

Testimony IN OPPOSITION to SB 212
Before the Senate Committee on Commerce
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Chairperson Lynn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Derrick Baxter and I have worked for the Department of Corrections for the last two years. Prior to that, I worked for a state law enforcement agency for six years, giving a total of eight years as a state employee. I speak to you today as a private, tax paying, citizen and not as a representative of any state agency. I ask that you join me in opposing SB 212.

For my first six years of employment with the state I was not a member of KOSE and was never obligated to pay union dues. During my eight years of service I have had my paycheck split up amongst two different banks and three separate bank accounts amongst those two banks. I have had KPERS collected from my wages, I have had health insurance premiums collected from my wages, I have had my union dues collected from my wages, and I have had the opportunity to have a flexible spending account, learning quest, and deferred comp collected from my wages.

My wages are my wages, and I feel that I should be free to choose what I want to be taken out of my wages. Joining the union is optional which makes paying union dues is optional. My union pays a fee to cover the costs of my payroll deduction, so it does not cost the state anything to deduct my union dues. Please let me spend my money how I want, and let me choose what I get to have automatically taken from my wages. Please allow me to use my money how I choose to use it by voting against SB 212. Thank you and I will answer any questions you have.