Oral Opponent Testimony on

SB 282,
Enacting the Kansas retirement investment and savings plan (KRISP) act
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Madam Chair and members of the Committee, KASB appears today in opposition to SB 282. As always, our testimony is based on our member-affirmed legislative policies.

Our 2025 State Resolution states:

<u>Recruiting and Retaining Excellent Educators and Support Staff</u>

- [We support] Exploring ways to address staff shortages, including: Supporting efforts to improve KPERS and to create flexibility within KPERS to enhance the recruitment and retention of school district staff. These efforts should address reducing or eliminating the "working after retirement" penalty and improving retirement benefits for educators and education support staff by moving staff from KPERS Tier 3 to Tier 2.

Our Permanent Policies state:

3. Kansas Public Employees Retirement System
The employers' cost of any retirement program or benefits mandated by the state should be fully and directly funded by the state. KASB opposes making KPERS a non-contributory system. KASB supports KPERS retirement plans that incentivize staff recruitment and retention.

We appreciate that the intent of the bill is a positive one. SB 282 establishes a state employee retirement system that would potentially give future members of what is currently KPERS Tier 3 the option to invest in a system that potentially has a higher benefit.

We're concerned, however, that the enactment of SB 282 would also establish a new employee retirement system that could compete for resources with the current KPERS system.This could harm continuing efforts to reduce KPERS' unfunded liability and to improve the benefits provided by KPERS Tier III. As a result, we respectfully ask the committee to reject SB 282 in its current form.

Thank you.