



Testimony before the

House Insurance and Pensions Committee
on

HB 2044

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Testimony provided on behalf of the USA-Kansas and Kansas Association of School Boards

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you. USA-Kansas and KASB stands opposed to HB 2044.

As we understand this bill, HB2044 is to add 1.15% to educators' salaries, only to be taken back on each check they receive. Basically, a flow thorough account for the state. What advantage is this to the educators? We believe this bill has several issues with it.

1. Taking away 1.15% more to KPERS WITHOUT any type of benefit to educators.
2. Many studies have shown educators get into education because of the pension. If there is no added benefit, why would they move in this direction?
3. Kansas educators are already hard to find.
4. There is a possibility that educators could be in higher tax brackets
5. This bill takes away local control in setting salaries
6. Once the 1.15% is added to the salary, the 7.15% takes more out to KPERS. Once again, no added benefit to the retiree.
7. This bill also provides a one year increase to educators but expects educators to continually pay 7.15% indefinitely.

This bill does not really support higher salaries for educators when there is no benefit to them from KPERS. USA-Kansas and KASB do not support this bill.