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**Oral Testimony – Opponent**  
House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee  
House Bill 2025  
February 8, 2023

Chairman Hoheisel, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2025.

KNEA membership supports an annual cost of living adjustment equal to the increase of the Consumer Price Index capped at 4%.

KNEA also supports basic autonomy of KPERS retirees in decisions regarding their KPERS pension. HB 2025 offers such an option to retirees. From this perspective, KNEA doesn't oppose the concept should a retiree choose to elect options like the one laid out in HB 2025.

KNEA also greatly appreciates the thoughts and efforts being employed by several leaders that are sincerely attempting to reform all KPERS tiers as well as securing a much needed, and deserved, cost of living adjustment for retirees.

HOWEVER, KNEA strongly opposes HB 2025 as the answer to tackling the COLA issue. Our opposition starts first with HB 2025 being called a COLA. In short, cost of living adjustments are raises. As many others have pointed out HB 2025 is not a raise. In truth, HB 2025 is a rationing bill.

Again, KNEA does not oppose the expansion of options for KPERS retirees. Our biggest concern is not with the concept but the name. Calling this a COLA could signal to others that a real value-added benefit was adopted and would likely have the consequence of delaying a real COLA for years to come.

For this reason, we ask that HB 2025 stay in committee and we all work together for a better solution.

Thank you for your time.

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