

Jerry Henn, Superintendent
USD 289 Wellsville
Senate Bill 395
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Senator Longbine, and the Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance Members,

I would like to testify in opposition to the changes proposed in senate bill 395 on KPERS.

As I understand the bill in its current form, SB 395 would limit future retirement earnings should a job pay more than what the Governor of Kansas makes. Many questions quickly come to my mind.

- Why the Governor's Salary?
- Why penalize hard working Kansans for pursuing goals to make more money than the Governor?
- How does this affect people wanting to achieve a higher KPERS retirement salary and wanting to take on more responsibility in their jobs?
- Will less people enter into these positions?

I am kind of unique to this position. I have given my notice to retire at the end of this year and this bill has touched me in a different way than it might touch others in KPERS jobs. It will not affect me, but it will affect many of the others in KPERS jobs. There could be a possibility that many more educators or other KPERS employees retire due to the bill.

Many administrators climb the ladder in education to help all students and staff for a better education. One of the best benefits an administrator could have is the retirement benefit KPERS provides. Gaining a higher salary also gains a higher retirement salary. This is a huge benefit to becoming an administrator and may change many educators minds knowing that their final teacher's salary could possibly be in the area of what the Governor makes. Why would a person take on the added responsibility of becoming an administrator in our education system, but their retirement benefit would be the same as a long term teacher? I would be concerned about the future of administration positions.

I also have a concern about how quickly this bill has become a part of the legislative process. If I had not received a phone call, I had no idea this was even being discussed. A bill like this needs to have more time than just eight days.

Lastly, much of the Governor's salary is exactly that, his salary. Many of his expenses are paid via our tax dollars. Educators do not get this type of coverage on expenses.