

Testimony
Senate Bill No 212

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak to the members of the Senate Commerce Committee. My name is Kate Thompson, I've been a teacher since 1981 and I am currently the teacher-librarian at Olathe Northwest High School. In addition to my teaching position, I serve on the Professional Standards Board and I am a National Board Certified Teacher in Library/Media EC-12th grade. I am opposed to Senate Bill Number 212.

I voluntarily choose to be a member of my professional association, just as I would voluntarily choose to contribute to United Way. For those of my colleagues who do not share my viewpoint, they can certainly choose not to participate in any of these programs.

I believe that Senate Bill 212 is directed against me and my association because of my beliefs and my association's involvement in strengthening my profession. I can't imagine that we'd be having this discussion if KNEA were associated with the National Rifle Association or the Chamber of Commerce.

We are already prohibited from contributing to our Political Action Committee via payroll deduction, but this bill goes further. This bill seeks to continue to restrict my right to make choices as a consumer for a service that I value. This legislature is attempting to force its values upon me.

In conclusion, I ask you to consider that my participation in my professional association is a valuable consumer choice that should not be restricted.

Thank You.