

Coleen Coker

From: Molly Cowan-Johnson <mkcowan14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: House Committee on Insurance and Pensions

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Coker,

I am emailing you in regard to the House Committee on Insurance Pensions. I am a high school history teacher here in Kansas and I am seeing first hand the shortages of both teachers and substitute teachers. As a community member I saw the outrage when my school district and surrounding school districts put out a plea for substitute teachers which required no teaching license and limited amount of education. Retired teachers are some of the best options for substitutes as they have the experience and know how to make the day or weeks productive without putting more strain on the teacher who is out. Please support this bill for the good of our schools, students, and teachers. Thank you.

Molly Cowan-Johnson

Coleen Coker

From: Rebecca Dalton <raodalton@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:17 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Support bill

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Coleen Coker:

Good evening! I am writing to show my support of the bill that would allow retired Kansas teachers to substitute sooner than 6 months. Please help advance this bill to alleviate substitute shortages. Thank you for your time and consideration!

--

Rebecca A. Dalton, NBCT
English Language Arts Teacher

Coleen Coker

From: Mackenzie Fuller <mackenziefuller31@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 3:54 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: KPERS change

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Coleen Coker,

My name is Mackenzie Fuller, and I am a teacher at Blue Valley High School in Overland Park, Kansas. I am emailing to tell you that I strongly support the bill that would allow retired teachers to begin substitute teaching quickly instead of waiting 6 months. I believe this will help alleviate the sub shortage. I also believe it will help in the long run with the teacher shortage overall. It would help alleviate the burden and guilt that so many teachers feel when we are sick and have to worry if a sub will be available for our students that we care so much about. This bill not only impacts substitutes but it helps the children in our schools.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me! I sincerely hope this bill passes and shows teachers that we are supported.
Mackenzie

--

Mackenzie Fuller
Blue Valley High School
Honors ELA 9 | AVID 10 & 11

Coleen Coker

From: Sarah Gesling <sarahgesling@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:02 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Support

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a teacher and I support the **bill to allow retired teachers to begin substitute teaching quickly instead of having to wait the 6 months that is currently required by KPERS.**

Coleen Coker

From: Molly Gentz <mollyjogentz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:26 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Please!!

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please consider passing a bill to allow retired teachers to sub more quickly and freely! We need quality, experienced because teachers and Kansas!

Thank you for considering for the benefit of all Kansas kids, Molly Gentz Olathe, Kansas Kansas teacher and parent

Coleen Coker

From: Annie Goodson <annie.goodson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: HB 2639 - Statement of support

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn. Colleen Coker:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2639. I am a Kansas public school teacher and debate coach, currently in my seventh year in the classroom, and am experiencing firsthand the challenges posed by a lack of classroom teachers. When the pandemic ground most of our country to a halt two years ago, our schools, like so many other essential public services, adapted quickly to keep providing care and instruction to our students. Teaching is already characterized by unpaid teacher overtime, but two years ago we suddenly had to abandon all plans and entirely reinvent what teaching and learning looked like in a virtual world. We did it, because we are professionals, we are experts in our field, and above all, we love the students and families we serve.

Now, in the aftermath of the immediate emergency of COVID, a shortage of teachers has left our schools struggling. Efforts to make it easier for individuals to become emergency substitute teachers may be well intentioned, but they are misguided. We need experts in our classrooms, not anyone with a high school diploma. HB 2639 provides a lifeline to our schools by allowing qualified individuals to sub in our buildings and serve our students without sacrificing financial stability. As someone who works in a public school six days a week, I can say with authority that HB 2639 will immediately, and immensely improve the quality of education our students receive. Teachers need our support right now—who better to support us than former teachers?

I urge you to pass this bill, and am happy to provide further comment on this issue if needed.

Sincerely,

Annie Goodson
Director of Debate and Forensics
Blue Valley West High School
Annie.goodson@gmail.com

Coleen Coker

From: Debra Hotujac <dhotujac@kc.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: KPERS Working After Retirement

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

With the current shortage of substitute teachers and a shortage of educators to fill classroom and other positions, I am in support of eliminating the waiting periods of 60-180 days required before allowing a retired school district employee to sub or to assume a position as a teacher, para, or other employee in any KS public school district. I also encourage legislators to eliminate the KPERS penalty assessed when a retired teacher goes back to work for a KPERS entity.

We need experts in our schools as subs and in other employee positions. Please eliminate all WAR penalties immediately so this is helpful for the 2022-23 school year. Allow professional educators to access their KPERS pension and still make a full or part-time contribution to education with no loss of KPERS money. Our students will benefit from the expertise of these professionals.

Thanks for your work!

Debra Hotujac
14805 Slater Street
Overland Park, KS

Coleen Coker

From: Michelle Huss <michellenhuss@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Substitute teaching bill

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Coleen,

This email is in SUPPORT of allowing retired teachers to begin substitute teaching ASAP as opposed to waiting the six months currently required by KPERS.

We need substitutes, and retired teachers are definitely more qualified than any 18-year-old!

Sincerely,
Michelle Huss, 16-year veteran teacher
Blue Valley High School (2012 to present)
Ottawa High School (2006 to 2012)

Coleen Coker

From: Melinda McAtee <mmmcatee@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Please vote in support of KPERS change that would allow retired teachers to sub more quickly.

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please vote in support of KPERS change that would allow retired teachers to sub more quickly.
We are already understaffed and without subs sick teachers are coming to work.
Sincerely,
Melinda McAtee

Coleen Coker

From: Gail Mullin <gailmullin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Retired teachers

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am in favor of allowing retired teachers to sub in our districts immediately. They have the knowledge to be in the classroom and we are in a time of need. I would much prefer having a retired teacher in my school as a sub versus an 18 year old with a high school diploma. Can we please use common sense?

Thank you,

Gail Mullin-Mall
Exhausted and dedicated teacher
Sent from my iPhone

Coleen Coker

From: Carrie Myers <bcttmyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:04 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Retired teachers subbing

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please support the bill that would allow retired teachers to begin substituting earlier. We so need good, appropriate substitutes for our students. Retirees are perfect for this role, yet can't because of this silly KPERS rule. Please don't let them continue to be kept from helping our students!

Thank you!
Carrie Myers
Kindergarten Teacher

Coleen Coker

From: Dianne O'Bryan <dianne.obryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 4:40 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: KPERS and retired teachers

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a public school teacher in Kansas and am writing in favor of the bill changing the length requirements for retired teachers returning to the classroom to sub. Right now we are in a critical shortage of staff for schools. Many of our retired teachers want the opportunity to come back to the classroom to sub, and they can be a great resource to our schools. Making them wait 6 months is only hurting our schools. As a teacher, I would much prefer to have the wisdom and experience of a retired teacher over an 18 year old with no college experience and certainly no teaching experience. There is a need and the legislature should support our schools by helping to address this need.

Sincerely,
Dianne O'Bryan
Blue Valley School District
Kansas teacher for 27 years

Coleen Coker

From: Lorraine <lorrainesullivan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:23 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: KPERS bill

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my support for this bill to allow newly retired teachers to substitute teach immediately after teaching. As a current Kansas teacher, the substitute shortage is very real and this will undoubtedly help the situation. Thank you for your time.

Lorraine Sullivan
Sent from my iPhone

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to beg for your help to make changes to the legislative bill allowing retired teachers to substitute without endangering their KPERS. We are in dire need of substitutes and who better to be in the classroom teaching our students than experienced educators.

As a teacher myself, I struggle with being gone or using any "sick days" because I know that my teammates and school co-workers and administrators will have to fill in for me, therefore not being able to do their job. This is an unfair position for educators to be in. If we can have help from retired educators, then PLEASE make changes to make that possible ASAP!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Sutton
5th grade teacher
Olathe School District

Coleen Coker

From: Becky Todd <tobeckysue@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 5:09 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: In support of reducing the KPERS waiting period. HB2639

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Coker,
As a teacher I support allowing retired teachers to substitute teach after 30 days to help with the sub shortage.
Thank you,
Becky Todd

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Coleen Coker

From: Kate Watson <katewatson77@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 4:19 PM
To: Coleen Coker
Subject: Please Support HB 2639

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please support HB 2639 which would amend KPERS to allow retired teachers to work as substitutes after a waiting period of only 30 days.

It only makes sense these days, doesn't it?

Kate Watson
Grandparent