



TO: House Committee on Insurance and Pensions
Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

FROM: Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE)
Sarah LaFrenz, President

RE: WRITTEN ONLY-Proponent Testimony HB 2218

DATE: February 24, 2021

Chairman Johnson and Members of the House Insurance and Pensions Committee:

The Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2218 which would change the membership and requirements of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission. As you know, current law requires one member of the commission to be a current employee in the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act and another member must be a person who retired from a position in the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act.

HB 2218 would remove those membership requirements. Instead, HB 2218 would change the current requirements to specify that one member of the Commission must be a current state employee who is currently enrolled in the State Healthcare Benefits Program Group Health Insurance Medical Plan. The bill would also require the other member be a person who retired from a position in state service and who is currently enrolled in the State Healthcare Benefits Program Group Health Insurance Medical Plan.

Since there has been a significant increase in the number of unclassified state employees in recent years, it seems only appropriate that the State Employee Health Care Commission membership and requirements be updated and modernized to reflect this workforce change.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB 2218 for your consideration.