



USD 470 Board of Education  
2545 Greenway  
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005  
*Office of the Superintendent*

February 4, 2013

To: Senate Commerce Committee  
From: Dr. Ron E. Ballard, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: HB 2023 Paycheck Protection Act

Dear Committee Members:

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to consider the following written testimony in opposition to HB 2023.

HB 2023 addresses a concern that, for Kansas school districts and public employees, is non-existent. Open, forthright communication with employees and local professional associations has strengthened the capacity of districts to monitor employee well-being and solicit input and suggestions regarding improvements to the district.

I have not, in my 40 years as a Kansas educator, seen 'strong-arm' union tactics or repressive modes of operation. Just the opposite; I have witnessed more open communication and believe that has strengthened Kansas education.

Kansas, as a right-to-work State, already has sufficient protections for the local employee. The current system of payroll deduction offers our teachers and employees a convenient and dependable way to pay for their voluntary dues to an association of their choice. To remove that – simply because it may include a collective political voice – seems both unfair and unconstitutional.

Kansas teachers conduct themselves in a professional manner, even in the most difficult times. To repress their collective voice through the removal of a professional dues structure calls to question the foundations of democracy upon which our public education system is based. I urge you to vote against HB 2023.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to kids—the future of Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ron E. Ballard, Superintendent  
USD 470-Arkansas City Schools