



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2021 Provided to the House Insurance Committee
On behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association
January 28, 2015

Chairman Schwab and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association in support of HB 2021. This proposal is intended to provide an optional benefit for a retiring employee aiding and assisting them in the high cost of health insurance following retirement. Employees currently may be paid for a certain amount of sick and vacation leave at the time of retirement and this bill provides them with another option for that pay out.

An employee who elects this option, would have unused sick and vacation leave converted into a cash equivalent to pay for the costs of state health care benefits that the participant would be responsible for until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare. The cash equivalents would be credited to the Highway Patrol Health Continuation Fund, established by the bill, and would be administered by the State Insurance Commissioner.

It is our understanding that the employee and/or the employee's spouse will be financially responsible for their health insurance premiums when the program funds are depleted and the participant/spouse is not eligible for Medicare.

While this option is just one small step that offers a choice to an employee at the time of retirement, it does give a choice based on what fits the individual and his or her family's needs most appropriately.

It was drafted with the intention of revenue neutrality with an appreciation for the fiscal constraints of the state of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Mellick".

Mitch Mellick, President

Kansas State Troopers Association