

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI

Legislative Update - March 20, 2017

WELCOME TO SPRING!

The GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS ON SPRING BREAK FROM MARCH 16 TO MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017. THIS MAY BE A GOOD TIME TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE SENATOR. If you do not have a local number; e-mail or leave a phone message at their respective capitol offices.

CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION MOVES FROM THE HOUSE TO THE SENATE.

The House narrowly passed HCS/HB 634 (Roeber) on March 16 by a vote of 83-76. The attached doc shows the unofficial vote.

The following information is provided by MNEA.

The original HB 634 would expand charter schools to operate in any district in the state. As passed by the House, the bill will expand charter schools to all districts with at least one school that happened to have a building APR score below 60% for two years in any three year period. This expansion will already apply to a large number of districts across the state. The bill opens the entire district to any number of charter schools at any grade level, not limited to the location or grade level of the affected school. Moreover, the new version also allows students from any other Missouri school district to enroll in these new charter schools, if space is available.

The STL Post-Dispatch reported that charter schools could only expand if the Education Foundation Formula was fully funded.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATOR AS A CONSITUENT OPPOSING CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION.

Hint: You might want to check out your local School District's position on Charter Schools.

Tax Policy- Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO Director

Testimony on HB 109 (Kelley) Earned Income Credit  
Special Committee for Tax Policy for Working Families  
March 16, 2017

“I’m speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Missouri as a member of the Board of Directors with the portfolio of tax policy. LWVMO supports tax policies that provide financial stability and adequate funding for all state services.

The EITC has worked very well at the federal level to help low- and moderate-income working people. It encourages and rewards work and helps many workers to achieve or stay in the middle class. We know from the statistics of the use of the federal EITC and that of 26 other states that this works to improve the health, education, and economic well-being of families and boost local economies around our state.

The League thanks the sponsor for investing time and energy into this important endeavor and urges the committee to pass this measure to allow for debate which will bring this measure to the public’s attention and hope for its implementation in Missouri.”

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