

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
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**WILLIAM S. CLIFFORD, MD**  
122ND DISTRICT

March 13, 2024

To: Honorable Jeff Longbine, Chair  
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions  
Re: Oral Testimony for HB 2711

Mr. Chairman, committee members, thanks for the opportunity to testify on HB 2711, which passed the House on February 22, by an overwhelming vote of 117-2. I will not address the specific changes in the bill which have been addressed by the Revisor; instead, I will share with you the impact of the current KPERS statute on a lifelong Kansan.

My constituent, we'll call her Lisa, is a 68-year-old woman with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Masters in Vocational Rehabilitation. She began working for the DCF predecessor, SRS, in 1993. She spent 8 years under KPERS 1, which continued when she transferred to our local Community College. After working for an additional 15 years, she achieved 85 points, and retired early at age 62 to care for her aging parents.

Once she was no longer needed for their care, she chose to return to work at our local school district, which was desperate to hire former educators; however, lacking teacher certification, she went back to work for as a para-professional for \$17.42 per hour. Her wage is reduced to \$15.23 because the district passes along the KPERS 12.57% cost to employees working after retirement. Under current law, once she reaches \$25,000, her hourly rate is further reduced by the 30% penalty to \$13.40. Ironically, she was due a \$333 retention bonus in December, which was reduced to \$256 by the 30% penalty.

Mr. Chairman, my constituent has spent her career counseling and educating Kansas children. She loves her work and fills a drastic need in our community for school employees. Both wage inflation and the competition for qualified employees in our rural communities make the current \$25,000 threshold unworkable for those individuals like Lisa who chose to return to work for KPERS employers after KPERS retirement.

Thank you for considering favorably HB 2711.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Clifford, MD".

Rep. William S. Clifford, MD  
District 122