

# Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees



## **Regarding SB172 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS NEUTRAL TESTIMONY February 15, 2023**

Chairperson Billinger and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

As an elected member of the KPERS Board of Trustees, the positions expressed in this testimony represent my views and/or the views of the KCPR. They do not in any way represent the views of the KPERS Board of Trustees, nor do I speak for them. My name is Ernie Claudel, and I am here today in my capacity as Lobbyist for KCPR (Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees) to speak for a neutral position on SB172, which seeks increase the KPERS Death benefit from \$4000.00 to \$6000.00.

To take a position opposing this bill would seem to be unwise when this would certainly be a benefit to the survivors of any member of the family of the deceased. We acknowledge that funeral costs have risen over time. However, our push for expanding KPERS Benefits is focused on the living, particularly when there has been no permanent benefit increase 25 years.

Please note that this bill has an initial cost for covering the cost of the retired that are still living and then an additional annual cost for those living but not yet retired. An increased benefit to those of us presently living would have one cost. We also note that there tends to be an order of those positions that receive funds for their concern or cause. We would not want those of us still living to be pushed once again to the end of the line if this were to be seen as a KPERS Benefit.

Thanks for allowing us to share our views on this subject.  
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