

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
From: DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Secretary, Department of Administration
Subject: Opposed Written Testimony on HB 2354
Date: February 23rd, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2354. Passage of HB 2354 will allow both professional and public employees to terminate any withholding of dues from their salary with the submission of a written or emailed request to their employer. Additionally, employers will be required to notify their employees on an annual basis of their right to opt in and out of any deductions made to employee organizations.

As Secretary of the Department of Administration, it is my duty to represent my agency and all our state employees. Regardless of the passage of HB 2354, I am committed to making decisions and following procedures that are in the best interest of our employees.

The passage of HB 2354 would remove the current process that the Department of Administration uses for employees to participate in professional organizations, and would create a new and more complicated process. While this would not present an administrative burden on the Department of Administration, it would make employee participation in professional organizations more cumbersome and could be confusing to some employees.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, it is clear how much state operations rely on essential employees for delivery of services that Kansans depend on. The classes of employees who fall into “essential” status tend to participate more in professional organizations—corrections officers, facilities specialists, health care workers all fall into this category. I believe that it is important that these classes of employees participate in professional organizations with as little difficulty as possible.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this context to you as you consider HB 2354.

Thank you,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace
Secretary, Department of Administration