

Testimony IN OPPOSITION to SB 212
Before the Senate Commerce Committee
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March 11, 2015

Chairperson Lynn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Parry. I am a state employee and work at one of our state hospitals. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you regarding SB179. I am here as a private citizen and not as a public representative of any state agency.

I understand the author of this bill is concerned that state employees are not financially savvy enough to understand the implications of having union dues deducted from their paychecks. When employees join the union the commitment to pay union dues is fully disclosed and employees are made aware that a deduction will be taken from their paycheck. I believe that state employees are fully aware of this obligation and are appreciative of the ease this deduction affords them. This has been a long standing practice in Kansas and other states. It appears that the goal of making union payments less convenient would be to reduce support for the union. Surely in a state like Kansas the legislators would prefer less government involvement allowing a person the freedom to choose to do with their hard earned money as they see fit.

I hope you will consider this point of view and vote against SB212. If any members have any questions, I will be glad to answer them.