



## Senate Commerce Committee

### HB 2023 Paycheck Protection

February 6, 2013

Dave Trabert, President

Chairperson Lynn and members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony relevant to your consideration of HB 2023, commonly referenced as paycheck protection legislation.

Kansas Policy Institute is neutral on this bill. Our purpose in testifying is to share the results of a statewide public opinion survey that included a question about government's role in withholding union dues.

SurveyUSA conducted the poll on our behalf between January 24 and January 27, asking 500 adults a series of questions about school funding, the method of appointing judges to the Kansas Supreme Court and a few other issues. The survey has a margin of  $\pm 4.5\%$ .

The complete survey instrument, including cross-tab results and methodology, is available on our web site at [KansasPolicy.org](http://KansasPolicy.org).

Question #10 stated, "State and local governments withhold voluntary union dues from employees who join government unions, a portion of which is used by unions for political purposes. Which of these best describes what you think governments should do: Withhold the union dues, including the portion that is used for political purposes? Withhold regular membership dues only, so that employees wishing to contribute to money for political purposes would write their own personal checks? Or withhold no union dues, regardless of how the money is used?"

I'll explain how Kansans responded as detailed on the following page, after which I will be happy to stand for questions.

## Kansas Policy Institute Public Opinion Survey

**Question 10: State and local governments withhold voluntary union dues from employees who join government unions, a portion of which is used by unions for political purposes. Which of these best describes what you think governments should do: Withhold the union dues, including the portion that is used for political purposes? Withhold regular membership dues only, so that employees wishing to contribute to money for political purposes would write their own personal checks? Or withhold no union dues, regardless of how the money is used?**

500 Adults	All	Gender		Age					Party Affiliation			Ideology					
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Conserv.	Moderate	Liberal				
<b>Margin of Sampling Error: ±4.5%</b>																	
Withhold All Union Dues	12%	13%	12%	14%	11%	12%	14%	14%	17%	9%	11%	10%	25%				
Regular Membership Dues Only	39%	28%	50%	46%	38%	39%	30%	35%	45%	39%	34%	44%	41%				
Withhold No Union Dues	30%	40%	20%	23%	28%	29%	44%	41%	19%	30%	42%	28%	16%				
Not Sure	19%	19%	18%	17%	23%	19%	12%	9%	19%	22%	12%	17%	19%				
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				
Composition of Adults	100%	49%	51%	27%	29%	27%	17%	31%	28%	36%	33%	43%	17%				

500 Adults	Govt. Employee	Union Member	Education			Income			Region							
			Yes	No	H.S.	Some College	4-year	< \$40K	\$40K - \$80K	> \$80K	Western KS	Wichita Area	KC Area	Eastern KS		
<b>Margin of Sampling Error: ±4.5%</b>																
Withhold All Union Dues	19%	11%	14%	7%	8%	20%	9%	11%	20%	20%	20%	14%	12%	10%		
Regular Membership Dues Only	42%	39%	53%	12%	47%	29%	48%	38%	30%	30%	25%	49%	32%	43%		
Withhold No Union Dues	17%	32%	23%	30%	22%	36%	22%	30%	38%	38%	35%	22%	42%	25%		
Not Sure	21%	18%	10%	20%	25%	16%	20%	22%	12%	12%	19%	15%	14%	22%		
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
Composition of Adults	16%	81%	10%	88%	25%	33%	42%	39%	35%	26%	12%	17%	24%	47%		

500 adults from the entire state of Kansas were interviewed by SurveyUSA 01/24/13 through 01/27/13, exclusively for the Kansas Policy Institute. This research was conducted using blended sample, mixed mode. Respondents reachable on a home telephone (67% of adults) were interviewed on their home telephone in the recorded voice of a professional announcer. Respondents not reachable on a home telephone (33% of adults) were shown a questionnaire on their smartphone, tablet, or other electronic device.

**Statement of Methodology:** This poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using Random Digit Dialed (RDD) sample provided by Survey Sampling, of Fairfield CT. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The pollster's report includes the geography that was surveyed; the date(s) interviews were conducted, the number of respondents who answered each question and the theoretical margin of sampling error for each question. necessary; respondents were weighted using the most recent US Census estimates for age, gender, ethnic origin and region, to align the sample to the population. In theory, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents with home telephones been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than sampling error: These include: the difficulty of interviewing respondents who do not have a home telephone; the refusal by some with home telephones to be interviewed; the order in which questions are asked; the wording of questions; the way and extent to which data are weighted; and the manner in which specialized populations, such as likely voters, are determined. It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these and other factors. Research methodology, questionnaire design and fieldwork for this survey were completed by SurveyUSA of Clifton, NJ. This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.