

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Julia Lynn, Chairperson
Senate Commerce Committee
Statehouse, Room 548-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Testimony of Jeanette Brown in Opposition to Senate Bill 179

Dear Chairperson Lynn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeanette Brown and I have worked for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas for over 10 years. This written testimony today in opposition to Senate Bill 179.

I am a single mother who has worked extremely hard to support my children and even my grandchildren. My family and I attend church every week and I have worked as a public servant for most of my adult life. I believe that working families can succeed through hard work and cooperation. PEERA has provided me and my co-workers with an opportunity to address our employer with issues that concern us. My employer also believes that working with us in a formal process helps improve morale and allows them to keep good employees. As workers, we all feel a strong connection to our job because we are stake holders in the outcome of our careers. There is more to working than just pay. Benefits and other policy issues are better addressed through the discussions between workers and their supervisors. Taking away those opportunities will have a detrimental effect on our working relationships which will in turn hurt morale. Overall, I feel that the old adage of "if it isn't broke don't fix it" applies here.

This law has been in place for many years. It has worked and if it does work in the future, the city can decide not be part of the law anymore. As a Kansan I think it should be left to our elected local representatives to decide whether the process is worthwhile. I don't think that it should be left to others outside our community to make that decision.

After considering all the testimony, I ask that you not pass Senate Bill 179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jeanette Brown