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**MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
YOLANDA R. YOUNG**

State Representative
District 022

Missouri Council of the Blind
Attn: Kim Resse
134 Bear Claw Dr.
Wentzville, MO 633385

Dear Ms. Reese,

I want to extend my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to you for selecting me as the 2025 recipient of the Ellis M. Forshee Award. To say I am honored would be an understatement—I am profoundly humbled by this recognition and truly moved by your kindness and support.

When I first stepped into this work, it was out of a belief that equity, accessibility, and dignity should be fundamental rights for every Missourian, regardless of ability. I never expected recognition for it—especially not from a community and organization I admire so deeply. The Ellis M. Forshee Award represents a legacy of real, meaningful advocacy, and I'm sincerely honored to be included in that tradition, even as I know there's still so much more work ahead for all of us.

The Missouri Council of the Blind has long been a pillar of strength and leadership for our state, and the work you do to support, uplift, and empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired is nothing short of inspiring. Being recognized by you makes this honor all the more meaningful to me.

Please know that this award only deepens my resolve. I remain committed to continuing the fight for inclusive legislation, for equitable access to opportunity, and for a Missouri where every voice—regardless of how it is seen—is heard.

Thank you once again for this extraordinary honor. I carry it with deep appreciation and a renewed sense of purpose.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yolanda R. Young".

Yolanda R. Young
State Representative
District 22