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**Testimony to the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
In Support of SB137 – KP&F Spousal Death Benefits
February 16, 2017**

Chairman Longbine and Committee Members,

Our associations strongly support SB137. This bill is about fairness to the surviving family and spouse of a KP&F member who dies prior to retirement. Under the current law the family would receive a retirement benefit of 50% the final average salary plus up to 25% for dependent children. In some cases this is less than the member has earned in regular retirement benefits the family would receive if the member had retired at the time of death. This bill simply provides the family will receive whichever is the greater of the current 50% plan or the benefit earned if the employee had retired at time of death and chosen the surviving spouse option.

Passing this bill is the right thing to do. It is assuring the family receives the best KP&F benefit the deceased loved one had earned in the retirement system.

We encourage you to pass SB137 favorably.

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