



## Missouri House of Representatives

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**CONTACT: State Rep. Brad Christ**  
**[Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov)**

### **State Rep. Brad Christ Pre-Files Legislation Seeking to Establish Charter Schools in St. Louis County**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative Brad Christ has pre-filed House Bill 498, which mirrors the intent of his prior House Bill 1485, which was introduced during the 2024 legislative session. This bill seeks to expand educational opportunities for students by authorizing charter schools to operate in St. Louis County.

Under current Missouri statute, charter schools are restricted to specific areas. HB 498 proposes changes to the law that would allow charter schools to operate in any county with a population exceeding 1 million residents, a criterion exclusively met by St. Louis County.

Rep. Christ believes that the change would improve opportunities and outcomes for St. Louis students.

“It’s time students were allowed access to the benefits of charter schools in the entire county,” said Christ, R-St. Louis. “Expanding this option allows for improvement in education and provides families with more options in regard to their children.”

Charter schools began operating in St. Louis as an alternative in districts that were struggling with education benchmarks. To date, the state has not allowed charter school expansion in rural districts. While there is legislation filed to expand charter schools throughout the state, Christ sees this step as a strategic and logical progression for Missouri’s education system.

“Just as states serve as test markets for federal legislation, St. Louis County can continue to lead the way in proving the success of charter schools,” Christ added. “I am proud to champion this piece of legislation in order to support students and families of Missouri.”

Christ looks forward to carrying HB 498 and several other pieces of key legislation on behalf of his constituents this session, which starts January 8, 2025.

*Representative Brad Christ, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 96) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Christ by email at [Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov).*

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