



Testimony before the  
**House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee**

Matthew Hall, Business Agent  
Teamsters Local Union 696

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

### **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 2023**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Matthew Hall and I am a Business Agent at Teamsters Local Union 696, which represents more than 1,000 members in Kansas.

Teamsters Local Union 696 strongly opposes HB 2023, which would effectively silence the voices of thousands of Kansans. House Bill 2023, which should be more appropriately titled "Paycheck Deception," is an unjust attack on the middle class and the organizations which represent those workers every day.

As we have seen throughout the country, there is certainly a war on workers in an attempt to silence the voices of the middle class. By pursuing the passage of Paycheck Deception/HB2023, the State of Kansas would be trumping partisan divides over cooperation and policies that bringing us together to ensure Kansans get back to work.

Within the Teamsters Union, member dues provide vital services for those members, including safety and education programs, necessary trainings, and support during difficult economic times. Additionally, it is worth noting that no dues are directed towards a specific partisan agenda. Instead, dues ensure that members receive and maintain strong contracts that benefit the employers, Teamster members, and the community as a whole.

As you may already know in Kansas workers have a choice because Kansas is a right to work state. Furthermore they have a choice if they want to give to a separate fund for political activism that can be used to make sure they have their voice represented at several levels of government. With the Teamsters this is done on a separate form from their dues form that clearly denotes such.

With workers struggling to put food on their tables and maintain a roof over the heads of their families, we should be working together to ensure much-needed jobs come to Kansas. Pushing an ideological legislative agenda will ensure unnecessary divisiveness rather than bringing us together.

I urge this committee to push House Bill 2023 and the 'politics as usual' agenda aside and instead bring us together to focus on job growth and a better Kansas for everyone.

House Commerce & Economic  
Development Committee

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Attachment #: 15