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KANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS



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Testimony of Chris Wing

Re: House Bill No. 2196

My name is Chris Wing. I am an active firefighter in the Fire Department of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. I have been a fire fighter in Kansas City for 9 years. I also serve as a director of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters. I appear today to speak in favor of H.B. 2196.

The intent of this bill is to amend the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System expanding DROP membership to all members of the K.P. & F. system. Currently, DROP membership is limited to troopers, examiners, or officers of the Kansas Highway Patrol and Agents of the Kansas Bureau of Investigations. H.B. 2196 proposes to expand DROP to any member of K.P. & F. who is eligible to participate and who elects to participate in the DROP.

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 regarding the cost of the change.

In summary, the women and men in the fire service that I represent, work hard risking their health and welfare to serve their communities. DROPs are of benefit to both employers and the affected employee. For example, some employees may work beyond their eligible retirement age, and in exchange, the employer will set aside payments into an interest-bearing account. We believe that having senior fire fighters and police officers remain on the departments for a period of time is a positive for both the agency and community.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Thanks you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wing

Director

Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters