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NAME: Doug Wisby President/CEO MCDS
BILL: HB 2272
SUPPORT: In support of this bill
TESTIMONY: Written only
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions

February 13, 2023

Honorable Representative Nick Hoheisel
Chair
Kansas House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions
Kansas State Capitol Building
Room 582-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Ks. 66612

RE: HB 2272 KPERS Retirement Exemptions

Dear Representative Hoheisel and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am providing written testimony on behalf of Multi Community Diversified Services, a community service organization that has provided services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) for 49 years in McPherson County.

The ability to attract and retain employees is the key to operating any successful organization. DSP's are the employees who work directly with our clients. These individuals help our clients with everything from daily living to transportation to work related endeavors and as such become members of their family. Workforce shortages for MCDS in this area have been profound. COVID has simply made this situation even worse. Unfortunately many retired individuals who wish to consider MCDS for employment are simply out of reach for us financially. Former special education teachers and other school system employees, for example, are cost prohibitive for us to hire due to the KPERS employer penalty of roughly 30% for these potential employees.

House Bill 2272 provides some relief for us to be able to consider hiring from these groups of people for desperately needed staff.

Please support the passage of HB 2272.

Sincerely,

Doug Wisby
President and CEO

dwisby@mcds-ks.org
