



September 13, 2011

Testimony before the Michigan House of Representatives
Oversight, Reforms and Ethics Committee
Michael Keller, Legislative Director
Michigan State AFL-CIO

Re: House Bill 4929

Michigan AFL-CIO represents school employees who are represented by AFT-Michigan, AFSCME, Operating Engineers, UAW and the Steelworkers.

House Bill 4929 would amend the Public Employee Relations Act to prohibit public employers from allowing payroll deduction from worker's paychecks for union dues.

The bill has minimal if any savings or value to school districts. The payroll deduction process is largely automated and used for other payroll deductions such as charitable donations and automobile loan payments. In fact some unions already pay districts the nominal costs of processing these transactions. The bill could have an added cost to school districts in that payroll process changes would have to be made for nearly the entire district.

These changes will cause problems for workers and their unions. Workers who have become accustomed to payroll deduction will now have to use alternative methods such as writing checks and mailing their dues. Unions too, will have to change their dues collection processes.

In conclusion, Michigan AFL-CIO opposes House Bill 4929 because it is an unnecessary change that has no value to school districts or taxpayers, and will create undue burden on workers and their unions.

Thank you for your time.