

Participants for Recommendation

Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education 2023-2024

Josh Divine, Solicitor General in the Missouri Attorney General's Office, suggests that the committee should include a constituency group of individuals who can represent the concerns of individuals who have *not* taken out student loans. This group would be able to speak to the fairness concerns that may arise with certain programs. Several Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court raised these concerns during an oral argument earlier this year.

Below are several potential candidates, any one of whom could be a primary or alternate negotiator. Their bios are self-written with only slight editing for consistency.

Senator Mike Bernskoetter

(b)(6)

Biographical information:

Senator Mike Bernskoetter, a Republican, took the oath of office on Jan. 9, 2019, to serve the residents of the 6th Senatorial District. He began his second and final term on January 4, 2023.

Before being elected to the Missouri Senate, Sen. Bernskoetter served as the representative for the 59th District in the Missouri House of Representatives. First elected in 2010, he served eight years in the Missouri House.

In addition to his legislative duties, Sen. Bernskoetter and his wife, Jeannette, have owned and operated Art's Pest Control for 37 years since 1986. They also own and operate a cow/calf farm operation. Senator Bernskoetter and his wife are members at Immaculate Conception Parish.

Senator Bernskoetter is a member of many business and community organizations. Senator Bernskoetter also served as president of the Missouri Pest Management Association and has received that organization's John Veatch Award and Man of the Year Award for his work in the pest control industry.

During Senator Bernskoetter's tenure in the Senate, he has received recognition as Missouri Cattlemen's Association 2019 Legislator of the Year; 2019 Missouri Corn Growers Association Public Service Award; 2019 Conservation Legislator of the Year; Missouri Pork Association 2020 Outstanding Legislator Award; Missouri Rural Cooperatives 2021 Legislative Leadership Award; 2022 Public Official Achievement Award from the Missouri Park and Recreation Association; and 2022 Legislative Appreciation Award from Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors.

Senator Bernskoetter is a graduate of Helias High School of Jefferson City.

Born in Jefferson City, Sen. Bernskoetter is a lifelong resident of Cole County and currently lives in Jefferson City with his wife, Jeannette. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Alex Williams

(b)(6)

Biographical information:

Alex Williams is the Chief Operating Officer and Founder of Getting Floor'D LLC, a family and veteran-owned floor-covering store in Branson, Missouri. He is also a combat veteran and Captain in the Missouri Army National Guard as a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter pilot, member of the Finance Committee of the City of Branson, member of the Branson Chamber of Commerce Proactive Government Committee, and a member of the Branson-Hollister Rotary Club.

Alex earned his Bachelor of Science degree from College of the Ozarks in 2016, Masters Degree from Missouri State University in 2020, and is a Doctoral Candidate at Liberty University slated for completion in the Summer of 2024. The complete cost of his education was covered through the College of the Ozarks' work-study program and through the education and incentives programs of the United States Army and Missouri Army National Guard.

Alex has been married to his wife Katie for 7 years and they are residents of Branson, Missouri. (b)(6)

(b)(6) Alex's career aspirations are to continue to serve his community in positions of increased responsibility, by way of elected office. Alex is a candidate for the Branson School Board in the upcoming April 2024 election.

Betsy Miller

(b)(6)

Biographical information:

I'm a 4th generation resident of Springfield, Missouri. I went to Parkview High School and Missouri State University.

I started a small business here in 1997. My company is 2B Organized, which is a professional organizing firm. When I started my company, this was a very new industry and there was no social media, HGTV, etc. Fast forward to current day. I have franchised my company and currently have 15 locations across the country.

I have volunteered in my community for at least 25 years. I've been a member of several business and civic organizations. I'm a past recipient of the 40 under 40 award as well as one of Springfield's most influential women.