

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

*My name is Cody Johnson and I am a Correctional Officer at Lansing Correctional Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for nearly 4 years.*

*These are some things you should know about my work: I work the overnight shift where every night we are running very short staffed. Nearly every night we run 1 officer per pod which leaves barely any responders to any emergency situations that may arise. When CoreCivic started construction of the new facility they proposed the staffing numbers to the administration. In this specifically for my shift it leaves us with almost no responders and not enough collapsible positions to develop an entry team if the situation arises. This leaves many of us stressed out and much more cautious of our surroundings than usual. I see officers here currently that have reached an age where they can barely walk up a flight of stairs let alone quickly respond to an alarm. The reason for this is due to not being able to retire at a decent age. There definitely comes a point when physically one should no longer work here and be able to retire. However, I have noticed that a lot of staff that are in a higher age group are unable to retire before 55 due to the current retirement plan. That honestly leaves the environment much more dangerous than it should be. What happens when a 60-year-old officer that can barely walk up one flight of stairs gets attacked by an inmate? What happens when I get attacked and only have him to rely on to save me? There should be nobody working here past a certain age group or physical ability due to the dangers surrounding the position. The fact that our current retirement plan is what is holding them here honestly worries me for my future. This change in retirement will allow for an earlier retirement and eliminates any concerns over being 60 years old and needing to still work in a maximum-security prison.*

*KP&F would mean a great deal 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,*

*Cody Johnson*