

To: Senator Lynn and Members of the Committee

From: Jake Miller, Lobbyist, Working Kansas Alliance

Re: Testimony in Opposition of SB 175

Date: March 18, 2019

Chairwoman Lynn and members of the committee,

My name is Jake Miller and I work for the Working Kansas Alliance (WKA). WKA is an organization made up of labor organizations and non-labor organizations who stand together in support of workers' rights. Working Kansans and their families deserve protections for the jobs that they do. Especially to public sector employees who educate our kids, protect our communities, and who make sure our roads are clear in a terrible winter like this year. WKA stands in opposition to SB 175 due to its attempt to weaken public employees collective voice.

SB 175 prevents union members from agreeing to a payroll deduction for a distinct period of time. This bill instead restricts members and Unions by allowing them to reach agreements only under which the member can revoke his or her dues deduction commitment at any time. The widely accepted standard, which the federal government has adopted for its employees and the private sector, is one year. Under Federal law it is common practice for Union members to make an annual commitment to their Union every year. This bill interferes with private, voluntary contractual relationships.

SB 175 is inconsistent with the Legislature's established state policy and employee free choice. Kansas law provides public employees have the right to "form, join and participate in the activities" of Unions and an equal right to refuse to join Unions or participate in Union activities. KAN. STAT. ANN. § 75-4324(a). SB 175 places a thumb on the scale and attempts to influence employee free choice by requiring public employers to inform employees of only one half of that right – to cease participating in a union. This bill allows for employers to flood workers emails with the notice and revocation request forms. Due to allowing employers to tell only half of the workers' their right, SB 175 Promotes uninformed decision-making without regard to consequences.

I thank the committee for allowing us to submit written testimony today. Should questions arise feel free to contact me at jdm235@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Jake Miller
Lobbyist
Working Kansas Alliance



SMART Transportation Division

Teamsters 696

International Association of Fire Fighters

Kansas National Education Association

Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees

Kansas Organization of State Employees

Kansas AFL-CIO

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 304

Kansas AFT

Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation

Kansas Chiropractic Association

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 441

Laborers 1290

Service Employees International Union Local 513

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Teamsters

Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council

Boilermakers Local 83

Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers Local 218

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 304

Carpenters Regional Council St. Louis – Kansas City

Salina Area Workers' Coalition