



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2354
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, and I serve as Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2354 which allows public employees the ability to, upon written request, cease the collection of union dues from their wages. Public employers would also be required to notify employees of their right to cease payment of union dues at least annually.

In June of 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Janus v. AFSCME* that mandatory public-sector union dues are unconstitutional. Justice Alito wrote “States and public-sector unions may no longer extract agency fees from nonconsenting employees” as it violated their constitutional right to free speech and association.

House Bill 2354 provides public employees the ability to immediately opt out of labor organization dues. While Kansas is a right-to-work state and employees are not mandated to pay union dues, adding this language in statute simply codifies the protection offered under the Kansas Constitution which states that no person shall be denied opportunity to obtain or retain employment because of membership or non-membership in any labor organization.

We believe House Bill 2354 is a simple bill, clarifying that an employee may cancel their dues withholding at any time. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2354. I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.