

HB 466 -- PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

SPONSOR: Schoeller

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill allows an employer or labor organization to obtain political contributions through a payroll deduction only if the employee or member affirmatively consents to the contribution in writing.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows union members to choose whether or not the union dues deducted from their paychecks go to political campaigns. The bill empowers Missouri workers by giving them a choice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schoeller; Missouri Right to Work; Bruce Hillis; Associated Builders and Contractors; Home Builders Association of Springfield; Adam Smith Foundation; Associated Industries of Missouri; National Federation of Independent Business; and Missouri Grocers' Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that currently a worker must consent prior to his or her union dues being allocated to political campaigns. The bill merely makes it more difficult for a worker to participate because it requires an annual renewal of the consent from each worker.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; AFT Missouri; Missouri National Education Association; Adam McBride, Eastern and Western Missouri Laborers District Councils; and Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity.