

If you are concerned for your Home School Freedoms Take Action now!!!

FHE is also opposing two MO Scholars expansion Senate Bills which will be heard in the Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children on Tuesday, February 13, 8:00 am in the Senate Lounge. If you agree with FHE on this issue, please call and/or email all of the committee members today.

[SB 1391](#), sponsored by Senator Tony Luetkemeyer - [Bill Summary](#)

[SB 1392](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent - [Bill Summary](#)

SB 1391 and SB 1392 are identical bills to HB 2104 which is being heard in the House Special Committee of Education Reform on Monday in the House.

FHE is asking the Committee members to remove a home school from the MO Scholars program. We have seen in other states how a home school being included in these kinds of programs can lead bills being brought forward that would bring government control over all home schools. The expansion of the MO Scholars program is just a prerequisite to a full-blown government funded ESA (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts) or ESA type of tax-credit programs and creates the high probability of more regulation being proposed for all home schools.

Although legislators have brought these bills with good intentions, the MO Scholars program, ESA bills, and Tax Credit bills is a means by which all forms of education, private and home schools become government schools. Missouri already has school choice: public, private, charter, parochial, and home school.

What school choice really means is the government is paying for not only public and charter schools, but also for private and home schools. Where there is "free" money there is also a "poison pill" of accountability (restrictions and regulations).

Don't be fooled by the "It's your money" or the "Money following the child". Once you pay your taxes to the Missouri Revenue Department, the county collector, sales tax, etc. it is no longer "your money". It is government money and government money always leads to strings.

FHE is not trying to be an alarmist, but we are committed to protecting the inalienable right of the parents of Missouri to teach their own children without further state regulation and control. Missouri homeschoolers have worked hard to secure our homeschool freedoms and maintain our freedoms. Let's work together to continue to do so.

If you agree with FHE, call and/or email all of the Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children committee members today. Also, you may want to consider coming to the hearing on Tuesday.

You might say something like:

"I would respectfully request a home school be removed from the MO Scholars program. If a home school is not removed from the program, please oppose HBs 1615, 1671, 1738, and 2104, bills expanding the MO Scholars program. Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter."

Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children

Senator Curtis Trent, Chairman

573-751-1503

Email link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=20>

Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman, Vice-Chairman

573-751-1492

Email link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=22>

Senator Lauren Arthur

573-751-5282

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=17>

Senator Doug Beck

573-751-0220

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=01>

Senator Ben Brown

573-751-3678

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=26>

Senator Jill Carter

573-751-2173

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=32>

Senator Travis Fitzwater

573-751-2757

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=10>

Senator Elaine Gannon

573-751-4008

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=03>

Senator Greg Razer

573-751-6607

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=07>

Senator Caleb Rowden, President Pro Tem

573-751-3931

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=19>

Senator Holly Thompson Rehder

573-751-2459

Email Link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/DistrictWebApplication/Disclaimer?DistrictNumber=27>

Additional Information:

FHE sent out an action alert on HBs 1615, 1671, 1738, and 2104, all on expanding MO Scholars program which will be heard in the House Special Committee on Education Reform on Monday, February 12 at 1:00 pm in the Joint Committee Room (117). Please keep making calls and sending emails on these bills to all the Committee members. **Contact information for the Committee members is in the Alert below that was sent out on February 9**

Action Alert – Calls and Emails needed

FHE is opposing the MO Scholars Expansion bills that will be heard in the House Special Committee on Education Reform, Monday, February 12, 2024, at 1 PM in the Joint Hearing room (117). If you agree with us, please call or email today.

[HB 1615](#), sponsored by Rep. Brad Hudson – [Bill Summary](#)

[HB 1671](#), sponsored by Rep. Mattiesen – [Bill Summary](#)

[HB 1738](#), sponsored by Rep. Doug Richey – [Bill Summary](#)

[HB 2104](#), sponsored by Rep. Phil Christophanelli - [Bill Summary](#)

All of these bills in some way expand the MO Scholars program.

Background information

FHE, while being neutral on parts of this program that do not effect homeschoolers, has opposed some of the egregious rules created by the Treasurer's Office, especially the rule to require everyone living in the home of a home school 18 years of age or older to submit to a background check. HB 2104 removes a parent from the background check, but it does not take the 18-year-old child still living at home, or possibly, grandma living with the family out of the requirement.

HB 2104 and HB 1738 changes the tax credit a taxpayer contributes to the scholarship fund from a non-refundable tax credit to a refundable tax credit. A refundable tax credit is when a taxpayer can receive more money from the state than their tax liability. At this point, direct government money becomes part of the MO Scholars program. And again, government money always requires more accountability.

The best thing would be to remove a home school from the MO Scholars program before there is any expansion of the program. In other states which have started with similar programs to the MO Scholars and then advanced to full government funded ESA (Empowerment Scholarship Account) programs have seen immediate bills filings to put more restrictions on all home schools. This is a dangerous road to travel. Don't "sell your home school freedom for the money carrot".

If you agree with FHE, help protect our homes school freedoms by calling or emailing all of the House Special Committee on Education Reform members today. Also, you may want to consider coming to the hearing on Monday.

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House Special Committee on Education Reform Committee members:

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E-Mail: Bishop.Davidson@house.mo.gov

Rep. Justin Hicks, Vice-Chairman
Phone: 573-751-3572
E-Mail: Justin.Hicks@house.mo.gov

Rep. Mark Sharp, Ranking Minority Member
Phone: 573-751-0238
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Rep. Phil Christophanelli
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Rep. Chris Dinkins
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Rep. Ben Keathley
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