



House Committee on Appropriations

HB 2725

March 11th, 2016 Hearing

Good morning Chairperson Ryckman and fellow committee members. My name is Kevin Flory, and I am the President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association. Our association represents the approximately 16,000 members of the Kansas Fire Service both paid and volunteer, firefighter and chief officer. I am writing today to ask you to oppose HB 2725. Many of you are probably thinking why is the fire service opposed to this when the bill exempts KPF? Our main reason is, that while KPF covers many of our members, it is but a small portion of them. Many of the smaller fire departments in Kansas do not participate in KPF, but rather the KPERS system. The KPERS system represents the larger number of governmental units in Kansas than does KPF for the fire service. Our other reason for opposition is that not only does this affect our full time fire service members in the state, but a large percentage of our states volunteer firefighters come from some type of public service background. Whether it be school teacher, KDOT employee, County worker, law enforcement, County ambulance service worker, etc, many of our 16000 firefighters of this state have a stake in the KPERS system in one form or another. It is our position that this bill is a compromise of their retirement benefits. It is the state going back on its word from 1993 when original language was passed that grandfathered in KPERS employees prior to that date who could get their leave accruals counted towards their final average salary. Employees after that date are going in fully aware that that benefit is not available to them. Our position is that we as the Kansas State Firefighters Association would ask that HB 2725 not be moved forward and in fact be defeated in this committee. I appreciate your attention and time in reading this testimony.

Kevin L. Flory

President, KSFFA