



Written testimony before the
Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Mike Scribner, President
Teamsters Local Union 696

February 12th, 2020

Oppose House BILL 2586

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Scribner and I am President and Business Agent at Teamsters Local Union 696, which represents more than 1,000 members in Kansas, which includes all of the Juvenile Corrections Officers for the State of Kansas, Shawnee county Department of Corrections, Clerical, Health, Public Works, Parks and Recreation employees, and City of Topeka Street Department employees.

It is the position of Teamsters Local 696 that this bill is absolutely not needed. Kansas has been a right to work state since 1958. Public employees already have a choice to be a member or not. This sets up big government intrusion into a local process between employers and employees.

Another negative of this bill is mandating that all membership forms falsely state that members are waiving their first amendment rights, when it is exactly the opposite. It's their first amendment right to have freedom of association and to freely and fairly join or not join a union if they choose to. Misleading language should not be mandated and forced in between the relationship of employee and employer.

Finally we draw issue with the membership process. Mandating that employees can only choose to be members of their union or association for a year hinders their free and fair choice. There are no other organizations that have these kind of restrictions placed on them concerning their memberships. And we don't know how it serves the people of Kansas for big government to intrude into what organizations they choose to associate with.

Commerce committee, this bill is not needed in Kansas and serves no purpose besides intruding into the employer and employee relationship we can do a lot better for the hard working men and women of Kansas.