

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 Laura Calhoun and I have worked for the Department of Corrections for over eighteen years. Today I am speaking to you as a private citizen, and not as a representative of any state agency. As a long-term state employee, I am asking you to vote against SB 212.

As a state employee, I am required to receive my pay via direct deposit. I have the ability to route different amounts to different accounts, and yes, to pay my union dues via payroll deduction. I notice this bill references "protecting public employee paychecks." I neither want, nor asked for, the State's protection. I voluntarily choose to join my union, and I voluntarily choose to have my dues withheld payroll deduction.

I work hard for my pay, and just like all of you, I deserve the right to determine what I do with that pay. If I can route funds from my paycheck to pay loans, to donate to charity, to go into my checking account, why can't I route funds to pay union dues? My union pays a transaction fee to compensate the state for any costs of payroll deduction, so routing dues to my union does not cost the state any money.

As a Corrections Officer, I put my safety on the line every single day for below-market pay. The money I do earn should be mine to do with what I wish without state interference. Thank you for your time and I will answer any questions you may have.