TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ON HB 2725
MARCH 11, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony opposing HB 2725.

County officials have voiced the following concerns about HB 2725:

- New Section 1 creates a state-dictated policy on leave for local government. Counties have their own personnel policies relating to accumulated leave and we would prefer local control on that aspect.
- New Section 2 appears to alter the KPERS final average salary calculation with relation to accumulated vacation and sick leave. This benefit only exists for a very small class of people: those who were employed in public service before 1993. The county human resource directors and the county counselors who have reviewed this section with me have all arrived at the conclusion that this section is confusing and we do not know how to implement it.
- County human resource departments are concerned about this bill's effects on their workforce. Due to low salaries, it is hard to recruit public employees, and HB 2725 will result in mass retirements of our most seasoned employees. A sudden upswing this year in retirements that require payouts by local government will result in unexpected costs that have not been budgeted.

This legislation has the potential to result in legal action against the state and to strain the public workforce; we do not believe it should be given serious consideration this late in the session. We request that the committee hold the bill for further study or instead seek an interim study on the issues presented in the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

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