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Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2448  
Before the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Submitted by: Sarah LaFrenz  
President, Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE)  
March 7, 2018

Chairman Longbine and Honorable Members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee,

My name is Sarah LaFrenz, and I am the President of the Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) which is the largest labor union in the State of Kansas representing Executive Branch employees. KOSE represents 7,500 State of Kansas Employees and 1,501 corrections officers and counselors.

We would like to commend Rep. Jennings for bringing HB 2448 forward, which provides membership in the KP&F retirement system for security officers of the Kansas Department of Corrections. We are pleased to provide testimony in support of this measure today. We recently did our due diligence and surveyed our impacted members regarding this legislation. We are pleased that an overwhelming majority registered their support.

Certainly, the retirement benefit current and future correction officers would have access to would be better. The benefit multiplier for KP&F is 2.50%, compared to 1.85% for KPERS Correction members hired on or after 7/1/2009 and 1.75% for service before 1/1/14 and 1.85% for service after 1/1/14 for KPERS correction members hired before 7/1/2009. The final average salary used to determine benefits is more generous to KP&F members compared to KPERS.

And, KP&F members generally are able to retire with a full benefit at a younger age. Correction officer workplaces are unique and dangerous, and we commend the effort this proposal makes to recognize this fact. While moving current and future correction officers into a new retirement plan will help make the job more attractive, we encourage the legislature to also address other important factors that also drive high turnover including low wages and inadequate worker protections. We appreciate your consideration of our testimony on HB 2448, and encourage your favorable recommendation.

The Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) is a union for executive branch state employees, and the largest union of state employees in Kansas. All non-supervisory, non-confidential employees in the executive branch of Kansas state government (exclusive of higher education) are eligible to join KOSE. KOSE is local 300 - dually affiliated with both AFT and AFSCME. [info@koseunion.org](mailto:info@koseunion.org)