



Missouri Association for Social Welfare Supports House Bill 509



Good afternoon, I am here representing the Missouri Association for Social Welfare and its criminal justice and hunger task forces. MASW supports this bill because...

- 1.) If passed, HB 509 will impact the economic growth of Missouri. Millions of federal Food Stamp dollars could be brought into Missouri each year by passing this bill. This money would help the family receiving Food Stamps, the grocery stores where the food stamps are spent and the farmers that produce the food that is sold in grocery stores in Missouri.
- 2.) Opting out of the Food Stamp Ban will improve public safety in Missouri. Studies have shown that the unavailability of resources, including Food Stamps, increases recidivism rates among individuals with a drug offense. (The Ban on Welfare for Felony Drug Offenders: Giving a New Meaning to “Life Sentence” by Cynthia Godsoe, Berkeley Women’s Law Journal). Among this bill’s supporters are public safety officials and law enforcement.
- 3.) The Food Stamp Ban is unjust! Food Stamps can not be denied to any other ex-offender. This means a person can commit a violent crime such as murder or robbery and participate in the Food Stamp Program after incarceration.

To date 36 other states have modified or completely opted out of this ban. I hope Missouri will follow suit this year. Please vote to pass House Bill 509

Please support House Bill 509

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Woody, MSW
Missouri Association for Social Welfare
Criminal Justice and Hunger Task Forces
christinemasw@hotmail.com
573-690-7662
www.masw.org