

**Date:** 22 February 2025

**Bill number:** HB 2086

**Disposition:** Proponent

**Name of conferee:** Amber Schmidt

**On Behalf of:** Self - Private Citizen

Chairman Dietrich and Members of the Committee,

I am a constituent of Senator Dietrich and an employee of KDHE. I am writing as a private citizen and my opinions do not reflect those of my employer.

I am a PROPONENT of this bill to revise KPERS 3 for State employees. It is a constant concern of myself and my partner that KPERS 3 will *not* be sufficient to meet our future retirement needs (in 30ish years, hopefully). We regularly discuss the option of continuing to work for the State of Kansas in lieu of a private sector job with better 401(k) and other retirement options.

This is a good first step in retaining young workers like myself and my partner. We genuinely want to continue serving the public good, and take great pride in working for Kansans. But the stark reality is that we cannot afford to keep contributing 6% of our pay and only receiving a guaranteed 4% return on investment. We have more and more colleagues leaving for the private sector and reporting that they were able to meet or EXCEED their KPERS 3 contributions in a year or less! Simply because of employer matching and higher rates of return.

I am not a financial savvy person, nor will I pretend to understand it. But I trust that our elected officials and those responsible for KPERS management *are*. I implore the committee and the legislature as a whole to not only PASS HB 2086, but encourage further betterment of KPERS 3. Doing so will vastly improve retention of young staff like myself, and help ensure a bright future for Kansans.

Sincerely,  
Amber Schmidt  
Private Citizen