



## KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

To: House Pensions and Benefits Committee  
From: Steve Kearney  
Date: February 8, 2012  
Re: Support for House Bill 2630

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Chairman Holmes and members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as the Executive Vice President of the Kansas State Troopers Association. The Kansas State Troopers Association represents over 400 member troopers, motor carrier inspectors and capital police officers. I am offering this testimony in support of House Bill 2630.

This organization has a long history of pursuing and supporting measures that will enhance the quality of life of our active and retired members. House Bill 2630 is just such a measure that would allow "eligible retired public safety officer(s)" to make an election pursuant to Internal Revenue Code 402(l) with respect to amounts not distributed from their retirement plan in order to pay for qualified health insurance premiums.

This definition would include any of our members who, by reason of disability or attainment of normal retirement age, have separated from service as a public safety officer. The qualified health insurance premiums could include in this instance not just the individual, but their spouse and their dependents as defined by the IRC.

The term "qualified health insurance premiums" means premiums for coverage by an accident or health plan or qualified long-term care insurance contract that all typically fit under the moniker of "health insurance."

House Bill 2630 would allow our qualified members the opportunity to purchase health insurance coverage with pre-tax dollars as provided by the Internal Revenue Code recognizing public safety officers unique contributions and health challenges in retirement.

At a time in our society where we are encouraging individuals to take charge of their own retirement years particularly as it relates to health plans and long

term care insurance, taking this small step for retired public safety officers in Kansas makes good fiscal sense. As you grapple with how to fund the rise in Medicaid costs, the aging population in Kansas presents a unique part of the problem.

If retirees do not plan for their long term care through the purchase of coverage to both keep them in their home with home health benefits and then to provide care in a skilled nursing facility should the need arise, they will fall onto the rolls of Medicaid once their assets are expended. House bill 2630 will allow public safety retirees the opportunity to pay for long term care insurance using part of their state plan retirement dollars encouraging them to purchase coverage to protect themselves and their families

On behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association, thank you for considering this important measure for our retired public safety officers in Kansas.