



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>ALLISON NICOLE WEAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>allisonnicole363@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2021 9:12 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Allison Weaver and today, I am asking you to vote 'yes' on HB 494, which allows homeschool students to participate in public school sports and other extracurricular activities, such as speech and debate, band, and all other MSHSAA regulated activities. I am a junior in high school from Columbia. As a high school student, I enjoy being a part of my church's worship team, I work part-time for a local specialty retail store, and I have played recreational soccer for roughly ten years. As a homeschool student, finding somewhere to play on a soccer team has always been a struggle. Here is a brief history of my journey as a soccer player. I played soccer for a ministry called Upwards from first grade to sixth grade. In seventh grade, I played for a small soccer team where I played for 6 months. Once I was in seventh grade, I joined the soccer team at a small college-preparatory school I was attending, which I have been apart of ever since. When I became a freshman, my only options for playing soccer were through private schools, which have a lot of requirements, such as taking classes or paying a large fee. Since the school is so small and the age of teammates range from twelve to eighteen, the team is not very competitive. Being a competitive person myself, this has been hard for me. I come from a moderately-sized city of around 110,000 people, and opportunities to play soccer that are both competitive and reasonably-priced are very sparse. This bill would impact my life immensely. First, since I am a homeschool student, I am not allowed to participate in public school sports, speech and debate, music programs, and all other MSHSAA regulated activities. Second, the opportunities I have for scholarships are not as good compared to those who play on a public-school team. Third, me and my homeschool peers feel somewhat robbed of the right to participate in public school activities, even though our parents all pay the same taxes that every other public-school parent does. Finally, I ask that you please consider helping end the unfair treatment of homeschoolers by voting 'yes' on HB 494.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>ASHLEY GUNNELS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>optimusandjalepeno@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 12:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

To the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate, My family and I are writing you from the household where both parents competed in MSHSAA sports growing up, as well as college athletes and it was a great experience and something that we want our children to have the opportunity to compete in. We believe the MSHAA provides a great competitive environment for student athletes. We are writing to ask for support and passage of Bill SB 55. Our family has chosen to go the homeschool route, which we are fortunate to be able to homeschool our children. The removal of God from our schools is one of the leading factors in our decision to raise and educate our children from the safety and security of our own home. Thankfully, our school district allows for homeschool athletes to participate in varsity level athletics. That said, they do not allow Junior High participation which puts the student athlete at a disadvantage. One of the purposes of the bill is to standardize the requirements for participation across all Missouri School Districts and that is one reason we are writing to ask for support of SB55. The opportunity to compete at a high level and prepare for next level competition is a key reason we are seeking support for Bill SB 55. At this point in time home school athletic opportunities are not consistently available. There are opportunities however, they are limited and require major investments in time and financial commitments. Our family has participated in homeschool athletics for the past two seasons competing in Junior High and Varsity level basketball competitions. The first year our team was based locally, however some of the athletes were traveling close to an hour to and from for practice. This limited the amount of practice time the athletes could get together. Also, the competition in the area was very disappointing. The local league was comprised of 13-18 year olds. There is a big variance between a 13 year old and a 18 year old in athletic development and ability which it made for less than a desirable experience. The second year the team dissolved, and we located to another program in Northwest Arkansas that required a 90 minute commute one way. A great group, however numbers were an issue and again we found ourselves putting 13 and 14 olds against varsity athletes. We did find some good competition through the National Homeschool Basketball Association's District, Regional, and National Championships. The regular season competition and even the tournaments resembled more like traveling ball schedules with long road trips to find competition that entailed overnight stays. To join the Northwest Arkansas group we were traveling 100 miles each time we went to practice as well as participating in fundraisers, some in which we would begin at 7 pm and returning home at 6 in the morning. The fundraisers were to help with the costs of the tournaments, gym rentals, and other associated costs. With the limited numbers and long distance traveling, it limited the times the team could practice. Needless to say, there was a lot of investment in time and finances to provide a decent competitive environment for our student athlete to compete in. This year as we faced challenges with low numbers and thinking about the time commitment and financial commitment involved in playing another season in Northwest Arkansas and our family expecting a newborn in February, we reached out to our local school district

to see what their requirements were. Thankfully, Neosho High schools policy for Homes School participation is 2 credit hours, unlike some districts who require full or half time. This has allowed us to join their program as well as continuing to Homeschool. It has worked well for our family and has given our student athlete a great opportunity to further develop his athletic pursuits in basketball. He is now able to experience a high level of competition each week and is able to get more practice and playing time. And we as parents are thrilled to have less financial requirements to provide a high level of competition. Not all school districts have a uniformed policy, which is very frustrating. Each district in Missouri should have a uniformed set of requirements for Homeschooling students of ALL ages to participate in. In Conclusion it is our hope that SB55 has your support. Best Regards, Brian and Ashley Gunnels Dear Representatives, I am writing to ask for your support of Bill SB 55. Playing with my local high school has given me access to more games and more practice overall to develop my abilities. With playing for Neosho, I am able to be more involved with the local school so it makes being and feeling like a part of the community and basketball "family" easier. Because it is a long running program there is a feeling of tradition and connection to the community that is different than playing for a homeschool organization. Playing for my local high school has provided access to more equipment and resources then were available through the homeschool organizations. Thanks to the school I have access to more equipment and more developed programs such as strength training. I also have the opportunity to play the same athletes from year to year and play with area kids that I've grown up playing which is an intangible benefit. Also, with being able to practice with the same athletes five times a week it makes it easier to build chemistry with teammates. Another cool thing is the bigger and better fan environment and the student section, we have more than just parents there at our games watching and supporting us. These are the things that I have recognized as better opportunities that I am thankful to have by being able to participate in my local high school and still be homeschooled. I do not miss all of the driving we had to do to practice and find competition. It is also nice knowing that there is less financial burden on my parents. And another benefit is having transportation through the school with my team to the games if for some reason my parents were not available. And bus rides are a great opportunity to bond with my team. I am hopeful that the state will make the option to homeschool and join in on local junior high and high school athletics an option for all student athletes in the state of Missouri. Please support Bill SB 55. Respectfully, Konnor



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>BRETT W DOWNING</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Squig1980@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 7:56 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I'm in support of



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>BRUCE ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>anderson.bruce@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 2:18 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am writing in support of HB 494. I feel very strongly that because parents and grandparents of homeschool students pay taxes that they should be able to participate in public school activities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>CALEB NELSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nelsonranch2005@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 8:06 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Caleb Nelson I am 15 years old and am homeschooled in Clark County Missouri. I think Homeschooling gives me a better education for the way I learn. I would like to be able to play high school baseball, but because I am homeschooled I can't. This year I earned 2,700 dollars to play travel baseball. Being able to play high school baseball would help increase my chances of getting a college scholarship. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>CARLY ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Carly@kellyandersongroup.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 1:22 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Carly Anderson. I live in Barry county in the town of Shell Knob. I am currently in the 11th grade and have homeschooled since the 5th grade. Throughout my experience being homeschooled, I have encountered many obstacles when it comes to sports. My 7th and 8th-grade year I had the opportunity to be a part of the concert band in my town's public school. It was an amazing experience. However, that is the only thing that I could do at the school. I wanted to take part in their cheerleading program, but because cheerleading involves involvement with other schools, I was not able to take part in this activity. Likewise, my brother loves cross country. He is extremely gifted and would go far if he had the opportunity to join the school's cross-country team. However, because this sport involves participating with other schools, we are not allowed to partake in this activity. The United States Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal. If all men are created equal, then why can't people who value home education take part in public school sports. As stated above, my family was told we could not partake in public school sports because it involves other schools. What is this saying to homeschoolers? That they are not good enough to interact with other schools or that they don't know how to 'socialize' with other people. In my opinion, homeschoolers socialize better than public schoolers because we have the opportunity to interact with more people and we are taught how to think, not what to think. I would love to see House Bill 494 passed because homeschoolers are no different than public schoolers. We just choose to be educated by our parents in our home, which is our right. I support House Bill 494 because homeschoolers should have the same opportunities as public schoolers. Some people claim that homeschoolers are 'Socially Awkward' and 'don't know how to socialize with other people'. This generalization of homeschoolers is wrong and heartbreaking. To prove to the world that homeschoolers can socialize like anyone else, let us play sports with our local public school. The opportunity for me to play sports in public school has probably passed. However, providing this opportunity to generations in the future will change people's mindset about homeschoolers and will ultimately change the world for the better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>COLTER CAMP</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>colter04@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 5:27 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hi! My name is Colter Camp! I am a sophomore. I'm asking you to vote in favor of SB 494. Here's why.1. It gives homeschoolers many extracurricular opportunities. Homeschoolers lack many of these things, like sports. Sports give real life lessons such as collaborating with a team, which proves helpful and applicable to life in general. Especially in a work environment. 2. The quality of play. There is undoubtedly a better quality of facilities involved in public school districts than the gyms and facilities that homeschoolers participate in. The scheduling is more refined as well, and with the seemingly complete lockout of homeschoolers competing with/against public schools, there are less chances for college scouts seeing a good amount of the undeniable talent in high school level leagues. 3. It is Helpful to homeschool families. If this bill passes, it will prove very helpful for homeschoolers, and their parents/teachers, because, often homeschoolers will have to schedule games 3+ hours away because of the inability to find games and gyms. In conclusion, I stand for the passing of SB 494 for three reasons.1. It gives homeschoolers many extracurricular opportunities.2. The quality of play.3. It is helpful to homeschool families.This matters to all homeschoolers, and members of public schools because it is vital as a society to learn how to work and participate with those of different education methods. Thank you for your time.Sent from my iPhone



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>CURTIS SPIEKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>curt.spieker@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2021 6:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I'm a resident of the Webb City, MO school district my son and grandsons also live in. I fully support all bills that enable all home schooled kids to participate in school sponsored activities. Putting burdensome requirements on kids which discourages participation is a disservice to these kids and their parents who help fund all school activities through property taxes. Please help these kids by passing legislation that assists the homeschoolers not hinders them. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>DEB ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mail@joplinexpressions.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/27/2021 9:20 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I support HB 494 so my tax paying grandchildren can play sports.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>EDWARD WILLOUGHBY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>edwilloughby1689@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 4:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am writing in support of HB 494. It is a common sense measure to ensure equality among all high school students throughout the state of Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>EMILY BEESON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emykate03@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 6:59 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

As tax-paying home schoolers, we would love the opportunity to participate in extracurriculars. For my family, that would include sports, plays, and orchestra. At this time, our school requires students to be on campus for all school periods except one to participate in anything on-campus. My daughter hoped to be on the swim team, and my son hopes to play high school sports, as community teams for that age are difficult to find. Thank you so much for creating a bill that would allow my children to participate!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>EZEKIEL SPIEKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ezekielspieker@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 9:55 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Testimony for HB 494 Education Committee Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, good morning. My name is Ezekiel Spieker, and I am here in support of HB 494, which would allow homeschool students to participate in activities through their local public school. As a highschool Junior I enjoy Team Policy debates and activities that involve movement, especially basketball. My rigorous curriculum for this year includes Latin, Calculus, Chemistry, American History, Writing, Logic, Philosophy, Shakespeare, Team Policy debate, and Lincoln Douglass debate. I also play the piano. By the end of this year, I will have 25 hours of college credit. Now that I have properly introduced myself I will begin focusing specifically on HB 494. As NFL player and coach Mike Singletary put it QUOTE "Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play." Here is a brief history of my sports experience. At 4 years old, I played basketball at Carterville Gym, a local basketball league where I competed with my public school peers. At the same time, I was involved in a youth soccer league at King Jack Park, where I was again on sports teams with my friends from the public school. As I grew older I played baseball, football, and basketball. The football and basketball leagues were both organized and hosted by my local high school. Up to this point, I had been able to compete and play on teams with my friends from the public school. We won some games, and lost others. We experienced breakthroughs as a team, and we had our hearts broken as a team. All of this strengthened my love for sports. But going into my 7th grade school year, I was faced with a dilemma. The leagues I had played in for up to that point didn't offer any teams for kids my age. Where was I supposed to play? The simple solution: try out for the school team. Now here's the catch. As a homeschool student, I was not allowed to even try out for public school athletic teams. I could not even go and try out, because homeschool students were not allowed to participate, regardless of their skill or how highly the coaches valued their hard work and effort. Even though the local high school basketball coach wants me to play for him, his hands are tied when it comes to these regulations. This is a serious problem. Why should I, who have developed strong friendships and teamwork with students from the public school, not be allowed to participate in activities with them anymore? This put my parents in an extremely bad situation, would they continue to educate me how I learned best, or would they sacrifice my education for athletics? No parent should ever have to choose between their child's academics and their child's athletics. It is for this reason and many others that I implore you to vote for HB 494, which would fix this major problem. High School Athletic Director Bernie Walter puts it simply "Let home-schooled kids play high school sports... There are many great life lessons that can be learned from playing sports. By participating in athletics, student-athletes obviously learn the fundamentals of sport, such as skills, techniques and strategies. Life lessons, such as dependability, teamwork, competition, confidence, patience, diligence, winning, sportsmanship, and citizenship are taught." HB 494, proposed by Representative Hurlbert would fix this major problem and help to end discrimination against homeschoolers. Many states, including Arkansas, currently allow homeschool

students to participate alongside their peers within the district, where they reside

QUOTE : We are all citizens of this state with hopefully the same goal in mind and that is to provide the best for our children. This is about what is best for the student ..... A homeschooled student is a student in this state just the same as a public or private schooled student and therefore deserves equal and fair treatment - especially by the state-sponsored educational establishment. This should apply to athletics as well as academics. A child can freely walk into any school in this state in the district where they legally reside and obtain educational services. This should not exclude extracurricular activities that are offered by that school”

END QUOTE-Kentucky Tim Tebow Bill

Homeschool families pay taxes. They would not be guaranteed a spot on the team. Unfortunately the discrimination of homeschool students does not end with sports, they are banned from competing in any MSHSAA activity, such as speech and debate, band, musical recitals, and many other such activities. Last year, my local school required full-time enrollment for any sport BUT they had inconsistent policies when it came to Show Choir where one of my friends was not required to take any classes. HB 494 would fix this major problem as well. Many states have adopted equal access sports laws. None of them have ever reversed this decision, once it was made. These states include, among others, Iowa, Maine, Idaho, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, and North Dakota. According to Education Week .org

QUOTE “Four out of five Americans believe homeschooled students should have the opportunity to participate in public school sports, according to a new poll from Gallup and Phi Delta Kappa...Public school parents were even more in support of the idea than the national sample, with 85 percent saying such students should be allowed to play.”

Now, there are those that have raised objections to this bill in the past. The first speaker covered the argument of eligibility and explained why it was not a valid complaint. I can revisit this if I need to, just ask me to during the questions. I have also heard the argument that home school students can already participate in extracurriculars as it is. In response to this I would like to inform the committee of two things. 1. MSHSAA has a complete ban on homeschool participation at the Junior High level 2. MSHSAA’s minimum requirement for homeschool high school participation is two seated classes at the school. Now this may not seem too bad to some of you but with block scheduling this is a logistical nightmare and schools can be more restrictive. Last year, my school district required 100% attendance, thus requiring more than MSHSAA. Of the other schools in my area, two completely prohibit homeschool participation whatsoever, and the other schools that claim to allow it require the homeschool curriculum to be accredited by DESE, which does not accredit homeschool curriculum in MO. Something else I would like to add on this subject is the story of some friends of ours, who could not make it today. As a Rural cattle rancher Logan, who enjoys sports, always has a hard time finding a team to play on. Last year, Logan played on our homeschool basketball team, which was not competitive at all but it was the best in our area. In order to make it to practice he had to travel over an hour one way. And Logan had to travel even further to play our games, which were all out of town as we could not afford to rent a gym. This is for basketball. Now football is another story. The closest 11 man team was 1 and a half hours away, with games several hours further away than that. Logan really wanted to play football. So his parents decided to contact their local school district and ask about the policy regarding homeschool participation. The School District never responded to their repeated phone calls or other attempts to contact the school regarding the policy. They eventually decided to pay public school tuition for an out of district school that would allow Logan to participate while taking two classes. Unfortunately this school is not close to their home, and the tuition is very expensive. It has also been argued that public school students with failing grades will drop out and claim to homeschool so they can participate. This argument is inadequate because MSHSAA’s own rules state that a student who is QUOTE “being expelled, or being forced to withdraw, from a school also causes 365 days of ineligibility for a student”

Last year, Representative Deaton proposed this bill, and it was #1 on the house calendar to be voted on before COVID hit. So I am hoping that we can get this bill passed this year. I would like to thank Rep Basye for holding this hearing. I would like to thank Reps Baker and Stacy for cosponsoring HB 494. I would like to thank Reps Hill and Dogan for co-sponsoring similar bills in the past, and I would like to thank Rep Christofanelli and Chairman Basye for voting this bill out of committee two years ago. Last year, this very committee voted in favor of amending this bill onto an omnibus bill toward the end of session. Last year, the Senate Education committee unanimously passed similar legislation and it was the first bill passed by that committee this session. It is my hope that this bill pass this year as well, helping families like mine and my friends that I just told you about. There are only 20 people who can affect positive change right now, and those people are you, the members of this committee

In summary, homeschool students should be granted the opportunity to participate in public school sports, co-curricular and extracurricular activities for three reasons: Parents, who homeschool their children, pay taxes. These parents choose to educate their children the way that works best for them. They should not be forced to choose between athletics and academics. Sharing these opportunities with homeschool students promotes unity in the community, encourages hard work, and increases the skill of local sports teams. Mike Singletary puts it best QUOTE “Do you know what my favorite part of the

game is? The opportunity to play."It is for these reasons, and many others, that I sincerely ask you to vote in favor of HB 494. This bill will give all tax-payers equal access to the government funded public schools. I would be happy to talk to you about any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>JACOB ALLEN SCHELP</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>JONAH SPIEKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>		
TESTIFYING: <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>KEITH SHEPHERD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Shepherdkeith@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/27/2021 7:33 PM</b>

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

While I was in high school, I was very active in extracurricular activities. And while I was a good student, graduating as Salutatorian of Puxico High School Class of 1990, I dare say that the extracurricular activities were equally as important as academics in making me the student that I was. And the man I came to be. I have been involved with coaching and organizing elementary sports in Puxico through the Puxico Athletic Booster Club since my now 17 year old son, Luke, started playing baseball. I coached him for a couple of seasons before he aged out of the program after 6th grade. I began coaching my younger son Will's basketball and baseball teams when he was in 2nd grade. I poured my heart into that great group of boys until they finished 6th grade last year. I have seen what an impact that sports can have on a persons life. I've seen it firsthand through my own life. And I have also seen it through my sons and their friends. Teamwork, unselfishness, and working together toward one goal are valuable lessons for life that cover way more than just sports. It saddens me that my sons seemingly have to do without an important part of their development because of our choice to home school them. I do realize that it is the choice we made as parents, and I am very thankful that we live in a country and a state that values that freedom. I can also honestly say (because we have the discussion yearly) that while my sons absolutely LOVE playing sports, they would not trade the way they are educated in order to play. Since we live in rural Southeast Missouri, there are very few options available for us to play sports. And all of them require traveling at least an hour or more to Cape Girardeau or further. And that can be very time consuming as well as financially prohibitive. And I know there are hundreds more in our area in the same circumstances. We as a family were able to come to the capital last year and testify for one of the similar bills that came up last year. It was a great experience for us. But is also opened my eyes to some of the arguments in opposition to our inclusion. And while I try to be open-minded and realize my own bias, these arguments seemed to be more about money and control than about the benefit of thousands of talented, hard working, intelligent, and unique students in the state of Missouri that would most likely be a benefit to any teams (from basketball to debate) that would care enough to give them a chance. In October 2020, Will and I went to watch his friends and former teammates play for Puxico Junior High. I will freely admit that while I loved those boys and loved coaching them for 5 years, it broke this father's heart that my son wasn't allowed to compete with and share the experiences of battling (win or lose) with his friends. I pray that this bill passes and that Will can join his friends again as a teammate next season. Sincerely Keith Shepherd Puxico, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>LUKE SHEPHERD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ldshepherd03@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 7:16 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hello, my name is Luke Shepherd. I am seventeen years old, I am currently a Junior in high-school, I play basketball, and I am home-schooled. I am writing in support of HB-494 to allow home-school students like myself the freedom to participate in public school extracurricular activities. I live in the small town of Puxico, Missouri and have played basketball since second grade. It has been a major part of my life and is something I love to do. I played through sixth grade with the Puxico booster club, but now that I am in high school, the amount of options for me to be able to play competitively has dropped significantly, outside of having to travel hours in a day just to show up for practice. I am willing to do whatever it takes to play basketball competitively, but this situation is far from ideal. Passing this bill would enable students like me to participate in the activity they love and represent their hometown while doing so. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>MADDY KARST</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>maddlymaddy.11@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2021 4:36 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Maddy, I am a junior in high school. Please vote in favor of HB 494. This bill would give homeschool students the ability to participate in activities at their local high school. I would like to be on the debate team and my brother would like to wrestle at the Junior High, but we can't under the current rules simply because my parents choose to educate us in a different manner than most. Thank you. Maddy Karst



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>MELISHA MEREDITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>melisha.meredith@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 8:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am a homeschool mom of four children, ages 13, 11, 11, and 6. My husband and I both grew up being very involved in extracurricular activities through the public schools we went to, and we are grateful for the experiences, memories, lessons learned, and character gained. We have grown to love homeschooling our four children, and provide a very rigorous and meaningful academic experience for them. It's been an especially great fit for our adopted son that has dyslexia, as we can give him the extra attention he needs with reading. As they have been young, they've been able to connect to the community through club leagues and city sports and programs. However, now as they approach high school and junior high, their options are coming to a dead halt. Their friends in public schools continue to have all the options in activities that they previously had, but our kids (and other homeschoolers) are "uninvited". These programs are put into place in schools because we believe they are good for the kids. What is good for some kids, is good for all kids. It's not right that my kids are being discriminated against because our family has made a different choice for schooling. So, even though our family has the legal right to homeschool and we pay taxes to fund public schools, we are punished and excluded from programs that our children could benefit from as well as add value to. We have contacted surrounding public school districts to survey the area and see what options are available to our kids. The requirements that were brought before us were quite staunch and unreasonable. To continue with our rigorous homeschool academics, add in what the public schools are asking of us for our kids to participate in activities, is unfair. Let's get back to doing what is best for students. All students.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>MICHELLE BURNAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdburnam@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 5:35 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

It has hurt my children physically, emotionally and mentally not to continue their sports. They were very active with the local youth sports but once they hit 7th grade were not able to continue on. School boards members have talked to me and explained why they couldn't play but sure would miss watching the kids they are naturals they said. My daughter has played travel ball team but we live in a small town and her practice is an hour away. I know you have heard it before and it must get old we pay school taxes but there is something there if we have to support the school then they should be able to allow homeschool children to play. Please consider this bill hard there are so many homeschool kids that are hindered because of this. Thank you Michelle Burnam



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>NIKKI EVERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jnking12@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2021 3:42 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I am a homeschool parent, I pay a lot of taxes and my kids should have the opportunity to play extracurricular activities that I cannot provide in the home.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>RACHEL R BACH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brkbach@netzero.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 5:20 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Hello! My name is Rachel Bach, and I am a homeschooling mom from southwest MO. We have 6 children ranging in age from 19 - 5 and we have homeschooled since our oldest started kindergarten. She is now a freshman at a private college in Iowa and made the Dean's List last semester! We moved here from northern Michigan over 8 years ago, and were excited when we realized that our community offered athletic programs for elementary children, and we jumped in and have participated in basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball. My husband has also been actively involved in coaching summer baseball. Our disappointment has been in learning that once our kids hit 7th grade, most of these athletic opportunities (except for summer baseball and softball up to age 15) are no longer available as they're only offered through the school. So, my kids that have played season after season with the same kids are no longer able to be a part of the team. We've gone in and talked to school officials but continually get told about MSHSAA's regulations... which is supposed to be 2 classes for high school, but for Junior high, they want 2 seat classes plus 5 online classes, which would totally replace the curriculum that we've chosen to use as a family. We've looked into homeschool and/or club teams that are offered in bigger cities, but the nearest city that offers such teams is Springfield, which is about an hour away for us. So for us to drive to basketball practice (3 times a week) plus weekend games would really pull me away from teaching the other kids at home and be a lot of sacrifice for the whole family. We would love to see this legislation be able to be passed. We realize that high school sports are hard and will require practice and commitment and that our kids aren't even necessarily guaranteed a place on the team. But a chance to try out? To have the opportunity to move forward athletically with their friends and their local community? Our school district is small.... There aren't that many athletes on the high school girls or boys basketball team. Last year, (pre-Covid), they didn't even have enough boys to field a baseball team. If local homeschool students, who were good students and had good grades, were able to participate, I think it would benefit the schools, the athletes and the community as a whole. Missouri offers us the freedom to educate our children at home. We pay taxes in our communities...please let us participate in extracurricular activities with other local students! Please support SB 55. Thank you for your time! Rachel Bach Greenfield, MO. 417-399-2658 brkbach@netzero.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>RACHEL STEELE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>r.steele@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:53 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hello, I am a homeschool parent in support of HB 494. My sons would really love the opportunity to play basketball with the local public school. We live in a very rural area and the cost and commute for a homeschool basketball team is not feasible for us. It would greatly enrich their school experience. Thank you!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>RYAN MEREDITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rmeredith.95@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2021 7:50 PM</b>	

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

To the Missouri House Members. I'm writing in support of the Home School Activities Access provisions in HB 494. I have four reasons to do so. My four children. My oldest child is now entering high school and will have no option to participate in a school-sponsored sport or band. Private options for these activities are very limited and not the same experience. My sons are now in 7th grade and there are no options for them to play football except to drive 60 minutes (each way) for each practice to a homeschool league team. My youngest, 6, has yet to understand her future options for sports and arts will be limited as she reaches middle school age. As their parent's we have determined that homeschool is the best choice for their education, we are happy that our taxes go to support our local school district, but it's unjustified to bar our students from accessing the experiences we can't provide to them at home such as band, orchestra, theatre, and organized athletic teams. What are the reasons for this? The only written arguments I have seen to now allow home school students to participate is that it might be possible the parents aren't actually educating them. Among other achievements my children have memorized 160 history sentences, the periodic table, and are learning Latin! For those of us parents who are pouring our heart and soul into providing our children a high quality education with zero funding from the state, while providing tax resources for our local school district, this is insulting. I hope you can see why I feel this way. The language of this bill must require school districts to allow homeschoolers to participate. If the decision is left up to the school districts, the same pattern that exists today will perpetuate. There is a strong prejudice against homeschool families among the school districts in our area and they are not changing their approach on their own. MSHSAA opposes this legislation and has set a minimum number of courses a student must enroll in to participate in athletics for Member schools. Why should this organization have this much power and influence over our local school districts? I've heard anecdotes that local school boards in our area have pointed to MSHSAA as the reason for their policies and I understand this is what the original language from the previous versions of this bill was aimed at. To cut off funding for schools that are members of MSHSAA which actively attempts to put limitations on the participation of home school families. Thank you for your time and consideration upon this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>SHANNON SLEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>slee.shannon@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 7:32 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you and for your hard work on behalf of the children of Missouri. My name is Shannon Slee and I live in rural northeast Missouri in the town of Ewing. I am a homemaker and homeschooling mother of five children, ages 9, 7, 5, 4, and 2. My husband is a small business owner who operates his own construction company. Since graduating from college in 2008 with degrees in Spanish, English, and secondary education, with a sociology minor and a K-12 teaching certificate in Spanish, I have spent the entirety of my adult life educating and working with children, beginning as a public high school Spanish teacher with 180 students a day in my classes, then working for several years with young people as a student ministry staff member at my church, and for the last nine years, working one-on-one... or sometimes one-on-five... with the five young people who are especially near and dear to my heart. I am here to speak with you today because of my support for HB494, which I would love to see passed on behalf of my children and families like mine throughout Missouri. As a homeschooling parent, it is my goal to provide my children with the best possible educational opportunities. Every day I sacrifice time, vast amounts of energy, money, and my personal interests and pursuits in favor of helping my children to achieve growth on academic, emotional, spiritual, and relational levels. I am currently in my 5th year of homeschooling and despite the challenges it presents, I couldn't be more pleased with the results I am seeing in the development of engaged, bright, hard-working, compassionate, and uniquely gifted humans who I know will be an asset to my community, state, nation, and world. In addition to the quality education and the many opportunities that I am able to provide my children without the use of our public school system, I know that there are aspects of that system that could contribute to the well-rounded education of my kids. As public school students ourselves, my husband and I were extremely involved in both athletics and other extracurricular organizations in our school which helped build character, promote a team spirit, and develop positive, enduring relationships. While I would say my best take-away from my time on the high school track and field team was the relationship that blossomed with my now-husband, it was also pretty exciting that he and I both set event records which still stand some 22 years later, and competed at the State level competition in various events. My husband was also a leading member of his football team and went on to earn athletic scholarships to play college football and also competed in college track. We both worked hard to become the best athletes we could be, and learned many other important lessons along the way. I provide this information to show how our history of participation and personal growth through sports makes us especially supportive of our children's athletic pursuits and the character development that they facilitate. Unfortunately, as things are today, my children will not have those same opportunities. Until the state passes legislation that creates equity for all children of tax-paying Missourians, including homeschooling families, athletic associations and the highly varied viewpoints of public school districts will continue to bar one segment of qualified, potential-filled children within

their borders from participating. I eagerly hope to see this inequity addressed for the good of all Missouri children. As small business owners and landowners, the taxes my household pays provide significant funding for our local school district. In December, I drove to our county courthouse and wrote a check which included 2,558.41 to our Lewis County C-1 School District. Over the 25-year span that I will have had school-aged children in the home, that really adds up! Because we choose to educate our children at home, we are paying into the pot but not personally benefiting from any of the services of the schools that we help fund. While this is a choice we are okay with on many levels, because we can provide a quality of education that we feel is worth the trade, we simply cannot fabricate the team experience with our little "team of five" and their diverse ages and interests. It is in the best interests of all children in Missouri to provide kids with equal opportunities to thrive, and allowing them to join the public school teams and extracurricular organizations that they are interested in is one step in that direction. No homeschooling family here to support this bill today is asking for special treatment or favors; we simply seek the availability of equal opportunities for our children that others paying the same taxes in our communities are already enjoying. The current rules for and against homeschool participation in public school athletics and other extracurriculars are inadequate and unfair. There are different rules for kids in different districts, and a complete ban on junior high participation—a formative time for young athletes! The MSHSAA's rules, when they do offer scraps of opportunity for homeschooled kids, are both logistically difficult as well as subject to the changing whims of the organization. The burden this places on taxpaying homeschooling families is unreasonable. These families should not have to seek out alternative athletic teams and opportunities when they are funding programs right at home should they want to utilize them. Simple solutions can be found to ensure that our children meet the grade and attendance requirements set by the school districts. Records can be furnished; documentation can be provided consistent with what public school children need to have to qualify for teams. Same communities, same taxes, same academic eligibility expectations. This is not too tall an order. Homeschool parents, well equipped in this communication age, are up for meeting the logistical challenges of having their children where they need to be for meetings, practices, and events. And true to our helicopter parenting stigma, you can bet that we will be great assets to booster clubs and fundraising efforts for our school district's teams in which our children participate. The high standards that many homeschooled children are held to at home make them excellent candidates for team settings. Homeschooled students have one-on-one instruction, tailored to their specific needs and strengths, to help them thrive in their educational pursuits. What's more, their parents provide them with many social opportunities to learn to engage with younger children, same-age peers, older students, adults, and the elderly. This unique strategy for learning to engage with the world around them means that the diverse abilities and perspectives of homeschooled children would lend strength to a team or group. It shouldn't be one or the other. It is in the best interest of the group to bring on a broader range of skills and personalities, and it is in the best interests of the children to provide a setting to develop those skills. I conclude in the hope that you will continue to fight for the equality and well-being of ALL Missouri children, including those who are homeschooled. As an engaged community member, a taxpayer, and an intentional parent, I hope that by the day my five children "come of age" to play sports and join other extracurricular groups, the unfair obstacles that currently prevent this from happening will have been completely removed. In fact, I hope it happens much sooner than that, and the passing of HB494 will make that a reality. I know that my community will benefit from the strengths of my children, and that my children will benefit from the team experience. It is a win-win! I urge you to help make this possible for today's children and future leaders! Thank you, Shannon Slee



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>STEPHANIE SOHM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Stephsohm@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:20 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am in support of HB 494 and the provisions it provides for homeschooling families to have access to extracurricular activities within their school districts. We are a family who has public schooled as well as homeschooled based on the individual needs of each child. I am an advocate for access to good education for all children. I do not believe the one size fits all approach that exists in our current state educational systems allows for all to receive the education they need. My child was one of these children. I'm grateful that we had other options but it came at a price. Due to the current restrictions in MO my son had to make a choice between homeschooling and receiving access to the learning approaches that would help him succeed or choosing his love of sports and staying in an learning environment that did not support his educational needs. Ultimately we felt education was our highest priority. He has continued to play sports through community leagues at additional costs to our family but now as a highschooler we are faced with limited options and forced to drive to Kansas to find teams. I do not believe that citizens who's taxes go to fund the public education system and their extracurricular programs should be denied access to them. Many other states do not have the restrictions that MO does, I would encourage you to follow their examples. As representatives for all the citizens of this state, please consider using your vote in favor of providing equal access to all who pay to fund these programs. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</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>WILL SHEPHERD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>WillShepherd5823@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 7:20 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hello, my name is Will Shepherd. I am thirteen years old and I am in seventh grade, I play basketball and baseball, and I am home-schooled. I am writing in support of HB-494 to allow home-schooled students the option to participate in public school activities, just like my brother. I played both sports (in booster club) for as long as I can remember. In both sports, I made friends, we won some tournaments, and I had a lot of fun, until I officially started junior-high school. Puxico booster club only goes up to sixth grade, and all of my friends were in public school. This means that I cannot play junior-high basketball for Puxico without basically having to switch to public school, and I will not do that. I am faithful to my school, Classical Conversations. I am currently on a travel baseball team with only one person that I know. It would be great if you pass HB-494 so Missouri home-schoolers like myself will have the option to participate in public school activities. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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 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>3/1/2021 11:18 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I am Opposed to this Bill. This is a very harsh Penalty of cutting off funding. Another effort to tear at and attack Public School Districts of our Great State.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRIS SPRAGUE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-880-7787</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT, MISSOURI MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2401 N 2ND ST</b>			
CITY: <b>OZARK</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65721</b>
EMAIL: <b>president@mmea.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 8:35 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Chris Sprague, and I am the president of the Missouri Music Educators Association, an organization that represents over three thousand music educators in our state. We strongly oppose HB 494. HB494 has three major sections. MMEA would like to address each of the three sections.

Concern Number One: The generic nature of the language in HB494 is problematic. HB494 states: "...any event or activity offered by the school district or an attendance center of the school district in which the student resides and where the statewide activities association exercises authority, rules, or guidelines for participating..." This bill would make it possible for home schooled students to participate in district activities without taking classes for any part of the school day. The Missouri State High School Activities Association ensures that all member schools adhere to the same rules concerning student eligibility, citizenship and academic standards for participation. The MSHSAA also maintains rules for each sport and activity to ensure that the students have a safe and educational experience. This bill would eliminate the safeguards that protect the integrity of the activities. One of the MSHSAA's responsibilities is to make sure that schools do not "recruit" students to change schools to participate in an activity. Since there would be no organization to provide this oversight, coaches and sponsors could pluck the best students from neighboring schools or school districts to participate in a sport or activity. There are currently exceptions that allow home schooled students to participate in MSHSAA sanctioned activities. These rules are in place to make sure that all students, including home schooled, are meeting the same academic and citizenship requirements. There are many activities such as music, debate, theater, etc. in which activities are the culmination of academic work that is blended with after school participation. It is completely illogical that home schooled students can participate in the extracurricular component but not the curricular component of these activities. For example, students who are in musical ensembles have spent years developing skills and close relationships with the other members of the ensemble. These relationships are built through activities that take place both in school and outside of school.

Concern Number Two: There are no attendance requirements for home schooled students. This bill states that home school students cannot be required to attend "for any portion of a school day" to participate. MSHSAA rules were updated four years ago to provide flexibility for home schooled students and provide two possible paths towards participation. 1. Enroll in accredited online curriculum/credit that the school approves and agrees to transcript, without attending school at all. 2. Enroll in two seated classes at the school which are transcribed, and the rest in home schooling to meet the 80% total credit requirement that all students meet. These two paths are also open to students who wish to participate in extra-curricular activities (sports etc.), which take place outside of the normal school day and are not tied to a specific course offered during the school day. Music programs are co-curricular, which means that both

teaching and education of the course occurs during the school day and before or after school. In-seat participation in these courses is necessary for students to receive the full benefit of the instruction. Currently home school students enrolled in these courses can still participate in local events and performances that are not interscholastic competitions. MSHSAA also provides two avenues by which a home schooled student can participate fully in all events. Those are referenced in the above paragraph.

**Other Attendance Related Considerations** Public school students receive a minimum of 1044 hours of instruction each year, and many public schools have made the local decision to require additional hours above the minimum. Many local school boards have also set attendance policies that students must meet to be eligible for extracurricular or co-curricular activities, as well as grade point minimums for participation. Section 167.031 states that the home school must offer 1000 hours of instruction, not that a student must complete 1000 hours of instruction. Under current statute, it is possible for a home schooled student to complete the requirements for high school graduation after only 1600 hours of instruction. An average public-school student completes over 4000 hours of instruction spread over four years. If MSHSAA or the school requires certain academic/attendance minimums, how can we know if the home school student has met that level or not? The parents are put in an inherent conflict of interest because they want their children to participate, but are also responsible for certifying the student's eligibility. There is also a reverse version of this abuse that is possible. What if a student cannot meet the eligibility requirements in school? What is to stop a parent from putting them in a home school setting so they can immediately become eligible and then participate?

**Concern Number Three: School funding inequity.** HB494 2 states: "the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall withhold payments under section 163.031 for any district in violation of this section." Withheld funds can be released to the district after showing proof to the state board of education "that the school district has ceased membership in the association and has ceased remission of any funds to said association." Based on the state funding formula, which includes weighted average daily attendance data, this change in policy would negatively impact school district funding. This section imposes a huge penalty to school districts, with the loss of educational funds for ALL the students in the district, not just the funds which support the activities of the students. In addition, home schooled students would receive the benefit of the activity/sport, but because they are not counted in the daily attendance they will not be adding to the funding that supports the activity/sport.

**Conclusion**The Missouri Music Educators Association believes that ALL students in Missouri are deserving of an education that maintains high accountability standards. We believe that home schooled students are just as capable as public school students of reaching the current attendance and grade requirements. We believe that HB494 will harm both public school and home schooled students, and hinder us in providing a well-rounded education for all Missouri students.

Sincerely, Chris Sprague  
President Missouri Music Educators Association



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID J KLARICH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-560-1616</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FAMILY COVENANT MINISTRIES</b>		TITLE: <b>MEMBER MANGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>438 GATEFORD DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63021</b>
EMAIL: <b>dklarich@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/1/2021 5:00 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFF SANDQUIST</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-368-8535</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION</b>		TITLE: <b>CHAIR - MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>10700 DAVIDSON ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>ROLLA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65401</b>
EMAIL: <b>jsndqst@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 9:31 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education is an alliance of arts education organizations representing music, theatre, visual arts, and dance, as well as other organizations with an interest in arts education. Currently there are 19 organizations who participate in the MAAE. Position Statement: The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education opposes HB494. HB494 has three major sections. MAAE would like to address each of the three sections. HB494 1 (1) uses generic language HB494 states: any event or activity offered by the school district or an attendance center of the school district in which the student resides and where the statewide activities association exercises authority, rules, or guidelines for participating...The activities and events covered by this proposed legislation are undefined. It could run from school dances or other local activities, to interscholastic activities and events (competitions between schools). These interscholastic activities or events governed by the statewide activities association (MSHSAA) of primary concern to MAAE are those in the arts; music, speech and debate. B. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED: Music activities as used in this Section shall include those interscholastic music activities that are outgrowths of the member schools' regular music programs and are included in the Music Manual (to include, but is not limited to the following: band, marching band, jazz band, choir, show choir, orchestra, winter drumline, etc.). The term "evaluative festival" shall mean that the performance of an individual and/or group shall be rated according to achievement standards. (By-Law 4.2.1) MSHSAA Music Manual 20-21 p. 5MAAE members also have a concern for the entire school community since many students in the arts also participate in other interscholastic activities (sports etc.) and events. The following section expands the conversation to include extracurricular co-curricular and curricular course offerings which may be beyond the intended scope of HB494. Extracurricular and co-curricular are two terms that are often used or interpreted to be interchangeable. When proposed legislation uses only one term, (or in the case of this legislation no terms) possible gray areas are created. MSHSAA oversees both co-curricular and extracurricular programs and has the same eligibility requirements for both, so some may view any MSHSAA governed program to be extracurricular. MAAE contends that there are differences between extracurricular and co-curricular activities and would like the terms to be defined and used so that the impact of any proposed legislation can be clearly assessed, and any possible confusion avoided. For additional clarification, school events and activities could be divided in to three categories: 1. Curricular – part of written curriculum and taught during the school day 2. Co-curricular activities refer to those activities which complement learning experience of the students in the schools. These activities are connected with academic courses and are organized or designed to help the students have a better understanding of the course.3. Extra-curricular activities refer to those activities which are outside the realm of normal curriculum, but are essential for the all-around

development of the students. While a quiz bowl, math competition, 'spell bee', music festival, or concert for a school performing ensemble, etc, are 'Co-curricular activities', sports are 'Extracurricular activities'. adapted from the Stack Exchange 4. The proposed amendment which addresses Co-Curricular participation (marching band, choir, theatre) address the primary issue that MAAE has with this section of the bill. HB494 1...“statewide activities association” though not clearly stated, implies the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). MSHSAA was established by schools in 1926. Currently MSHSAA includes 594 high schools and 150 junior high schools across the state and includes 81 private schools as members. No school is required to be a member, and there is no membership fee to join MSHSAA. MSHSAA is governed by a Board of Directors which includes school administrators from across the state. In addition, there are advisory committees made up of administrators and educators from across the state specific to each activity. The MSHSAA Handbook containing the Constitution and By-Laws and all of the rules that oversee student eligibility and competitive equity are voted into place by the member schools. These rules are revised annually. The By-Laws work together to allow the schools themselves to self-govern and provide competitive equity. Missouri State High School Activities Association MSHSAA regulations govern Sports and Activities (Music Activities, Scholar Bowl, Speech and Debate, Spirit Activities). Sports and Spirit Activities are most often extracurricular programs, while the remainder of the Activities are co-curricular. Students involved in these programs who wish to participate in competitive events must meet MSHSAA minimum eligibility requirements. Many school districts also adopt the MSHSAA eligibility requirements or set higher local requirements for participation in other school activities, (clubs, school royalty, etc) and other events and activities that are not interscholastic events. HB494 1 (2) Attendance requirements cannot be applied to home school students. The bill states that home school students cannot be required to attend “for any portion of a school day” in order to participate. MSHSAA rules were updated four years ago provide flexibility for home school students and provide two possible paths towards participation. 1. Enroll in accredited online curriculum/credit that the school approves and agrees to transcript, without attending school at all.2. Enroll in two seated classes at the school which are transcribed, and the rest in home schooling to meet the 80% total credit requirement that all students meet. These two paths could work for extra-curricular activities (sports etc.) which take place outside of the normal school day and are not tied to a specific course offered during the school day. Attendance at school is only one factor in eligibility to represent the school in activities. In fact, many enrolled students who attend school, are not eligible to represent their school due to failing to meet one or more of the minimum requirements. Following are a sample of the minimum requirements voted on by the member schools that make up MSHSAA. • being a good citizen (2.2 MSHSAA Handbook) • meeting the minimum academic standard (2.3 MSHSAA Handbook) • overage student (3.5 MSHSAA Handbook) • fifth year senior (2.4 MSHSAA Handbook)• transferring schools for athletic reasons Many schools have more restrictive requirements for students that go beyond the MSHSAA minimum requirements listed above (i.e. no “F” policy, GPA, higher citizenship standards, attendance policies, etc.). The ability to participate in activities is a very motivating factor for many students. Requirements for eligibility to participate result in higher attendance, higher graduation rates, and help ensure students a well-rounded educational experience that prepares them to meet the demands of the 21st century. The majority of music programs and speech and debate would fall in to the co-curricular category where the teaching and education is part of a course which occurs during the school day. In-seat participation in these courses would be necessary in order for students to receive and benefit from the instruction. Currently home school students enrolled in these courses could still participate in a number of local events and performances that are not interscholastic competitions. By being a part of the ensemble, they become part of the community and can go on to meet the minimum requirements for full participation as previously outlined above. MSHSAA District and State Festivals and District and State Honor Ensembles School music programs have a limited number of audition spots for district choir/band auditions, as well as a limit on entries for students in the solo and small ensemble district music festivals. Because of these limits, even students enrolled in school bands and choirs (some for multiple years) have to go through a pre-selection process in order to get one of these audition spots. Making these activities open to homeschool students who are not part of the curricular music program further complicates this problem. There are also entry limitations for other activities (Speech and Theatre) which raise the same issues. Other Attendance Related Considerations Public school students receive a minimum of 1044 hours of instruction each year, and many public schools have made the local decision to require additional hours above the minimum. Many local school boards have also set attendance policies that students must meet in order to be eligible for extracurricular or co-curricular activities, as well as grade point minimums for participation. Section 167.031 states that the home school must offer 1000 hours of instruction, not that a student must complete 1000 hours of instruction. Section 167.031 (2) As evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the parent shall, except as otherwise provided in this subsection: (a) Maintain the following records: a. A plan

book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in; and b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or d. Other written, or credible evidence equivalent to subparagraphs a., b. and c.; and (b) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil's age and ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school location. (3) The requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil above the age of sixteen years. 167.031 Item (3) exempts any student above the age of 16 from meeting even the 1000 hours of "offered instruction." Item (5) below indicates that a parent only has to provide a written statement that the pupil is attending home school in order to meet the attendance requirement. 5. The production by a parent of a daily log showing that a home school has a course of instruction which satisfies the requirements of this section or, in the case of a pupil over the age of sixteen years who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written statement that the pupil is attending home school in compliance with this section shall be a defense to any prosecution under this section and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought pursuant to chapter 210. This is inequitable since the student enrolled in school would have to meet the standards set by the local school board for attendance as well as grading, while the home school student is not only exempted from these standards, but if above the age of 16 not held to any reportable standard. HB494 2 states: "the department of elementary and secondary education shall withhold payments under section 163.031 for any district in violation of this section." Withheld funds can be released to the district after showing proof to the state board of education "that the school district has ceased membership in the association and has ceased remission of any funds to said association." Since MSHSAA does not charge any membership fee to schools, the only funds in question would be registration and participation fees to be part of the various activities. In many music programs across the state these fees are paid by individual students, parents, or booster organizations. So all state aid would be withheld from a district as punishment for the district being part of an association designed to protect and provide equitable treatment for the students of the district involved in activities? This section provides for a huge penalty for the district, with the loss of all educational funds for the student. Not just the funds which support the activities of the students. HB494 3 opens the door for school districts to compete with other school districts without any regulations or rules to govern these activities or the students participating in them. The current MSHSAA Handbook is 160 pages long. 160 pages of rules and regulations to provide a safe and equitable experience for our students involved in interscholastic activities. The system isn't perfect, but it provides very necessary rules and regulations, along with a system to approve and implement suggested changes and improvements on an annual basis. Section 3 removes the governance provided by MSHSAA for all MSHSAA activities, but provides no replacement for the current structure provided by MSHSAA. Local Control/MAAE recognizes the right of parents to home school their children as they see fit and strongly advocate that home school parents consider including a comprehensive arts education for their students in addition to the subject areas listed in 167.031. In many school districts, home school students currently have access to classes offered during the school day subject to local school board guidelines. It is possible for home school students to attend, fine arts classes or other academic classes of their choosing, as long as they follow district guidelines. This alone does not make them eligible for activities governed by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. All students participating in MSHSAA governed activities must meet the MSHSAA eligibility requirements, whether it is speech and theatre, music ensembles, or extracurricular MSHSAA governed sports. School districts devote considerable resources to planning sequentially in all subjects, including the arts. Co-curricular activities and extracurricular programs that occur outside of the school day provide a strong complement to the total school curriculum provided to students. They are intended to build the school community and enhance the learning outcomes in each school. School districts must be provided the autonomy to provide for an appropriate education that guarantees the safety and learning outcomes for the students in their schools. Choice – Parents make a choice to home school their children. This is their right. By making this choice, they are choosing not to participate in available public or private school programs. In order to have the privilege to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular programs governed by MSHSAA, they should have to meet the eligibility requirements put in place by the member schools. Personal Anecdote: I know of several families who chose to send their children to public school in high school in order for their children to have access to the co-curricular and extracurricular programs offered in the school. I have also had homeschool students attend school just for choir or music theory classes. They were allowed to be a part of the class and participate in local (non MSHSAA governed) concerts and performances, but because they did not meet the additional MSHSAA requirements for eligibility, they could not participate in interscholastic MSHSAA governed activities. Taxes and state support for public education All residents of a community support the public schools

through their payment of property taxes. This is a part of the funds provided to local school districts. A portion of the public school budget comes from state support which is determined not just by student enrollment in classes, but from their actual attendance in classes. To allow students to participate in extra-curricular programs without being enrolled and attending school classes allows them to have the benefits of the program without the school receiving the resources through state funding which help to make these programs possible. **Alternative Community Based Programs** Many parents have formed home school group programs to offer their children opportunities in music, sports, theatre, and many other areas within their communities. There are rules in place to allow organized home school group programs to participate in some MSHSAA activities and events. There are also a number of community-based programs which are open to children regardless of their educational affiliation. **Personal Anecdote:** The Rolla Community Children's Choir and the RCAS Jazz Choir are examples of community-based programs. In an average year the choir is made up of home school, parochial school, and public school children. Homeschool singers in these community-based programs have the opportunity to audition for honor ensembles at the state, divisional, and national levels. They are not eligible to participate in MSHSAA governed musical events, like district and state music festival, or district and state choir. Rolla is also fortunate to have a local drama/theatre company primarily for homeschool families (but open to others) for kids interested in drama and theatre. HB494 provides the potential for abuse and conflicts of interest. Home school credits and public school achievement levels don't correlate directly. Under current statute, it is possible for a home school student to complete the requirements for high school graduation after only 1600 hours of instruction. An average public school students would complete over 4000 hours of instruction spread over four years. If MSHSAA or the school requires certain academic/attendance minimums, how can we know if the home school student has met that level or not? The parents are put in an inherent conflict of interest because they are the ones who want their children to participate, but are also the ones responsible for certifying the students eligibility. There is also a reverse version of this abuse that is possible. What if a student cannot meet the eligibility requirements in school? They cannot pass enough courses to make them academically eligible, or don't meet the school districts attendance policy. What is to stop a parent from putting them in a home school setting so they can immediately become eligible and then participate? **Additional Equity issues.** Fairness to public school students—if the home school student now is part of a team, or cast, or music ensemble with limited enrollment, where they might never have been allowed to participate. What happens to the public school student who would have been in that spot? A student who went to class, made the good grades, wants to play and is good enough to make the team until another previously ineligible student shows up to knock them off the roster, or cast list, or depth chart, is now no longer allowed to participate. **Final observation** One important reason home schools exist is because parents are trying to protect their children from over-regulation and loss of parental control of a child's education. That is a commendable goal. So, why would they now want to subject their child to one of the most highly-regulated parts of the education system. Rules within rules exist in sports, music and speech contests. Reporting requirements for a student's regular education work are onerous and complex. In all likelihood, they would require the parent-educator to revise their curriculum to meet certain state imposed requirements. The potential for loss of the independence of choice, which the parent originally sought, is huge. It would seem that home school advocates would especially want to keep their distance from this part of public education.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT KIMBLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3550 AMAZONAS DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID J. KLARICH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-560-1616</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>FAMILY COVENANT MINISTRIES</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>428 GATEFORD DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63021</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 494</b>		DATE: <b>3/2/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elementary and Secondary Education</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KYNA IMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-651-1185</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 1483</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			