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Testimony before the
House Pensions and Benefits Committee

on
Working After Retirement

by
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Kansas Association of School Boards**

May 8, 2013

Chair Johnson, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this report on Working After Retirement. Although the language removing the prohibition of returning to work in your current district does not sunset for two more years, KASB is pleased the committee is looking ahead to determine what the best course of action is for this important part of the KPERS discussion.

Before I move, I just want to thank the committee for its efforts this year. KASB appreciates the difficult nature of your decisions.

I have not been in front of the committee this year, so I want to share with you what KASB's official position is on KPERS as approved by our Delegate Assembly:

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 believes the Legislature should consider changes in the KPERS system to reduce the need for state general fund support, providing that benefits remain appropriate to attract and retain qualified employees.

As you can see, we do not directly address today's issue, but over the last four years we've watched our members use this provision as they have thought necessary. It is in that vein, I've asked representatives of three of our members – Diane Gjerstad, Wichita USD 259; Darin Headrick, Kiowa, USD 422; and Kevin Shepard, Tri-County Special Education Cooperative - to share with you how the practice is being used and why it is important to continue to be available.

I'll be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to be a part of this important discussion.