



BEL AIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT • CHIEF OF POLICE DARRELL G. ATTEBERRY

**Testimony to the House Insurance and Pensions Committee
In Support of HB2509**

February 9, 2022

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members:

Our association and state employees thank the Committee for hearing testimony and considering testimony on HB2509. We are proponents of HB2509.

I am Darrell Atteberry. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Bel Aire, Kansas and also serve as the Legislative Chair for the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and a Governor at-large for the Kansas Peace Officers Association.

From 1981 to 2014, I was employed by the City of Wichita, Wichita Police Department. I retired as a Captain. I was able to participate in the City of Wichita's Deferred Retirement Option Plan, DROP. Under the City's retirement pension plan, I was required to work for 20 years to get a 50% pension benefit and 30 years to get 75% pension benefits. Since I love public service, I stayed. Then the DROP became available and I decided to participate in the plan for additional retirement benefits.

I worked for 33.5 years for the City of Wichita and retired with nearly 5 years of DROP benefits. I was able to buy down my retirement date with the City of Wichita by using my thousands of hours of accrued sick leave. When I left I was able to roll my lump sum payment over into a retirement fund.

Because of the availability of the DROP in Wichita, I was able to do what I love for longer. It was a benefit to me and to the City of Wichita. I was able to add to my retirement savings after maxing out my pension benefits, a pension enhancement.

I see your decision on HB2509 as a policy decision on whether the state wants to promote longer terms of employment which can benefit the employee while the already trained employee is taking care of the needs of your constituents. Additionally, is it your desire to place employees in a better retirement position after dedicating so many years of service to the people of Kansas?

We in law enforcement believe a Deferred Retirement Option Plan is an additional benefit to encourage trained staff members to stay longer to serve our communities. We also believe that it is a useful tool in recruitment of new officers and retention of mid-career employees.

I, the KACP, and KPOA encourage the passage of HB2509.