

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on KPERS:

I am very concerned and somewhat surprised at the proposed KPERS Working After Retirement Legislation that is being proposed. This bill will be detrimental to our community. We are in a remote part of Kansas and finding quality employees is difficult. We have minimal housing and activities to encourage a younger person to live here. Ninety percent of our younger teachers drive to Longton to work. Some are driving 60 miles one way. The staff that this legislation affects is the local loyal baby boomers that live in Longton and pay property tax here. They have family and close ties to this community. If this legislation passes they must face life changing decisions. They will likely face uprooting from their homes and lifestyle to relocate, or will have to choose to take a financial hardship. There are no other jobs here for their employment. The closest jobs will be 30 miles one direction to Independence. They won't be able to teach anywhere else so at age 60+ will find themselves looking at new careers. Our small community will have major hardships if this legislation is passed.

I am especially shocked that this bill does not honor the promises that were made by your predecessors. As I was working in the school system for the past 26 years, the comforting promise was I would have 85 points and could retire and continue to work after a break in service. Now that I have planned my entire financial future on those promises, and structured my irreversible KPERS retirement elections around those promises, the proposed plan has just wrecked my financial future as I age. I am able and willing to work and help this community. I should have that option without taking on a financial hardship.

When making this decision please think of the lifestyles of the people you are affecting. It isn't just a fix for a problem across the state; it is a reality of real people's lives.

I hope we can pass a law that isn't so complicated. The focus on this year's budget legislation was to simplify and put control back to the local Board of Education. This bill does the opposite.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to call me.

Thank you for listening,

Diana Stroble

Longton KS

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