



Testimony before the
Senate Commerce Committee

Matthew Hall, Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local Union 696

March 10th 2016

OPPOSE Senate Bill 469

Mrs. Chairwoman and members of the committee:

My name is Matthew Hall and I am a Business Agent and Secretary Treasurer at Teamsters Local Union 696, we represent the majority of employees that work for Shawnee County and the Juvenile Corrections officers for the State of Kansas, along with many employees in the private sector.

Teamsters Local Union 696 opposes SB 469, we feel this bill is a solution looking for a problem. Under current rules teachers already have the ability to choose whether they would like to be represented or not and to choose the organization that represents them. If 30% or more of employees file a petition with the Kansas Department of Labor then that will trigger an election and allow employees to chose who represents them or to have no representation. This bill wastes money and adds additional hoops for administration and teachers to jump through without any real benefit to the public, to students, or to teachers.

I have heard proponents to this bill say that the reason more teachers aren't decertifying their bargaining units and the reason this bill needs passed is because there isn't enough knowledge about the process. The information on how to decertify a union and bargaining unit is easily findable via an Internet search. To think that a professional employee with a college degree couldn't find this information on his or her own is absurd.

Additionally, this bill would effectively turn bargaining contracts into a yearly process. Since an election would happen every year there would be no way for contracts to be signed for 2 or 3 years. This would cause additional time and money every year to be spent by administrations and by teachers in negotiating these contracts and in coming to the table.

It is our strong belief that this bill is not good legislation and that it would not help anyone in the state of Kansas.