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TESTIMONY

By
CLINT PATTY

KPERS Plan Design
Before the House Committee on Pensions and Benefits

March 20, 2013

Chair Johnson, members of the committee, my name is Clint Patty. I am an attorney with the law firm of Frieden, Unrein and Forbes in Topeka, Kansas, and am here representing the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, a state-wide labor organization representing thousands of law enforcement officers and officials throughout the State of Kansas (the "FOP"). I have been asked to provide testimony on behalf of the FOP against any changes in the State's current KPERS retirement plan. The proposed changes would have a devastating effect on the approximately 1,500 brave men and women serving communities throughout the State of Kansas as law enforcement officers covered by the KPERS system.

The FOP opposes any effort to undo last year's landmark reform for KPERS, including the cash balance plan. This reform was passed following the united efforts of multiple and diverse interests and deals with state pension reform and unfunded liability issues in a balanced and responsible manner. However, now just one year later, and without any long-term study, review or extensive discussion as to the relative effectiveness of this new approach, there are voices asking to scrap the very reform that both houses of this Legislature passed and Governor Brownback signed into law. The FOP requests that the Legislature give its cash balance reform measure the opportunity to work, and provide our public servants with a fair retirement in return for their daily sacrifices to the communities in which they bravely serve.

Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to provide my client's position on this important matter.