

To: Senate Committee on Commerce

From: Wyatt Smith

Re: SB 511 opposition testimony

Hello Chairperson Erickson and senate committee members,

My name is Wyatt Smith, and I am a sergeant at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, I am married to my beautiful wife and have 2 daughters. I am writing this in regard to the bill you are trying to propose. I can say that on my behalf of myself and all the other officers and staff I work with we have all gone through this pandemic for the last 2 years with the mask mandates, time off work for catching Covid, quarantining, and low pay. We are sick to death of it and are ready for it to go back to a since of normalcy.

Also, I feel like the government should not be in control of my decisions as a state employee and when I am at home on my off time away from work. Also you guys should not tell me who I can and cannot associate with. This is why I believe that this bill is ridiculous, and because Kansas is a right to work state and has been since the late 1950's.

So for these reasons I think and believe that you guys should focus on budget issues and looking more into making our jobs safer and not have us go through more hoops and hurdles just to make you guys happy. Please put yourself in our shoes for once before you make decisions that make it harder for us as state employees in the long run.

The bottom line is that at the end of the day we as state employees want what's best for us as employees and for our families as well. Thank you for your time.

Wyatt Smith