. After many weeks of calls I was able to get the claim type changed appropriately. In September I received a notice of overpayment on my claim for the 3 week duration where my claim type had been incorrectly dated. I immediately called to see how to fix this error made by the State. The past 5 1/2 months have been a frustrating exchange of phone calls, promises to remedy the error made on the state's part, and lack of resolution. I filed a formal appeal of the overpayment determination on 12/9/20. In the resulting 9 weeks I have been unable to speak with anyone in the Appeals Department. Calling their queue daily, unable to pass the prompts to speak with them. While speaking to employees in the Claims Department I have been told to be patient, and that this correction will take "months" to fix. I have spoken to DES Supervisors, who promise a remedy that never comes. Last week, after reaching out to Representative Meredith an employee from the Claims Department called to attempt to fix my claim. Her suggestion was to backdate my PUA claim from June to April because "it will be easier than dealing with the Appeals Department". This was the only remedy I was offered to negate the Overpayment issue. This is at the cost of a duration of 6 weeks of benefits being utilized improperly, which may affect my family later on. This "fix" being the workaround to the State's clerical error that was not my fault. Each week the state withholds money I do not owe. I am eternally grateful for the PUA program which has allowed us to continue to pay our bills. I simply cannot afford to wait "months" for this to be fixed. We won't last that long. In a matter of weeks my "debt" will be repaid. The money the State believes I owe them taken from my family with no foreseeable recourse in getting back. All the money the State has withheld would have covered basic needs. In the interim I have been donating plasma, have utilized other state programs and have paired our budget down to absolute necessities. This pandemic has proved exceptionally hard to maintain the standard of care for my children. Meeting their mental health needs, educating them virtually, all while still working part-time in the medical field as an essential worker to keep food on the table. My husband has worked tirelessly, extended hours through it all, but was laid off 12/25/20 due to the seasonal nature of his work. I would not be putting our business in the

public eye were it not for the dire nature of our circumstances. Please help us. Please consider this resolution to help individuals like myself, to remedy the mistakes the State has made against us. Thank you for your time, Nicole Keiper



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RYAN LUEDLOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>scoutryan1@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 10:51 AM</b>
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Here's my dilemma. I'm a college student paying my own way through school and was left with \$0 income for months when covid started. The unemployment benefits I received paid my bills. I work for the Rockwood School District in St. Louis County. I worked for the district as a Lighting Design gig worker. I was more than able to work, but the District took away all my hours when the buildings were closed, and I can't do my job when the district is closed which is why I filed for unemployment in the first place. I received letters in the mail stating that I had been overpaid and owe all the money I received back due to the fact that I had Reasonable Assurance from the School District. Even though I was not working at the time. I recieved an email stating that all my summer work was canceled, and I was notified that Rockwood would not be participating in any theatrical productions for me to work on. To be frank, this has really put me in a tough spot and has me worried. The mistake is that Rockwood could not offer me any hours, canceled the shows, and I never received reasonable assurance so I moved forward under the assumption I was "furloughed" for lack of better term, or even technically "let go" when the shows were canceled and buildings were closed until October. If I do end up having to pay back all the money I received... then I will likely be unable to attend college next year due to financial hardship and not being able to work. My fellow gig workers and I wish for our overpayments to be forgiven. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT FREDERICKS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>isusox13@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 9:49 AM</b>
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Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story. Like many others, the pandemic forced me to file for unemployment for the first time in my life. I followed all the guidelines, up to and including searching for jobs, and was approved weekly. As a substitute teacher, I did not know when/if we would return to school. When my district officially announced we would return, I stopped collecting, even with benefits remaining. I treated my situation like I had no job to return to until we went back. I did everything I was asked and am now being punished. I have worked EVERY DAY this school year. I work hard in the challenging conditions of this pandemic, but I do it to help my family. I understand paying back the state benefits and I will, but the federal government has said getting those benefits back is not required? So why is Mike Pardon adamant about getting something back that's not even staying in the state? The Department of Labor has not been helpful at all. I mailed an appeal letter a month ago and have heard nothing. Waiving the federal portion is the right thing to do and I fully support this bill. Thank you



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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUE GREENBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>3148636930</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ST. LOUIS VOLUNTEER LAWYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE ARTS</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3301 WASHINGTON 2E</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63103</b>
EMAIL: <b>vlaa@vlaa.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 10:18 AM</b>	
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Thank you for holding this hearing. The House should take immediate action that would require the Department of Labor to waive collecting overpayment of unemployment benefits in cases where the claimant is not at fault or if repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience. Please amend your bill so the legislation covers waiving both the federal and state repayments. My testimony is based on my long career as an arts worker and advocate. I have served as the executive director of the St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) since 1986. VLAA invests in Missouri artists, creative businesses and cultural organizations by providing quality pro bono direct legal and accounting services, sponsoring ongoing educational programs and supporting initiatives that nurture our vibrant cultural ecosystem. Together with our colleagues at Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts, we provide services to the entire state. Covid-19 is having a devastating impact on Missouri's cultural sector, beginning with cancelled gigs and venue closures in March. Artists — especially performing artists — will be the very last back to work; the challenges of keeping audiences, casts and crews safe have pushed production schedules well into 2021. We've heard from musicians, actors, teaching artists, filmmakers and other creatives who applied — in good faith — for traditional, PUA and PEUC unemployment benefits so they could pay their rent and put food on their tables. They were surprised and frightened when they received letters from the Division of Employment Security claiming that they were ineligible for benefits and demanding repayments ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. With all due respect, would you or your neighbors be able to repay \$10,000, navigate an unfamiliar appeals process or sleep at night knowing that future wages will be garnished? Empathy is always important, but it is particularly vital during a public health crisis. Finally, please ask the DOL for its timeline for implementing Mixed Earner Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (MEUC), which was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This benefit is designed to provide financial assistance to arts workers, gig workers, freelancers and other self-employed individuals who receive artificially low unemployment benefits due to part of their income coming from W-2 wages. Missouri should ensure that these workers receive the assistance they need.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HCR 30</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Oversight</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>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 3:18 PM</b>
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I am heartily in favor of this CR; it should be a no-brainer to pass it. The Government does not exist to harm Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HCR 30</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Oversight</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>WILLIAM FORD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>wrford1984@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2021 8:04 PM</b>
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I am a married father of two young children. I was furloughed from my marketing job at Washington University in St. Louis for three months over the summer. I applied for unemployment for the first time ever and was deemed eligible to receive benefits on April 28. I received payments for three months until returning to work on July 27. This money nearly replaced my salary and I used it to pay my mortgage and buy groceries. I was notified on August 28 that DES ruled I was not eligible to receive benefits beginning with the week ending May 30 due to "reasonable assurance of reemployment." DES sent another correspondence on Dec. 15 claiming I was overpaid roughly \$8,300 and asking that I pay it back. It is difficult to comprehend how I was deemed not eligible and I'm still not sure I have received a sufficient explanation as to why. I have spent the last month confusedly trying to appeal these claims to no success thus far and I now feel legislative action such as this is my only path to having this unexpected debt forgiven. Having another payment plan set up for debt we didn't plan for will severely strain our monthly budget, affect our ability to pay other debt and hamper our ability to start saving for the future.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HCR 30</b>		DATE: <b>2/10/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Oversight</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2021 2:33 PM</b>
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I am in Opposition to this Bill. There was much Fraud and People that have been Collecting these Federal COVID C.A.R.E. Act Funds in a Fraudulent Manner Need to Pay back the State. The State needs to Recover these Fund as it is wrong and ALL Missourians did not get the benefit of having these Over-Payments. These Citizens were Not Entitled to receive these Over-Payments, which Causes Our Federal Debt and State Unemployment Security Fund to be in Debt.