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Spring 3-15-2023

The 2023 Missouri Conference on History

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Recommended Citation

Dorssom, Elizabeth, "The 2023 Missouri Conference on History" (2023). *Title III Professional Development Reports*. 52.

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I recently attended the 2023 Missouri Conference on History from March 15-17, 2023. At the 2023 Missouri Conference on History, I had the privilege of presenting, "Flexible Law: The Impact of Legislative Resources on Policy Adoption." This paper examines the use of sunset provisions or temporary laws, across Congress' history from 1789 to 2020 in order to explore the impact of legislative uncertainty on policy adoption. In my paper, I argue that, across the 4 congressional eras, the formative era (1790s-1820s); the partisan era (1830s-1900s); the committee era 1910s-1960s); and the contemporary era (1970s to present) that the U.S. Congress underwent numerous changes that impact its policy adoption, such as institutionalization, and the adoption of the standing committee system. Each of these changes created legislative uncertainty, which resulted in an increase of the use of sunset provisions.

I chose to present at the Missouri Conference on History due to the historical nature of my paper, as I would be able to receive feedback from historians on my research. Presenting at this conference was a valuable experience and I look forward to attending the Missouri Conference on History again in the future.