



Terry Forsyth
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Oral Testimony; Opponent
House Bill 2044
House Insurance and Pensions Committee
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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee,

I am Terry Forsyth, and I am the Director of Political Advocacy for the Kansas National Education Association. We appreciate the opportunity to come before you to speak as opponents to H.B. 2044.

In 2015 the legislature changed the structure of KPERS to begin to address the Unfunded Actuarial Liability. Those changes in concert with the legislature properly funding KPERS has significantly improved the UAL. The best course of action to pursue regarding KPERS is to continue the necessary funding outlined by the KPERS Actuary and to stay the course.

H.B. 2044 does not really address the UAL. It does open the door to a number of unintended consequences. At this time of the pandemic teachers do not need a fix to their retirement system. Teachers need support at this critical time. They do not need to be forced to make larger contributions for years to come without seeing any offsetting benefit.

As best as we can discern H.B. 2044 only shifts money around and adds nothing to further addressing the UAL. If there are additional adjustments needed to the KPERS it would be to address the Tier 3 structure to make the benefits come more into line with the benefits that Tier 1 offers retirees.

We would urge you to vote no on H.B. 2044.