

To: Rep. Sean Tarwater and Members of the Committee  
From: Jake Miller, Working Kansas Alliance  
Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB 2586  
Date: February 12, 2020



Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee,

My name is Jake Miller and I work for the Working Kansas Alliance (WKA). WKA is an organization made up of labor organizations and non-labor organizations who stand together in support of workers' rights. Working Kansans and their families deserve protections for the jobs they perform. Especially, public sector employees who educate our kids, protect our communities, make sure our roads are clear, and who also make sure our communities maintain power during terrible storms. WKA stands in opposition to HB 2586 due to its attempt to weaken public employees' collective voice.

HB 2586 prevents union members from agreeing to a payroll deduction for a distinct period of time. This bill instead restricts members and unions by allowing them to reach agreements only under which a member can revoke his or her dues deduction commitment at any time. The widely accepted standard, which the federal government has adopted for its employees and the private sector, is one year. This bill interferes with private, voluntary contractual relationships.

HB 2586 is inconsistent with the Legislature's established state policy and employee free choice. Kansas law provides public employees have the right to "form, join and participate in the activities" of unions and an equal right to refuse to join unions or participate in union activities. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4324(a). Instead, HB 2586 would place a thumb on the scale attempting to sway employees from joining the union, which does not allow free choice. If an employee's free choice were really the goal of this legislation, language would not be included, in 14-point font, to try and persuade them otherwise.

Additionally, this bill requires employers to email employees to confirm they signed their authorization cards for dues deductions. Every year, as this bill would require, when members sign their authorizations, local governments and school boards would have to follow up with an email to confirm they actually signed it. This bill though does not require those entities to email individuals who chose not to join the union, asking them if they were truly choosing not to join the union. The whole idea of employee free choice is just that, free choice. Due to forcing employers to tell the workers' of only half of their right, WKA must stand in opposition to HB 2586.

I thank the committee for allowing us to submit written testimony today. Should questions arise feel free to contact me at [jdm235@gmail.com](mailto:jdm235@gmail.com).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jake Miller", is written over the typed name and title.

Jake Miller  
Lobbyist  
Working Kansas Alliance

*SMART Transportation Division*

*Teamsters 696*

*International Association of Fire Fighters*

*Kansas National Education Association*

*Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees*

*Kansas Organization of State Employees*

*Kansas AFL-CIO*

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 304*

*Kansas AFT*

*Teamsters Joint Council 56*

*Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation*

*Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas*

*Kansas Chiropractic Association*

*Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 441*

*Laborers 1290 & Laborers 1290PE*

*Service Employees International Union Local 513*

*Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen - IBT*

*Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways Employees Division - IBT*

*Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council*

*Boilermakers Local 83*

*Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers Local 218*

*Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division*

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 304*

*Carpenters Regional Council St. Louis - Kansas City*

*Salina Area Workers Coalition*