



Kansas State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police

Testimony to the
House Committee on Insurance and Pensions
In Support of
House Bill 2063
Mik Shanks, President
Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
January 25, 2021

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing my written testimony to be entered into the record in support of House Bill 2063. My name is Mik Shanks and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. On behalf of the 3,800 members of the largest fraternal police organization in the State of Kansas, I offer our testimony in support of House Bill 2063. This bill would allow an option for spouses and dependent children of KP&F Tier II members to receive the greater of two benefit options in the event of a service connected death of a member who is disabled. The option would be the greater of either:

- A monthly benefit equal to 50% of the members final average salary at the time of the disability, plus 10% for each dependent child up to a 75% maximum; or
- If there are no dependent children, the retirement benefit the member would have received if the member had retired.

Law enforcement officers and other first responders face the reality that due to the hazardous circumstances they continue to forge ahead to complete service to our communities. Unfortunately, due to the nature of these hazards, some first responders have had to experience injuries resulting in disabilities. This not only adversely affects the first responder, it has a devastating impact on the spouses and family members of these first responders. We have seen split-second decisions have years and years of lasting results officer's families and normally these results are negative in nature.

Addressing these benefits for Tier II KP&F employees and for all employees is absolute the right measure to take. It is our honor and responsibility to take care of those persons who risk, not only their own lives but their family's future well-being, every day they work.

We stand steadfast in support in the passage of House Bill 2063.

Sincerely,

Mik Shanks

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