

Testimony IN OPPOSITION to SB 212
Before the Senate Committee on Commerce
Submitted By: Rick Wiley
c/o KOSE
701 SW Jackson, Suite 200
Topeka, KS 66603
785-354-1174
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Chairperson Lynn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Rick Wiley and I have worked for the Department of Transportation for ten years. Today I am speaking to you as a private citizen, and not as a representative of any state agency. As a state employee, I am asking you to vote against SB 212.

All state employees are required to receive pay via direct deposit. All of my regular employment-related expenses (KPERS, insurance, flexible spending, union dues) are withheld from my paycheck. I am not required to join a union. Being a union member is a choice I made voluntarily. It is my right, my freedom, to join my union and to determine whether a portion of my paycheck is used to pay my dues.

I have had a checking account since I was fourteen years old and have been making my own decisions about my spending since that age. I moved out of my parents' home at eighteen, became independent, and have capably managed my own affairs ever since. I find it offensive our state legislature believes it needs to "protect" my paycheck from my own, independent spending decisions.

Finally, my union pays the state a per employee fee to cover the administrative costs of payroll deduction, a deduction that once it is set up occurs automatically every pay period. The state actually makes a small profit on these fees.

In closing, this bill serves no legitimate purpose. Please oppose SB 212. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.