

Dear Chairman Longbine, Vice Chairs Fagg and Peck, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeremy McMannis and I am a Corporal at Topeka Correctional Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for 2 and half years.

These are some things you should know about my work: We currently work with the bare minimum of staffing. On any given day on the 2 pm to 10 pm shift especially at the Central Unit as a patrol officer, we assist the dorm officers monitor 480 plus women. At any time one patrol officer could be collapsed or assigned to another task or have to pack out an offender's property because the offender acted out and was moved to segregation or to the infirmary over on the maximum-security side. We never know what we will encounter on our shift, from staff not showing up, to offenders acting out. For the last year we have been in some form of lockdown due to Covid-19. During this pandemic we do the work of 3 officers and having to deal with the offenders changing moods due to being separated from family, spiritual services. Working in a women's facility is more mentally tasking than physically. I walk out of shift emotionally drained each day, that is if we are not forced to work overtime due to not being properly relieved of our post. When dealing with the offender population we must be professional firm and consistent with how we enforce the policies of the facility. As a correctional officer we must attend annual training that includes being firearm certified in the times we have to escort an offender to the hospital. Corrections officers also must respond to a wide variety of emergencies and be always alert and professional. We work long hours in a wide variety of temperatures, doing patrols, writing reports, observing offender behavior.

The physical and emotional toll that working as correction officer puts a lot of stress on the officer and their family. To be able to retire early would allow us to enjoy retirement instead of having to work until you are not able to enjoy retirement with your family. At my current rate I will not be able to officially retire until I am almost 70 years old. By changing retirement systems, it will allow me to enjoy retirement with my family instead of working until I am in the retirement home.

KP&F would mean the world to me and to my family. Being able to retire faster and at a higher benefit after years of service to the State of Kansas would be a great help to me and my family, as I consider this a career and want to stay here. A good retirement benefit helps this.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. In closing, I ask that you support this bill for hard-working corrections employees in the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Jeremy McMannis