



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions
Written Testimony – Proponent
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Senate Bill 421
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Chairman Billinger, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support Senate Bill 421.

Kansas NEA believes the KPERS defined benefit retirement system is a critical part of any effort to recruit and retain quality educators. As such, KNEA supports efforts to ensure that the employer contributions to KPERS – paid by the state – are fully funded to meet actuarial demands.

Kansas NEA supports Senate Bill 421 because it is paying off passed missed KPERS payments ahead of schedule. This will ultimately save the state \$172 million from the State General Fund.

In addition, Kansas NEA believes this bill contributes to a structurally balanced budget that is fiscally responsible and addresses the needs of Kansans, including but not limited to, fully funding public schools, freezing tuition rates at Regents institutions, investing in career and technical education, providing for social service safety nets, and cutting the state sales tax rate on food.

Lastly, paying down debt early helps ensure there is a healthy ending balance for the state budget, which allows the state to make its KPERS payments on time.

We thank you for your time.