



Testimony before the
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Matthew Hall, Business Agent
Teamsters Local Union 696

February 2nd, 2016

OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 2325

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

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

Teamsters Local Union 696 strongly opposes HB 2325. This bill will weaken management and labor relations by creating unneeded distractions throughout the negotiation process between employees and employers.

Teamsters Local 696 represents public employees that work for Shawnee County, The City of Topeka, and the State of Kansas. At every level of negotiations we represent our members voices at the bargaining table and seek to create harmonious relations with management. This bill risks creating unneeded distractions to a process in which both sides are working to solve problems at the work place and to come to a compromise to strengthen employee/ employer relations.

To mandate to local governments that they must allow anyone that wants to participate in negotiations with their employees, without the background or knowledge of the work conditions, or the a working knowledge of the jobs that the employees perform, will take away from all negotiations.

The outcomes of negotiations are available to the public. Additionally, taxpayers and the public have avenues in which to express their opinions on negotiated raises and contracts. Elected representative at the city and county level approve raises by an open vote following a public debate. This bill, if passed, would delay negotiations, invite bad-faith behavior, and create the potential for disruption that would impair the fair and equitable agreement that all parties seek through negotiations.