

Written Testimony Neutral to SB299 substitute

To whom it may concern:

I would once again ask for you to consider the KPERS bill. I feel it is not fair to the small rural schools. We are different than the large districts and cities, but our children still deserve a good education. We at Elk Valley Schools have had a hard time finding teachers willing to come to our district. Many of us have grown-up and still live in rural Kansas. Our school boards should have the rights to hire any highly qualified teacher. This in our district might mean a retired teacher. We at Elk Valley USD 283 work for our students and communities. We should not be penalized by a cap on our pay or the years we may continue working in our chosen fields.

I can agree with the 60 days and paying the needed percentage to our local school district each month. But, I would like to draw my KPERS and continue working in my home district. I already pay taxes to this district all of this should be left to the individual or local school districts or school boards.

Please don't punish good educators-by forcing us to retire and do something we did not chose or have the heart to do. We are still a viable part of our communities and the state of Kansas education programs. Rural schools do and will produce, teach some of the growing population of citizens for Kansas.

Thank you,

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Title I

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