



March 10, 2015

### **Testimony in Support of SB 179**

Chairwoman Lynn and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, thank you for this opportunity to voice our support of SB 179. For too long Kansas governmental agencies have been hamstrung by inflexible negotiation requirements. This has limited ability to be innovative and responsive to the changing demands of today's environment of limited resources and citizen demand for responsive government agencies.

Current Kansas law requires fifteen items to be included in negotiations between government agencies and employee representatives. This requirement includes items such as holidays, pre-paid legal service benefits, and the wear of apparel.

SB 179 amends the scope of negotiations “... *exclusively mean the minimum amount of salaries and wages*”

The operation of the state agency and wellbeing of employees should be paramount in any contract negotiation. SB 179 takes a key step in returning authority over the policies and procedures of state agencies to the appointed and elected officials responsible to the people of Kansas for the proper function of state government.

The bill also streamlines the decision making process for labor disputes under the office of the Secretary of Labor rather than a separate Public Employees Relationship Board. SB179 simplifies the hearing process to allow quicker resolution of the disputes.

AFP-Kansas supports SB 179 to give agencies greater control over their own policies and procedures, and eliminate state mandated bargaining requirements.

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