

*Dear Chairman, Longbine, Vice Chairs Fagg and Peck, and Members of the Committee:*

*My name is Loren Kriegel, and I am a Correction Officer II at Topeka Correctional Facility within KDOC. I have worked for KDOC for just over 21 years.*

*These are some things I would like you to know:*

*Those of us who have or wanted to have a career in corrections find ourselves working long hours for low pay and little benefits. The staff deal with some of the most dangerous people in the state of Kansas every day. We face verbal and physical assault daily. Depending on the facility and the day, officers are lucky/happy just to go home safe to their families. Right now, along with the "normal" stress that we are put through every day now we must deal with COVID-19 and run the risk of catching and taking this virus home with us to our families.*

*At one time in the history of this great state, if you worked for the state it was admirable. Working for the State of Kansas paid the best, had the best benefits and the best retirement, second only to working for the federal government. I have always been proud to work for the State of Kansas and KDOC.*

*Changing our retirement benefits from KPERS to KP&F would mean a great deal to myself and my family. It would mean being able to retire faster and at a higher benefit rate after 21+ years of loyal service to the State of Kansas. It will also be a start towards making the State of Kansas and KDOC a great place to work again and have a career you could retire from with the comfort of knowing you would have enough money to live on in your golden years.*

*Thank you for your time and your consideration. In closing, I ask that you support this bill for hard-working corrections employees in the State of Kansas.*

*Sincerely,*

COII Loren Kriegel

Topeka Correctional Facility

