



Testimony before the
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Matthew Hall, Business Agent
Teamsters Local Union 696

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OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 2027

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Matthew Hall and I am a Business Agent at Teamsters Local Union 696, which represents more than 1,000 members in Kansas.

Teamsters Local Union 696 strongly opposes HB 2027, which would effectively silence the voices of thousands of Kansans. It is our solid belief that all workers in Kansas should have the right to collectively bargain for wages and working conditions at the work place.

As we have seen throughout the country, there is certainly a war on workers in an attempt to silence the voices of the middle class. This bill seeks to continue that trend and take away from the pockets of the working people of Kansas in an attempt to balance the state budget.

Collective bargaining strengthens school districts and is needed in the Kansas public sector for a variety of reasons. It gives workers a means in which to resolve issues through their grievance procedure, it promotes labor harmony, and it gives workers a voice and say on policies and procedures that affect them and their workplace.

With workers struggling to put food on their tables and maintain a roof over the heads of their families, we should be working together to ensure much-needed jobs come to Kansas. Pushing an ideological legislative agenda will ensure unnecessary divisiveness rather than bringing us together.

I urge this committee to push House Bill 2027 and the 'politics as usual' agenda aside and instead bring us together to focus on job growth and a better Kansas for everyone.