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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions

**Oral Testimony – Proponent**

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Senate Bill 172

February 15, 2023

Chairperson Billinger, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 172.

KNEA is proud to represent a large and active contingency of retired teachers and educators. As the cost of living rises for our retirees, their KPERS benefits have largely remained stagnant for far too long.

The KPERS lump sum death benefit has not been adjusted since 1993. It's time for an increase. Senate Bill 172 would represent that increase. We support this legislation as a small step in the big picture of making our retired teachers and educators whole.

We strongly support SB 172 with the following appeal, should the contents of Senate Bill 172 become law, please do not misinterpret this as a worthy substitute for a COLA.

We thank you for your time.