Members of Local 135,

I am writing to you about HB2096. This HB is a direct attack against Firefighters, and other public employees in Kansas. The ability to collectively bargain will end, as we know it.

I am asking that you please contact your State Senator and your State Representative by BOTH phone and email.

Please tell your State Senator and State Representative the following:

\*Your name

\*I’ve given \_\_\_\_# years of fire service to my community.

\*I am a registered voter.

\*I am adamantly against HB2096 and I respectfully request that you vote no and speak out on our behalf against the bill.

\*I consider HB2096 a direct attack against Kansas Firefighters by circumventing the entire democratic process and the voice of the people as a whole.

\*My agreement has provisions that protect the Citizens as well as the Firefighters that protect them.

Urge them to vote no on HB2096 (included is SB179 and SB212). Also I ask that you please have your spouse, father, mother, brother(s), sister(s), and any other family or friends contact their State Senator and State Representative also.

If you are unsure on the name of your Senator or Representative, you can go to <http://openkansas.org/> to find out by entering your home address

The next two pages contain a sample letter that you can customize and send via E-Mail or US Mail to your Senator and Representatives.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I have been a Wichita Firefighter for \_\_\_\_\_\_ Years. I am writing you today to urge you to vote no on House Bill 2096 (included is Senate Bill179 and Senate Bill 212).

I believe that HB 2096 is a direct attack on me and it circumvents the democratic process. My elected City Officials have the right to determine how they want to negotiate with their employees. If they no longer wanted to participate in the process, the current law allows them to opt out. How can the State determine what works best for the City or County Government.

The State of Kansas does not like Federal mandates such as setting up Health Exchanges. Why is the State mandating how the Cities and Counties negotiate with their employees?

The Memorandum of Agreement with the City includes provisions that protect the Citizens we serve as well as those who protect them. They City worked with Labor and came to an agreement of how many Firefighters it takes to “ensure safety and effectiveness”. When budget shortfalls prevented this staffing the City and the Firefighters worked together to find a funding alternative. The City applied for and received a SAFER Grant to allow the staffing to be restored to the previous levels.

Many Charitable Organizations such as the United Way or any of the other charities that are supported through payroll deductions would be greatly impacted by this bill. Many Firefighters support these organizations with a little each pay period. This bill would require each employee to write a check bi-weekly or donate a lump sum to the organization. I believe the impact would be devastating to these charities who serve the poorest of the poor.

Would payroll deductions for things like the Credit Union or my 457 retirement savings be allowed under this bill? The Credit Union allows me to plan for predictable expenses and set aside something each pay period to cover larger expenses. It helps me in my budgeting. The 457 retirement savings allows me to save for expenses when I retire. This plan allows Firefighters to retire with dignity after years of faithful service.

Sincerely

(Name)

(Address)

(Phone)