

Proponent of H.B. 2354

As a Kansas educator, I have seen the teachers' union utilize time, energy, and funds toward political causes that weighed on my conscience. Yet despite my desire to remove my financial support through termination of my membership, I had no option to do so until a further \$400 in dues had been paid and the next enrollment window available. For anyone, this is a substantial sum to pay for something you did not want nor was told about. Should anyone think this sum negligible, I can provide you with my address to send a check, my email address for PayPal, or my DonorsChoose project link, whichever is most convenient for you. I will gladly use those funds to continue my quest of improving education for our students.

I have seen a double standard from union officials to allow new members into the association when those leaders feel they can successfully leverage against a school decision outside of their enrollment period yet refuse members the option to leave. I believe all educators should have the right to join or to leave a professional association at their discretion. If being a member of the union is so valuable, what do unions have to lose?

I fully support House Bill 2354.

Sincerely,

Luke Henke