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March 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance  
Honorable Senator Jeff Longbine Chair  
Kansas State Legislature  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Proponent of HB 2711

Dear Chairman Longbine and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Doug Wisby and I am the President and CEO of MCDS, a not for profit organization that provides services to persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). We are celebrating our 50th anniversary of providing such services in McPherson County.

MCDS continues to experience significant difficulties in hiring and retaining qualified staff to work with persons with IDD. The job of working with persons with IDD can be challenging especially for younger employees who have little to no experience in working with persons with disabilities. There is a pool of qualified individuals in Kansas with experience in working with persons with disabilities including retired healthcare professionals, teachers, paraprofessionals, coaches and school counselors that in many cases would be willing to work with those we serve. Unfortunately, the high employer contributions for hiring KPERS retirees prevents many organizations like us from pursuing those potential employees.

I would like to express my support for HB 2711 which would increase the earnings threshold for individuals who retired under KPERS before the 30% employer contribution becomes effective. This bill would allow more latitude for agencies like MCDS to consider individuals for employment who have retired under KPERS.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [dwisby@mcds-ks.org](mailto:dwisby@mcds-ks.org) or call me at 620.241.6693 extension 108.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Wisby", is written over a white background.

Doug Wisby  
President and CEO.