



February 15, 2023

TO: Representative Nick Hoheisel and Members of the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions

FR: Nick Wood, Associate Director, InterHab

RE: HB 2272 - KPERS Exemption to Working After Retirement

Chair Hoheisel, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information about the KPERS Exemption to Working After Retirement. HB 2272 would help the workforce crisis by allowing retirees to return to work as a DSP without a waiting period. This would open up workforce options among retired professionals who likely already have human services experience that would make them ideal candidates for positions with IDD support providers. In Kansas, the waiting list continues to grow for disability services, increasing the need to recruit and retain staff more than ever before.

What is a DSP?

A direct support professional is a person who assists an individual with a disability or aging individuals to lead a self-directed life and contribute to the community. Their work supports major life activities and encourages attitudes that enhance community inclusion. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting individuals with daily living
- Providing assistance with basic tasks such as bathing, dressing, and eating
- Helping prepare meals, grocery shopping, and cleaning
- Teaching skills and connecting to the community
- Providing transportation

A 26% job growth rate is needed by 2029. The demand for DSPs is changing. Demand for long-term services and supports (LTSS) will continue to grow. Among the general population, people who are 65 and over will more than double and the 85 and over population more than triple by 2050.

Likewise, the population of adults with IDD who are over age 60 is growing dramatically and is estimated to increase from 850,600 in the community, based on the 2010 US census, to an estimated 1.4 million by 2030. As they grow older, the medical care needs of people with IDD often get more complicated due to age-related health issues and changing lifestyles.

Thank you for consideration of this bill. We believe it is a positive way to help address the workforce crisis and it allows retirees who enjoy working in human services to continue to stay in the field.