



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Governor Parson,

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports House Bill 417 (Henderson) and respectfully urges you to sign the bill into law.

HB 417 creates a new workforce training program called “Upskill Credential” that will prepare Missourians for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Through our annual survey of CEOs across the state, workforce is the top concern year after year. This year, our survey found that over 50% of all businesses cited workforce concerns as the biggest obstacle to growth and that improving the availability of qualified talent is the most important to profitability.

The new training program established by HB 417 would reimburse employers through competitive grants for upskilling employees with short-term, industry-recognized credentials. Small and medium-sized businesses are given priority in this competitive grant program. Furthermore, this program focuses on investing in Missourians. As individuals earn new credentials, their opportunities to earn higher wages and improve their quality of life will increase.

The Upskill Credential program is modeled after Ohio’s extremely successful “TechCred” program that has been utilized by over 2,100 employers to upskill tens of thousands of workers. We strongly believe Missouri’s program would be similarly successful in helping businesses build and retain their own talent. Employers’ investment in employee professional development is cited as a key factor in boosting employee retention.

We sincerely thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to growing and upskilling our workforce in Missouri as a key tenet of your administration.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to sign HB 417 into law.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



P 573-634-3511  
F 573-634-8855  
mochamber.com



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
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Governor Parson,

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports House Bill 402 (Henderson) and respectfully urges you to sign the bill into law. House Bill 402 contains critical provisions that help advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) practice to the full extent of their training and licensure.

In our annual survey of CEOs across the state, workforce is the top concern year after year. Businesses frequently report that they have open positions but are unable to find workers to fill the empty slots. Hospitals and health clinics are not immune, and many of these health care businesses cite overly burdensome professional regulations as part of the problem.

When our health care system was overwhelmed during the pandemic, you and your cabinet helped ease the burden on health care providers by temporarily waiving certain elements of collaborative practice arrangement regulations. Those waivers – many of which are included as provisions in this bill – helped APRNs fill in the gaps in our overextended health care system during a time of crisis. We hope to see these provisions become law.

House Bill 402 also contains provisions that would alter the definition of hospital in statute to include rural emergency hospitals. This modification will help improve health care access for rural communities, an essential factor in local economic development.

We sincerely thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to making sure every Missourian has access to quality health care. Countless studies show that better access to health care leads to better health outcomes for patients. As business owners know, a healthy workforce means happier and more productive employees.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to sign House Bill 402 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Mehan".

Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Governor Parson,

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports House Bills 115 & 99 (Shields) and respectfully urges you to sign this legislation into law. HBs 115 & 99 contains critical provisions that help advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) practice to the full extent of their training and licensure.

In our annual survey of CEOs across the state, workforce is the top concern year after year. Businesses frequently report that they have open positions but are unable to find workers to fill the empty slots. Hospitals and health clinics are not immune, and many of these health care businesses cite overly burdensome professional regulations as part of the problem.

When our health care system was overwhelmed during the pandemic, you and your cabinet helped ease the burden on health care providers by temporarily waiving certain elements of collaborative practice arrangement regulations. Those waivers – many of which are included as provisions in this bill – helped APRNs fill in the gaps in our overextended health care system during a time of crisis. We hope to see these provisions become law.

We sincerely thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to making sure every Missourian has access to quality health care. Countless studies show that better access to health care leads to better health outcomes for patients. As business owners know, a healthy workforce means happier and more productive employees.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to sign HBs 115 & 99 into law.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports the reauthorization of the employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) tax deduction in Senate Bill 20 (Bernskoetter). We respectfully urge you to sign this piece of legislation.

The ESOP tax deduction has proven to be a valuable tool that promotes employee ownership and fosters a positive business environment in our state. By extending this tax incentive, we can encourage more businesses to adopt employee ownership models, which have numerous benefits for both the companies and their workers.

Employee-owned businesses often exhibit higher levels of employee satisfaction, increased productivity, and greater long-term stability. Moreover, these companies contribute positively to the local economy, driving growth and job creation. This ESOP tax deduction plays a crucial role in facilitating this transition to employee ownership, making it more financially viable for businesses by incentivizing the adoption of this beneficial model.

As a trusted organization representing the business community, we have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of employee ownership in Missouri. It is our firm belief that extending the ESOP tax deduction found in SB 20 will further encourage and support locally-owned businesses, leading to a stronger and more prosperous economy.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Governor Parson,

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports Senate Bill 186 (Brown) and respectfully urges you to sign the bill into law.

SB 186 will enhance public safety across the state. Improving public safety is a top priority of the business community as rising crime hinders economic growth. This bill will deter certain types of crime as well as support the state's efforts to recruit and retain valiant law enforcement officers.

The Missouri Chamber released *Safer Missouri, Stronger Missouri* this year, which included various statewide policy recommendations to combat crime. One of the recommendations was to boost the state's efforts to recruit and retain law enforcement officers. We know that Missouri has a severe law enforcement workforce shortage; this negatively impacts public safety. SB 186 includes the "Peace Officer Basic Training Tuition Reimbursement Program" which will help recruit and retain additional law enforcement officers by incentivizing individuals to go through the training needed to serve in communities across the state.

This bill also includes a provision to strengthen penalties for damaging or stealing from automated teller machines (ATMs). These types of crimes involving ATMS, commonly known as "smash and grabs," are extremely costly and very disruptive to businesses and individuals alike. The provision in SB 186 related to ATMs increases penalties for smash and grabs and will serve as a deterrent to individuals for committing these types of crimes.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to sign SB 186 into law.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Governor Parson,

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports Senate Bill 189 (Luetkemeyer) and respectfully urges you to sign the bill into law.

SB 189 comprehensively addresses Missouri's multi-faceted and complex issue of rising crime. Missouri ranked sixth highest in America in violent crimes in 2020. In property crimes, Missouri had the ninth highest rate per capita in 2020.

Crime is a statewide economic issue that hinders economic growth. Many of the provisions in Senate Bill 189 are recommendations from a report issued by the Missouri Chamber called *Safer Missouri, Stronger Missouri*:

- Increasing sentencing standards for repeat violent offenders;
- Establishing minimum prison terms for armed criminal action;
- Enacting Blair's Law to increase penalties for reckless celebratory gunfire; and
- Easing the process to have a criminal record expunged.

Not only does crime negatively impact our businesses and our economy, but it devastates and destroys people's lives. Thus, this bill is urgently needed to serve as another tool in the toolbox to address this growing problem.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to sign SB 189 into law.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

May 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Parson, Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Governor Parson,

This year's budget bills have a variety of transformational investments that will move Missouri forward in the global competition for jobs. We respectfully request your signature on all budget bills and have included an attached list of line items that we support. Major themes in the budget that are backed by the business community include infrastructure, child care, and technology.

Missouri's central location has long been a major advantage. Now, the transformational \$2.8 billion investment in House Bill 4 to expand I-70 will further position our state as a national – and global – logistics leader. The corridor is vital to the global supply chains for many industries, and 84 percent of respondents surveyed in the Missouri CEO poll supported leveraging state and federal funds to increase its capacity.

Another significant investment we support will enhance child care capacity statewide. We support funding to expand access to pre-kindergarten programs and increase the child care subsidy rate to the 58<sup>th</sup> percentile. Child care isn't just an issue for working parents; it is a statewide economic and workforce issue. We partnered with the U.S. Chamber Foundation on a report that showed that Missouri's childcare crisis is costing the state a staggering \$1.35 billion annually. The problem is so severe that nearly 1 in 10 working parents in Missouri report quitting a job due to childcare issues, and nearly one in three parents have changed jobs due to childcare in the last year.

Another major theme in the budget is maximizing Missouri's technology and innovation economy. The reliance on overseas supply chains for semiconductors and active pharmaceutical products, including their contributing critical minerals, is a national security risk. We are heartened to see investments in the budget to onshore these vital industries. We are also pleased to see investment in a statewide cybersecurity training program as our annual survey found that 80% of business owners say cyberattacks are a growing or top concern.

Together, these budget bills will spur economic growth and improve the lives of Missourians for decades to come.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you sign all budget bills into law.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Mehan  
President and CEO  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry