Wichita / Hutchinson Labor Federation Of Central Kansas

3340 W. Douglas Wichita, KS 67203
WHLaborFed.org

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

As Political Director of the Wichita / Hutchinson Labor Federation I write today to voice our federation's opposition to SB 175. This legislation is both unnecessary and unfair to unions.

SB175 is unfair to public employees.

The bill would strip labor organizations of their ability to manage their membership practices, while leaving other membership organizations and companies free to engage in the same practices. The true purpose of this bill is not to protect workers or the interests of employees, but to weaken their collective voice.

SB 175 is unnecessary.

Union members choose whether to join the union, set their own dues, elect their own leaders and vote on how and where their money will be spent. As a right to work state, all union membership is completely voluntary in Kansas. No employee can pay union dues, fees, or assessments without proactively approaching the union and signing a card expressing interest. No one is coerced or forced to join. Moreover, an employee can always choose to drop their membership, or organize fellow employees to decertify the union, if they become dissatisfied with the union.

SB 175 is unfair.

Proscribed drop periods and automatic renewals are something that charities and membership organizations use all time for member convenience. For example, donors can make their yearly contribution to the United Way auto renewable. Consumer contracts, which are both longer and with smaller print then a union membership card, utilize auto renewal and drop periods in a number of contexts.

Strong unions ensure strong communities by fighting so that working people have access to decent jobs, decent wages, healthcare, and strong public schools. We hope you'll stand on the side of unions and support strong communities by rejecting this legislation.

Sincerely,
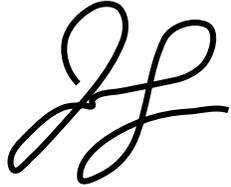
Jake Lowen, Director
Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation