



**House Pension and Benefits Committee
Testimony for Pension Plan Amendment**

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Mr. Chairman and the members of the Committee:

Thank you Chairman Johnson. My name is Tom Granger, and I serve as Assistant Vice President/Director of Qualified Plans for Security Benefit Life Insurance Company ("Security Benefit"). I would like to thank this Committee for the opportunity to appear today to present testimony in our support of the pension plan amendment. I will also provide you a separate handout, which offers friendly amendments of a technical nature to clarify language within the legislation. Today, I want to provide a bit of background on Security Benefit and why we are supporting this bill.

For the benefit of those who may be unfamiliar with us, Security Benefit has been doing business in Kansas for more than 120 years. Working with independent financial representatives, we are one of the largest public education defined contribution providers in the United States.

With more than 250 plans under administration in Kansas, we are also the largest provider of retirement plan services for Kansas K-12 public schools and community colleges. We provide third-party administration and investments for 403(b), 457 and 401(a) retirement plans. We currently employ more than 720 people, the majority of whom work at our Topeka-based headquarters campus. I'm happy to report, based on our business projections, we anticipate hiring more than 80 additional associates this year, bringing our total count to more than 800 employees.

Security Benefit supports the pension plan amendment because we believe it's beneficial for both the State of Kansas and for our state's public employees.

We believe this bill is good for the State of Kansas because the plan helps address the unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) while maintaining a commitment for a pension benefit to state employees and it promotes free enterprise and competition in investment provider choice.

Public employees also benefit because this bill maintains the employer-funded Cash Balance pension guarantees; it gives employees multiple choices – and the access to advice – in making their retirement investment decisions; the employee contribution component of the plan is portable; and the approach outlined in the bill makes it easy for employees to increase their contributions into their retirement plan, making it more likely for them to achieve their retirement goals.

Since 1892, Security Benefit has been in the business of helping others save for retirement. We are proud that Kansas is our home, providing us an opportunity to grow our business, hire the best associates and help public education employees achieve their retirement goals.

Ultimately, we believe the bill, with these changes, will encourage public education employees to save with confidence for the retirement they deserve, while providing choices in investment programs and access to trusted local financial advisors.

As a leading provider of retirement savings and income solutions for America's pre- and post-retirees, combined with the insight gained from more than 40 years of working with KPERS members and their spouses on saving for retirement, Security Benefit comes to you today with friendly, technical amendments on the language of the bill. I am happy to address those if you have any questions.

Security Benefit encourages you to support our amendments in the pension plan amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.