

**TESTIMONY OF**

**Leonard Fishburn, Kansas and United States of America Citizen, Kansas Civil Servant,  
Member and Vice President of Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) and Voter**

**February 10, 2020**

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

As a Tax paying, Voting, Citizen of Kansas along with being a State employee and a Vice President and Member of KOSE, I am providing written testimony in opposition of SB 361, which would impose government overreach upon the judgements of individual Kansans. I am not speaking on behalf of or for any organization or government entity, I am doing so as a Citizen and the views expressed in this testimony and others are my own.

I oppose SB 361 because it is an unnecessary and unfair bill that targets the hard-working civil servants of our state by requiring people like myself to jump through an extra hoop and cost the taxpayers extra expense and wasted resources.

As the Legislature considers SB 361, I respectfully request you each recall and consider that Kansas has been a right to work state since an amendment to the Kansas Constitution in 1958. Because of this existing amendment, public employees already make a conscious and active choice to join their union and pay union dues. We are fully aware of our Constitutional Rights given to each of us by the founders in the form of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights and as you we have taken an oath to not only uphold the Constitution of Kansas but that of the United States of America.

For you all to even think that members are coerced or forced to join is an insult and an attack on our intelligence as humans and state employees, we should not be forced to sign that we understand what is given to us all by the founders who knew that an individual's voice is at its most powerful when we can freely come together with citizens of like mind and speak as one, for which is what we choose to do by being members of a Union.

When I signed up for my union over 13 years ago I did so of my own free will and with the understanding that I do not have to join and that I may at any time choose to revoke my membership per the guidelines set forth in my membership card that I signed. We join and sign the membership forms with knowledge of what is expected and needed if we choose to join or revoke our membership and dues.

The added requirements in SB 361 is unduly burdensome and does not appear to have any clear purpose other than an attempt to dismantle our rights to be affiliated with our choice of membership with our union(s) of choice and dismantle our union(s), members & citizen's rights to choose of their own free will and resorts another example of waste of state resources and lack to do the job that We The People of Kansas elected you to do.

In closing, I would urge you to remember we have actual continuing pressing issues to deal with which requires the attention of elected officials and representatives. I call upon you to stop the continued distractions and divisions that are taking place and to place real focus on the issues at hand for the

Kansans, not by forcing Kansans to give up their constitutional rights and upholding the Oath you took,  
So help you God.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony.

Leonard Thomas Fishburn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LEONARD THOMAS FISHBURN".