

**Testimony before Senate Commerce
Senate Bill 212
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**



Thursday, March 12, 2015

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber is pleased to support Senate Bill 212 which prohibits the withholding of union dues dollars from an individual's paycheck.

States across the country have considered the issue before you today- whether the role of government should include facilitating the relationship between public employees and their respective union through automatic dues withholding and transfer of money from one's paycheck to a union.

The passage of HB 2023 in 2013 prohibited the use of dues for political purposes, and this bill seeks to add a prohibition that dues dollars not be withheld from one's paycheck. If an individual desires to pay union dues, nothing prohibits them from writing a check, or establishing a separate automatic payment method from their checking account when their salary is deposited. We believe relying on a public employer to facilitate that transaction is not a core function of government and should not be administered by the employer.

I would like to point out the stricken language on page one of SB 212. The way we interpret the language, it is currently prohibited from using dues, fees, assessments or other money collected from one's paycheck for the purpose of engaging in partisan or political purposes. It is our view that striking this language eliminates a prohibiting which exists today and we would encourage this language not be removed from existing law.

In conclusion, this issue comes down to the question of the role of government in the facilitation of dues payments to public sector unions. Should the government be endorsing or opposing public sector unions? We feel that decision is best left to the individual member. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 212. I'll be happy to answer any questions.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.