

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 305

Whereas, Missouri residents with disabilities deserve the same choice of where, how, and with whom they work and spend their time as other Missouri residents; and

Whereas, Missouri sheltered workshops, in partnership with local businesses and industries, are an integral part of their local communities and economies; and

Whereas, programs and employment offered by Missouri sheltered workshops through projects contracted at their facilities, supported enclaves, contracts with Missouri rest stops, employment through AbilityOne contracts, and through independent work assignments provide Missouri residents with disabilities the opportunity to meet new people, gain new skills, and earn the respect, dignity, and ancillary human benefits that come with earning a paycheck and contributing to society; and

Whereas, approximately 6,400 Missouri residents with disabilities avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in these programs and related employment; and

Whereas, the parents, guardians, and caregivers of many of these participants support and attest to the benefits of those programs and the employment provided under those programs; and

Whereas, individuals with disabilities should be free to choose the settings in which they receive services or employment, including programs and employment offered by Missouri sheltered workshops; and

Whereas, Missouri residents with disabilities have a vested interest in choosing the type of employment that best suits their needs and each resident and that resident's family or caregiver deserves the State's support in maintaining that choice and continuing to allow an array of services and employment options that best suit that individual:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session hereby reaffirm Missouri's support of the services of Missouri sheltered workshops; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Special Education in the Department of Elementary and Special Education and the President of the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers.