



March 18, 2019

Lisa Ochs, President
American Federation of Teachers-Ks
Written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 175
Commerce Committee

Dear Chairwoman Lynn, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 175.

Kansas has been a right-to-work state since 1958. Kansas workers who choose to join their union do so voluntarily have had that CHOICE for more than 60 years.

Kansas workers who choose to join their union elect their own leaders, set their own dues, and vote on how their money will be spent. Those who make the choice to join their union can always drop their membership in a timely fashion or organize their members to decertify their union if they become dissatisfied.

Senate Bill 175 is an unnecessary and unfair bill that 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 Senate Bill 175 is not to protect workers or the interests of our Kansas public employees, but to weaken our collective voice.

As public employees of Kansas, our collective voice has the power to advocate for missing children, public safety and dignified retirements. Rather than attacking hard-pressed working Kansans, please turn your attention to restoring fiscal stability, access to affordable healthcare and keeping our public schools adequately funded.

Kansas Association of Public Employees/AFT-Kansas

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