



Written proponent testimony on

HB 2659, KPERS

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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today in support of HB 2659. Our support is based on our member affirmed legislative policies. Section 6, **Foundational Support for Improving Education** includes the statement: *Supporting efforts to create flexibility within KPERS to enhance the recruitment and retention of school district staff.*

When the KASB staff traveled across Kansas on our 2023 Legislative Listening Tour, school board members consistently expressed concerns about teacher recruitment and retention. One of the retention strategies board members raised was a strong interest in improving teacher retirement benefits by moving teachers from KPERS Tier 3 to Tier 2. They felt an improved retirement benefit would not only attract young people to the profession but also encourage experienced teachers to remain in the classroom. Our members also stated that moving teachers to the improved benefit structure in Tier 2 would demonstrate respect for profession.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

Kansas Association of School Boards

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