



Written testimony before the
Committee on Commerce
Mike Scribner, President
Teamsters Local Union 696

March 18th, 2019

Oppose SENATE BILL 175

Ms. Chairwoman 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.

One negative impact of this bill mandates public employers to notify employees at least annually. This is essentially, the employer actively encouraging employees to withdraw and not affiliate with the bargaining organization. Many employees will see this notification, annually or as much as the employer wants, as a directive from their employer. Surely, it's not the intent of the bills author to have employers effectively ordering employees out of the bargaining units that are negotiating better wages, benefits, working conditions, fair and equal treatment for them.

Commerce committee, you can do a lot better for the hard working men and women of Kansas.