

TO: House Committee on Pensions and Benefits
FROM: Judy Welter
RE: Working After Retirement
DATE: May 6, 2013

This document refers to the opportunity for school districts to have the ability to rehire retirees. Paola has used this opportunity and presently has an excellent teacher still working under this system.

This system has allowed us to retain a superior teacher who was a Teacher of the Year. She presently teaches science and math at the middle school level. After retirement, she chose to take a lesser salary and then the district pays the 22% surcharge to KPERS. This has worked well for both her and the district.

The system gives districts an excellent opportunity to hire for hard to fill positions such as special education, science, math, counselors, and career and technical education. Therefore, your consideration for allowing districts to hire staff working after retirement is worthy of continuation.

Since the 22% surcharge is paid by the district and is no cost to the State of Kansas, it would be helpful for the present staff under the system to feel they have the opportunity to continue and not be concerned annually if the system will stay in place. Minimally, it would be helpful to the present staff to have legislation where they know if there is a change, they will be grandfathered without change to their employment.

Your consideration of items within this document will be appreciated.