

Neutral Testimony for SB 299

June Kramer, CTE Teacher USD 283

My name is June Kramer from Longton, Kansas. I am the Family and Consumer Science Teacher and Library Media Specialist at Elk Valley High School. I have taught here for my entire professional career, which is 43 years as of this year. I married a graduate of Elk Valley, and this community has been a wonderful place to raise our children. As the years go by, it has become even more apparent to me how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to teach in a rural setting, and to have our children go to the same school that their dad went to. In a very small town like ours, the school is the hub of the activities that take place here. Of course, it is the largest employer in our town and a very integral part of the community. Quite a few of our teachers have been here for many years, and have become a part of the community as well. Several have retired or are considering doing so very soon. Actually about 60% of our teachers would be affected by the Working After Retirement legislation. This legislation would have a major impact on our school due to the number of teachers that it affects. In some cases, it is very difficult to recruit new teachers to come to such a small school and rural area. We rely heavily on the teachers that we already have on staff that are working after retirement. It would be very difficult to replace this many teachers in our district were they not allowed to continue in their current employment setting, especially if we had to replace several at once. We would ask for your consideration in allowing our retired teachers to be able stay in their positions and to continue to put forth their very best efforts for their profession and for the Elk Valley community. Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.