



**House Pensions and Benefits Committee
Representative Holmes, Chair**

S. B. 259 – Working After Retirement

*Submitted by Diane Gjerstad
Wichita Public Schools*

February 15, 2012

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

We rise in support of SB 259 which would extend the sunset of current rules for school employees working after retirement for another three years until 2015.

The bill is a recommendation by the interim LEPC committee and the topic was reviewed by KPERS Study Commission.

The knowledge base retirees, who understand the procedures and legal parameters of working in schools, bring to our schools is irreplaceable. Classroom teachers, principals, school secretaries require knowledge of the district policies, procedures and potential legal issues. It is in the best interest of our students to have temporary employees who understand and can react to any issue they may face. Classrooms should be filled with teachers who are able to advance learning while the regular teacher is absent. Schools should be led by people who are able to continue all the daily work a principal faces – special education placement meetings, working with parents, discipline, mentoring teachers, monitoring instruction, managing a building. A school secretarial position should be filled by a person who is able to work on school district data bases, appropriately deal with parents, students and faculty.

The knowledge retired personnel bring is very important to seamless operations of our building and safety of students. SB 259 simply moves the sunset date for allowing working after retirement. We urge the committee's favorable consideration. Thank you for your consideration.