



Testimony
Proponent of HB 2100
House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee
February 11, 2019

Chairman Kelly and Members of the Committee.

I am Jerry Henn. I am the Executive Director of Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel, (KARSP). Although I am new to the position and new to retirement, I believe I have valuable information for the committee.

KARSP is in support of HB2100 for many reasons. Here are four.

1. The average monthly benefit for our members is just a little over \$1000. \$12,000 per year.
2. There has not been an increase in benefits since 1997, 22 years without any type of adjustment for our retirees.
3. KPERS is a great recruitment tool for our education system. Without any type of Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) built in, could be a cause for the current issues education is facing in finding teachers.
4. Giving our members a COLA, is a great investment in the economy for the State of Kansas.

HB 2100 is fiscally responsible as well. As our members retire within the past 5 years, they would not receive an adjustment. It focuses on the members that have been retired for many years. They have suffered the brunt of the lack of a COLA. This bill also caps the amount an increase can be at \$150 per month. The stair step method in giving the COLA to members is a great way to support our members that have been long time retirees. What a great way to support the retired adults in Kansas that educated many of you and other adults in our great state.

KARSP is in support for HB 2100. Please consider this bill for passage for debate on the floor.
There are many people that depend on this bill for passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry Henn, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel