



**Kansas Association of
Chiefs of Police**
PO Box 780603
Wichita, KS 67278
(316)733-7300



**Kansas Sheriffs
Association**
PO Box 1122
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620)230-0864



**Kansas Peace Officers
Association**
PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316)722-8433

**Testimony to the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee
In Support of HB2289 – KPERS/KP&F Member Status During Paid Leave
February 13, 2017**

Chairman Kelly and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2289 clarifying KPERS and KP&F members remain in an active status in the retirement system while on paid leave approved by the employer. This is a critical issue to our associations and fixing this problem was chosen as one of our priority legislative issues for this session.

It is unfortunate that we are in the position to have to request this bill. The problem we are faced with is employees who are on paid leave and after ten days removed from active status. We have identified officers who have been on paid administrative leave during investigations such as use of force or other investigations to serve the best interest of the officer, agency, and the public during those investigations. We have also received reports of officers who have been injured in the line of duty who found their KPERS/KP&F contributions stopped while recovering from those injuries. We understand that it is KPERS intent for the time to be restored after the employee returns to duty. However, we have received some reports where we are not certain that has happened.

We understand KPERS has an interest in controlling any abuse that could occur through a leave process. Such abuses cannot occur at the whim of the employee. Only the employer can authorize the abuses of concern. However, the current KPERS solution strikes most frequently at good employees who are on leave without any wrongdoing or while recovering from duty related injuries. Even if the time is eventually returned to the employee, these officers are already under immense psychological stress and they do not need or deserve the added stress of not knowing if their pension will remain intact.

We simply believe the employee deserves to remain active in the system any time they are in a pay status approved by their employer. During those times, absent the current KPERS rule, KPERS continues to receive both the employer and employee contributions and does not suffer any financial burden different from what would exist if the employee was in a normal working status.

We believe the provisions of HB2289 are good public policy and shows respect for employees who find themselves in a paid leave status through the processes required by their profession and service to the public.

Ed Klumpp
eklumpp@cox.net
(785) 640-1102