



# We Need More Lawmakers Like Belinda Harris

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By: Maurice Harris

State Rep. Belinda Harris wrote [an op-ed](#) that appears in today's *Southeast Missourian*, challenging the merits of the Quality Jobs Act (H.B. 327). She argues that cherry-picking industries to receive tax credits does not help the economy at all, but puts unfavored businesses at a disadvantage. Also, allowing legislators to decide who receives benefits can politicize the process altogether:

When legislators pick and choose which businesses get tax credits or subsidies, the process becomes politicized. They will be influenced by personal interest and political contributors. Government should not be the one to decide what businesses get subsidies and tax credits, thus putting competing businesses at a disadvantage.

She argues correctly that market forces and a low-tax environment for all businesses should be the mechanism that gives people incentives to start businesses. We [have stated](#) at the Show-Me Institute that the Quality Jobs Act is a bad idea overall, even in its scaled-down form, and that the state should instead lower tax rates across the board, and reduce regulatory red tape that discourages job creation. Rep. Harris has the right idea, and

hopefully she can spread her message to her fellow legislators during the special session.

## About the Author



*Maurice Harris*

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## Links

[1] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/taxes-income-earnings/we-need-more-lawmakers-belinda-harris>

[2] <http://www.semissourian.com/story/1246867.html>

[3] [http://www.showmeinstitute.org/publication/id.63/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.showmeinstitute.org/publication/id.63/pub_detail.asp)

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Advancing liberty with responsibility by promoting market solutions for Missouri public policy.

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