



KANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS



Affiliated With

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS • KANSAS AFL-CIO • CENTRAL LABOR BODIES

Testimony of Jerry Marlatt

Re: Senate Bill No. 284

My name is Jerry Marlatt. I am a retired Topeka fire captain. I worked for the Topeka Fire Department for 30 years. I am the immediate past president of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters and currently serve that organization, and appear today representing the same. My appearance before the committee today is to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 284.

The intent of the bill is to enact the Kansas Deferred Retirement Option Program Act. The proposed legislation provides terms, conditions, requirements, benefits and calculations related to the development of a "DROP" program. The Bill further speaks to the affected member's ability to elect membership in the program, the employer's ability to affiliate, and the method of the affected member's account distribution.

The fire fighters that I represent believe that this proposed program is a positive means to reward many of our most skilled and senior employees for their long careers protecting the citizens in communities across the great state of Kansas. The leadership that has been provided by these seasoned police officers and fire fighters is invaluable regarding the emergency public safety response and service that these dedicated personnel provide and our communities both deserve and expect.

I am not an actuary. However, it is my understanding that the proposed legislation is cost neutral. As proposed, no contribution increase is involved either to the affected member or the affected employer.

In summary, the women and men in the fire service that I represent work hard to serve the public and their communities. We need to reward our most senior and seasoned employees who have remained in their chosen careers for the years of dedicated service to their communities. We believe the proposed legislation does just that. The fire fighters sincerely applaud and appreciate Committee Chairman Senator Jeff King and the entire membership of the Senate Select Committee on K.P.E.R.S. for proposing S.B. 284. With that being said, the fire fighters respectfully request the committee's full support of Senate Bill 284.

I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have and thank all involved for their efforts in bringing this issue before you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Marlatt". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Jerry" and last name "Marlatt" clearly distinguishable.

Jerry Marlatt

for the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters