



Testimony in Support of HB2023

**Mr. Daniel Murray: Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
House Commerce Committee
Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

Good afternoon Chairman Kleeb and members of the Committee. I am pleased to be here on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). The NFIB is the state's leading small business advocacy organization representing nearly 4,000 small business owners across Kansas.

NFIB supports HB2023, which would prohibit public sector employee unions from spending any of their income derived from periodic payments, including dues, on political activities. Small business owners overwhelmingly support measures, known as "paycheck protection" laws, that limit or preclude governments from collecting public sector union dues, particularly those portions that are used for political purposes.

In addition to the restriction proposed in HB2023, NFIB would support further reforms that would ban, for all government employees, automatic payroll deductions for union dues. As taxpayers, our members are aghast to learn that state and local governments are serving as a collection agent for union dues. In this era of lean government, NFIB members believe that government subsidized payroll deductions for unions is one program that should be cut.

Very simply, small business owners recognize that unsustainable public sector costs are borne by taxpayers, and reforms to reduce government spending are widely opposed by public sector unions. Their lobbying efforts are paid for with union dues and contributions raised through the convenience of payroll deductions by the employer—your state and local governments.

Further, paycheck protection laws enfranchise individual union members, allowing them to make a choice of supporting their union with dues and political contributions. Many union members do not support the political actions of the union leadership and would not choose to support those causes or candidates with their own hard-earned paycheck if they were aware that they indeed have a choice. Paycheck protection laws uphold the right of every individual to follow their own political beliefs and not be coerced into financially supporting causes and candidates with which they do not agree.

However, in no way do these reforms silence unions or deny a worker the opportunity to join their union and/or contribute to union political causes. Public sector unions would continue to have the ability to solicit and collect dues and contributions. NFIB always welcomes organized labor to the free market of ideas.

Again, NFIB supports HB2023 and urge its passage.

House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee
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