

Testimony in opposition to HB 2085

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

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to testify in opposition to HB 2085. The Kansas AFL-CIO strongly opposes any attempts to further undermine the rights of working people, as this bill does.

HB 2085 effectively dismantles collective bargaining rights for teachers all across Kansas. This bill would dramatically limit their bargaining rights, strip teachers of a voice in evaluation procedures, and prohibit teachers to democratically elect a bargaining agent to represent them by majority vote.

HB 2085 also prohibits teachers from negotiating professional employee appraisal procedures (p 3, lines 8-9), and takes away local control by prohibiting districts and associations from agreeing to bargain other items not specifically listed in statute. Teachers in Kansas will not be allowed a voice in their wages, hours, and working conditions. The bill is nothing more than another politically motivated attempt at busting the teacher union.

Kansas has had a longstanding history of taking pride in our State's public education system and investing in our children's future so that we may give them the resources and knowledge they need to make their lives better. HB 2085 is just another attempt at stripping the hard working Kansans who teach our children of their voice.

We urge you to reject HB 2085 and end these attacks on Kansas teachers.