

Chairman Tarwater and members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee,

As a State employee and member of KOSE I am providing written testimony in opposition of HB 2586 that would prevent employers from withholding dues for employee organizations.

This appears to be an attempt to weaken organizations like KOSE that support employees in the workplace. I ask that you abandon this bill as it does not benefit KANSANS who have elected you to represent us. It adds an unneeded burden to KANSANS who have chosen to be a part of KOSE and other organizations.

With so many issues facing state workers and KANSANS at this time and the continued effort to make changes to make Kansas great again I am appalled bill HB 2586 would be a bill you would find worthy of your time and consideration.

I grew up here in Topeka and remember when being a state employee was a coveted job. My grandparents worked for the State of Kansas and so did my parents. The continued deterioration of state employment (compensation, benefits and working conditions) has created an environment where state employment is undesirable and a revolving door as people use state resources for free training and experience to seek better employment.

The continued failure at the Legislative level to recognize state employment and the KANSANS that state employees support and help across the state is a black eye on your service to Kansas and KANSANS. This can only be changed when you begin to value state employees and the citizens of Kansas you serve. I ask that you not waste valuable time and resources on HB 2586 and focus to make Kansas and state employment great again. A different Kansas begins with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this written testimony.

Genea Norris