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Oppose SB7 – An Unconstitutional Omnibus Bill

Bill: Senate Bill 7 (SB7)

Status: Currently in Conference Committee

Position: Strongly Oppose

Summary

Senate Bill 7 (SB7) has ballooned from a 9-page health bill to a 200-page omnibus measure, packing in unrelated provisions that violate the Missouri Constitution's single-subject rule (*Article III, Sections 21 and 23*). This rule demands that bills focus on one subject, ensuring clarity and transparency. SB7's chaotic scope makes it unconstitutional and ripe for rejection by the Missouri Supreme Court, as seen in past cases.

Key Reasons to Oppose SB7

1. Unconstitutional Single-Subject Violation

- **What the Constitution Requires:** Article III, Sections 21 and 23 mandate that bills address a single, clearly stated subject to prevent legislative overreach and confusion.
- **SB7's Failure:** Starting as a health bill, it now sprawls across unrelated topics like ambulance regulations (*Sections 190.053-190.166*), dental licensure compacts (*Sections 332.700-332.760*), and pharmacy rules (*Sections 338.010, 338.710*). These have no cohesive link, breaking the single-subject rule.

2. Missouri Supreme Court Precedent

- In *Byrd v. State of Missouri* (2022), the Court struck down HB1606 for mixing homelessness policies into a county finance bill, ruling it unconstitutional. SB7 mirrors this flaw and risks the same fate.
- Ongoing cases like *Four Seasons Lakesites Property v. State of MO* (2024) reinforce that omnibus bills face swift legal challenges.

3. Opaque Legislative Process

- SB7's expansion happened behind closed doors in a conference committee, dodging public scrutiny. This secrecy erodes trust and flouts the transparency Missourians expect.

4. Risk to Legislative Standards

- Approving SB7 would greenlight future omnibus bills, weakening constitutional protections and muddying Missouri's legislative process.
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Examples of SB7's Unrelated Provisions

- **Original Intent:** Health policy.
- **Added Misfits:**
 - Ambulance service rules (*Sections 190.053-190.166*).
 - Dental licensure agreements (*Sections 332.700-332.760*).
 - Pharmacy practice changes (*Sections 338.010, 338.710*).
 - School epinephrine policies (*Sections 167.627-167.630*).

These disjointed additions prove SB 7's unconstitutional overreach.