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**Testimony to the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
In Support of HB2111 – KP&F Spousal Death Benefits**

March 14, 2017

Chairman Longbine and Committee Members,

Our associations strongly support HB2111. 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 supports the surviving families of public safety employees who are killed in the line of duty. It is the right thing to do. It assures the family receives the best KP&F benefit the deceased loved one had earned in the retirement system.

This bill, as amended by the House, is almost identical to SB137 which this committee amended and passed favorably earlier this session. SB137 is an exempt bill and remains on the Senate Calendar. The only difference in the two bills is found on page 1, line 25. In this bill (HB2111), the word “, which” is replaced with “. Such spouse’s benefit” by the House Committee.

We encourage you to pass HB2111 favorably.

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