



TO: House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee  
Rep. Nick Hoheisel, Chairman

FROM: The Keeping the Kansas Promise Coalition  
Sarah LaFrenz, representative of KOSE  
Tim Graham, representative of KNEA  
Ron Hobert, representative of AFT Kansas

RE: Written testimony in Opposition to HB 2025

DATE: February 8, 2023

Chairman Hoheisel and members of the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Keeping the Kansas Promise Coalition in opposition to House Bill 2025, a bill establishing an option for KPERS Tier 1 and Tier 2 members to choose a self-funded Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) benefit that would be funded with an actuarial reduction to the member's benefit.

While our Coalition truly appreciates the underlying intention of HB 2025, to establish a COLA option for our members who are part of KPERS Tier 1 and Tier 2, we do not believe asking KPERS members to take a benefit reduction on the front end of their retirement to pay for their own COLA later translates into a real value-added benefit enhancement. The concept embodied in HB 2025 should not be defined as any sort of Cost-of-Living-Adjustment. Furthermore, we feel proposals like HB 2025 divert attention from the very real need to provide a COLA for KPERS members who have already retired, and to address the inadequacy of KPERS Tier 3.

Our Coalition members would gladly make ourselves available to work with legislators to craft a true COLA enhancement for KPERS Tier 1 and Tier 2 members upon request. With the rising cost of living, it is past time to figure out a sound, reasonable enhancement for KPERS members. Until an appropriate solution can be developed, however, we would respectfully ask that HB 2025 remain in committee.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony in opposition to HB 2025.

*Keeping the Kansas Promise is a coalition of public employee organizations including teachers, public safety workers, state, city, and county employees, formed to collectively advocate for fair and affordable reforms to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System to ensure its long-term solvency.*