



**Written, Proponent Testimony before the  
House Committee on Insurance and Pensions**

**on**

**HB 2593** Reducing the KPERS working after retirement employer contribution rate to only the statutory rate and decreasing the waiting period to 60 days for certain retirants employed by a school district for a period ending June 30, 2024.

**by**

**Leah Fliter, Director of Governmental Relations, Kansas Association of School Boards  
February 14, 2022**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in favor of HB 2593. Our legislative platform, affirmed by our Delegate Assembly in December 2021, supports exploring ways to address staff shortages.

Kansas school districts have faced teacher and other staff shortages for several years, and we have worked with the Kansas State Department of Education and other partners to identify and support ways to address the problem. Some examples include alternative licensing requirements to allow business professionals with relevant college degrees and/or experience to obtain credentials, or “grow your own” programs that enable paraprofessionals or other school staff to advance their education locally and earn a teaching degree to be utilized in their communities.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a higher-than-usual number of teachers to resign or retire early due to health concerns, which created additional unfilled teaching positions. Our school districts tell us they continue to struggle to hire qualified candidates two years after the onset of the pandemic and that they need additional, shorter-term ways to address the current teacher shortage.

For these reasons, we support HB 2593 and similar measures to temporarily relax some of the regulations regarding the hiring of KPERS retirees by school districts.

Thank you for your consideration.