



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 2140 Before the House Standing Committee on Financial Institutions & Pensions

**Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation**

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Chairman Kelly and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirk Thompson and I serve as the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2140, which was introduced at the request of both the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP).

The Deferred Retirement Option Program, or DROP, was an idea cultivated by the KHP and presented to the Legislature in 2015 as a mechanism to assist their agency in retaining retirement eligible troopers during a time they were facing critical staffing shortages. It was enacted as a pilot program to assist the Patrol in their time of need and allow KPERS to study its effectiveness as a retirement option.

As an agency, we too have been facing critical staffing shortages which have negatively impacted our ability to fulfill our important public safety mission over the last several years. To combat this, we, like the Patrol, have implemented a number of measures to assist us in our efforts to recruit and retain highly trained and qualified Special Agents.

With nearly half of our commissioned workforce reaching retirement eligibility within the next five years, we believe the DROP program would be a valuable tool in helping us retain some of our most experienced Special Agents, each dedicated to the investigation of major violent crime in Kansas.

Inclusion of the KBI will add an additional demographic of retirees to the pilot program and provide valuable information that will assist KPERS in further evaluating the impact that expanding DROP may have on the actuarial.

I ask for the Committee's support and consideration of favorably passaging HB 2140, which extends the sunset to January 1, 2025 and adds Special Agents of the KBI to the DROP Pilot Program.

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