

KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham Director of Government Relations & Coalitions Proponent Testimony – Written Only House Committee on Insurance and Pensions House Bill 2612 February 11, 2022

Chairman Johnson, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2612.

During the last several years, KPERS retirees have seen sporadic one-time cash adjustments to their pensions. These adjustments are certainly appreciated but have not become permanent to their retirement benefits.

This dynamic has left KPERS retirees struggling to meet the rising costs for goods and services. Over a period of time, many of these former public servants find that they must choose between which goods and services they need and which they can no longer afford.

As the economy continues to see healthy growth and the budget situation in Kansas improves, Kansas NEA thinks the time is now to give the KPERS retirees a cost-of-living adjustment.

Thank you for your time.