



TESTIMONY

February 13, 2017

HOUSE BILL 238: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNION REFORM

By Patrick Ishmael

Testimony before the House Economic Development Committee

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:

My name is Patrick Ishmael and I am the director of government accountability at the Show-Me Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Missouri-based think tank that supports free-market solutions for state policy. The ideas presented here are my own. This testimony is intended to reiterate my views on pro-taxpayer and pro-worker government union reforms related to HB238, and to share long-standing Show-Me Institute research on topics related to this legislation.

Like SB210, HB238 is an important proposal that touches on many of the government union issues our organization has engaged for many years. Also like SB210, HB238 addresses government union issues with common sense, protecting the interests of union members and taxpayers and advancing the objectives of transparency and accountability. I support HB238's

good-governance aims; namely, to empower employees and protect the public coffers.

Attached is relevant research, conducted by SMI two years ago, that touches on one of the key elements of the bill—the cost of union elections. I hope it is useful as you consider HB238, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding that issue or any other issue dealt with by the proposal.

*Patrick Ishmael is the director of
government accountability
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