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Tri County AFL-CIO
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Collectively, our member organizations represent over 500,000 working Kansans.

SMART Transportation Division

Kansas Organization of State Employees

Laborers 1290 & Laborers 1290PE

International Association of Fire Fighters

Kansas National Education Association

Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees

Kansas AFL-CIO

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 304

Kansas AFT

UFCW District Union Local Two

Teamsters Joint Council 56

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways Employees Division - IBT

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen - IBT

Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation

Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas

Kansas Chiropractic Association

Pipefitters Local 533

Service Employees International Union Local 513

Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council

Boilermakers Local 83

Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers Local 218

Carpenters Regional Council St. Louis - Kansas City

Salina Area Workers Coalition

Working Kansas Alliance
2600 Merriam Lane
Kansas City, KS 66106

<http://www.workingkansans.org>

To: Chairman Francis and Members of the Committee
From: Jake Miller, Working Kansas Alliance
Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB 2019
Date: January 26, 2023

Chairman Francis and members of the committee,

My name is Jake Miller and I work for the Working Kansas Alliance (WKA). WKA is an organization made up of labor organizations and non-labor organizations who stand together in support of workers' rights. Working Kansans and their families deserve protections for the jobs they perform. WKA stands in opposition to HB 2019 due to its attempt to further the ability of employers to misclassify workers.

For years employers have been misclassifying workers, simple in an attempt to save themselves money and hang workers out to dry. However, many think this is worker for employer but misclassifying workers also impacts our State and Federal government. By treating a worker as an independent contractor and not an employee, employers don't have to pay for certain protections and taxes. This includes unemployment taxes.

I specifically mention unemployment as I sit on the Unemployment Modernization and Improvement Council ("UCMIC"). A Council created by the legislature to not only analyze fraud during the pandemic but to also strengthen our system. The UCMIC has noticed that a lot of fraud dealt with the Federal programs as they were geared to "gig" workers. The technical term used by the U.S. Department of Labor was Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or for short PUA.

These businesses, the same ones supporting HB 2019, racked up a bill on all but their own dime in PUA payments that totaled **\$131.2 Billion**, as estimated by the Federal Government. That entire amount of money had to be covered by normal citizens, other businesses, governments, and everyone else, simple to save a few bucks for companies like Uber.

Currently, these workers can be considered independent contractors, bringing no need for HB 2019. All HB 2019 does is attempt to solidify and make easier businesses to game the system and pass these expenses on to everyone else. As such I urge you to Vote No on HB 2019.

I thank the committee for allowing us to submit written testimony today. Should questions arise feel free to contact me at jdm235@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Jake Miller
Jake Miller

Jake Miller
Executive Director