



TESTIMONY

January 17, 2018

SENATE BILL 602: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE UNION REFORM

By Patrick Ishmael

Senate General Laws 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 SB602, and to share long-standing Show-Me Institute research on topics related to this legislation.

Like SB210 (2017), SB602 is an important proposal that touches on many of the government union issues our researchers have engaged for many years. Also like SB210 (2017), SB602 addresses government union issues with common sense, protecting the interests of union members and taxpayers and advancing the objectives

of transparency and accountability. SB602 has very important good-governance aims; namely, to empower employees and protect the public coffers.

Attached is relevant research, conducted by SMI three 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 SB602, 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
at the Show-Me Institute*

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