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**Testimony to the House Pensions and Benefits Committee
In Support of HB2709
March 9, 2016**

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2709. This bill will amend the retirement benefits for the spouse of a KP&F member who dies in the line of duty. The adjustment that is made will apply only when the deceased employee has worked long enough that normal retirement benefits would exceed what the spouse will receive under the current system. We believe this is a reasonable benefit for the surviving spouse.

Families who lose a loved one providing income are always at a continuing high stress as they try to adjust to the loss of income in addition to the loss of the family member. The KP&F member has earned the retirement being added and would be able to draw it if they had retired at the time of their death. We believe the spouse should have access to that same higher benefit.

We ask you to recommend this bill favorably.

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