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KANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS



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

Testimony of Robert S. Wing

Re: Senate Bill No. 200

My name is Robert S. Wing. I am a retired Captain in the Fire Department of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. I was a fire fighter for 42 years. I am also President of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters and the Business Manager of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 64. I appear here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill No. 200.

The intent of this bill is to amend the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System so as to replace the current 90 percent cap on pensions earned under this system with a cap of 95 percent. The proposed legislation includes a reduction of what a member of KP&F would contribute to the system from 7.15 percent to 2 percent once the affected member has attained 38 years of service.

Under the KP&F Retirement System, participants earn a retirement benefit equal to 2.5 percent of the participants final average salary multiplied by the number of years credited service. I am not an actuary. However, it is my understanding that the impact of such a change

will be minimal. I am sure that you will be presented with expert testimony as to the actuarial calculations concerning the cost of the change.

In summary, the women and men in the fire service that I represent work hard to serve their communities. There is much to be learned on our jobs and experience is our most important asset. We need to keep our most seasoned employees in order to train those junior officers that come behind us. We believe that the proposed legislation would encourage senior police officers and fire fighters to remain on their departments, serving their communities, without significant additional costs.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Wing
President, Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters
Business Manager, IAFF Local 64