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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

SENATE BILL 179

BEFORE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

By **Bruce Tunnell**

Executive Vice President Kansas AFL-CIO

Thank you Chairwoman Lynn and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to give written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 179.

Senate Bill 179 is a punitive measure that does nothing to address the state's budget challenges.

Police officers, state troopers, firefighters, teachers, corrections officers, and other hard working public employees are Kansas taxpayers who pay their fair share. Targeting their rights to improve their working conditions is a slap in the face to the sacrifices they make every day.

Recent public opinion surveys show a majority of Kansas voters support the right of workers to have a say in the improvement of their working conditions. Legislators should focus on the state's real problems and not the political agenda of Senate Bill 179.

Research shows that in communities where unions have a strong presence, wages are higher, benefits are better, and the community as a whole is stronger. Passage of this bill will only weaken our communities.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

