

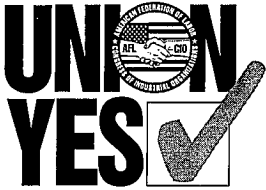
# Kansas AFL-CIO

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## Testimony in opposition to HB 2023

Before the Kansas House Committee on Commerce, Labor, & Economic  
Development

By Bruce Tunnell  
Executive Vice President, Kansas AFL-CIO  
January 22, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to testify in opposition to HB 2023. The Kansas AFL-CIO strongly opposes any attempts to further undermine the voice of working people, as this bill does.

The deceptively-named 'Paycheck protection' is public employee union busting in its purest form. The 'Paycheck deception' as it should rightfully be called, seeks to deprive public workers of their right to a union voice in the workplace by stripping them of the ability to have money they willfully have asked to be deducted from their paycheck just because this administration does not like what the money may be used for.

By law, Kansas is a right to work state and all union membership is completely voluntary, public and private. No employee can pay union dues without proactively approaching the union and signing a card expressing their will to join the union. They also have to sign a separate card if they wish to have a separate deduction from their check for political activity.

The bill is a one-sided attack on the ability of workers to stand together to obtain middle-class dignity and benefits in the workplace. It would deny unions, and only unions, the right to speak out on issues that concern working families without jumping through contrived hoops aimed at weakening their voice. All while corporate PACs and other special interest groups are allowed to go without any restrictions.

"Paycheck Deception" is unclear, unfair, and unnecessary. Unions and corporations spend money on political activity. Existing law already bans the use of union dues or corporate funds to make contributions to candidates. Contributions by union members to union political action committees are voluntary and made separately from dues payments.

The bill does nothing more than single out our most trusted public employees, such as teachers, nurses, and firefighters, and denies them the freedom and their right to use payroll deductions to make voluntary political donations.

