

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JO ELLA HOYE
17TH DISTRICT

March 11, 2024
HB 2711 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chair Longbine and Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance members:

There is something that we, as state legislators, can do to help address workforce issues affecting public employers. HB 2711 would make a significant impact on our KPERS and KP&F retirees who return to work following the necessary statutory waiting period requirements. There are currently 1,050 retired KPERS employees who have returned to work and are making more than \$25,000. Any amount earned above that threshold is currently subject to a 30 percent assessment.

It's time to review how much the threshold should be for dedicated employees who decide that they have more to offer their communities. HB 2711 changes the \$25,000 threshold to \$40,000. The fiscal note indicates that this would have a negligible impact on the long-term funding of KPERS. This bill is still in line with IRS requirements, and the statutory rules against pre-arrangement are in place. It seems reasonable to adjust the threshold that was set 7 years ago; a lot has changed in that time.

I support the amendments that were added to the bill in the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee. They reduced the original \$50,000 change down to \$40,000; increased the earnings limit from \$25,000 to \$40,000 for KP&F members; and they exempted KPERS Community Developmental Disability Organizations from the 30 percent assessment entirely. I know that we are all concerned about the IDD waitlist. This is not a fix, but there may be service-minded retirees who decide that working with the IDD community is their next calling. This is a step in the right direction.

HB 2711 is a bipartisan bill that supports our retirees, schools, municipalities, state, and public safety organizations while maintaining responsible rules for returning to work after retirement.

Please support HB 2711.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Ella Hoye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Representative Jo Ella Hoye, House District 17