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Date: 3/27/23

11:21 AM

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
REGARDING SENATE BILL 7 OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION**

*I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:*

Senate Bill 7 of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*Senate Bill 7 is special legislation targeting public employees in violation of Section 59 of the Kentucky Constitution. Because it has an emergency clause, Senate Bill 7 will immediately impact the union membership of those public employees who use payroll deduction to pay their dues. Senate Bill 7 is an attack on unions and teacher associations that support and protect hard working Kentucky families. These are people who educate our kids, drive our buses, pave our roads and work in our libraries. Senate Bill 7 also has First Amendment implications, stifling public employees' freedom of speech.*

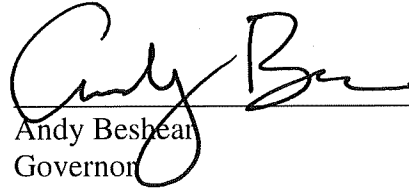
*Further, as detailed in a letter sent to me by the Amalgamated Transit Union, Senate Bill 7 would render the public transit systems in the Commonwealth ineligible for more than \$76 million in federal transit funds. In order for a public transit agency to receive federal transit funding, the U.S. Department of Labor must certify that arrangements are in place to continue collective bargaining rights for employees affected by the funding; because Senate Bill 7 deprives transit employees of their right to bargain over dues deduction, the U.S. Department of Labor would be unable to make such a certification. Senate Bill 7 therefore jeopardizes more than \$76 million in federal transit funds in fiscal year 2023.*

*Moreover, Section 3 of Senate Bill 7 is so broadly worded, prohibiting a public employer from assisting, directly or indirectly, "any labor organization, **person, or other legal entity** with the collection of dues, fees, assessments, **or other charges**," that it could be read to prohibit payroll deductions for entities such as dental and vision insurance providers, financial service firms, and charitable organizations.*

*In addition, Section 6 of Senate Bill 7 inexplicably deletes statutory language allowing an employee of a district board of education to provide express written consent for the payroll deduction of membership dues of **any** employee or membership organization, including organizations like the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, which is dedicated to serving school administrators in Kentucky through advocacy, professional development, research, and leadership.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 7.*

This, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Beshear  
Governor