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From: **Steve** <chaplainstevemck@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 12:21 PM

Subject: KP&F

To: <info@koseunion.org>

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

First: My name is Stephen McKiearnan and I am a Clinical Chaplain at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for 14 years in that position.

Second: These are some things you should know about my work: I work daily in direct contact with offenders. Providing religious programming and security for these programs. My greatest concern when i read the proposed bill, i did not see Chaplains listed as being eligible to participate in KP&F.

Third: KP&F would allow me 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 consideration in this matter.

Chaplain Stephen D. McKiearnan M.Div

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Chaplain Steve

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

My name is William Riddle and I am a Corrections Supervisor 1 at the El Dorado Correctional Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for 25 years. During this time KP&F retirement has been discussed numerous times by staff and by the legislature. Almost all of our staff have expressed a strong desire to switch from KPERS to KP&F. Over the last few years our correctional staff have endured many challenges from staff shortages, causing long hours of overtime, years of no pay raises, riots and now COVID. We have accepted these challenges and continue to serve our fellow Kansans to the best of our abilities. It has been my honor to serve my community and I would be very grateful if the switch to KP&F happened not just for me but for the awesome young men and women who will carry the torch long after I have left the department.

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

CSI Riddle, William
El Dorado Correctional Facility

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

My name is Kevin Pistotnik and I am a Sergeant at Eldorado Correctional Facility. I have worked for this facility for 3.5 years.

Here are some things you should know about my work: As you may or may not know working in corrections is very stressful. I have worked all three shifts and I can tell you that it takes a toll on you mentally and physically. You come to work do your job make sure that the rules and laws are being enforced and that human rights are not being broken. Even if you do your job well the offenders yell and cuss at every day because they want more time out or they want to go to another cell house where they don't belong, and after using your communication skills does not work then sometimes that turns into a use of force and you have to use your chemicals. After you use your chemicals you are left the rest of the day wearing the chemicals till your shift is over. Offenders yell and cuss at you on a daily basis. When conducting cell shake down and pat searches we find a lot of homemade stabbing devices. There are days that we don't know if we will come back home to see our loved ones or be in a hospital. I have been threatened by several offenders and even been approached outside of the facility and threatened. Just because we work in corrections and after we get home from our job we still are not that safe and I know some officers that have PTSD from working corrections.

Third: KP&F would mean so much to me and to my family. Being able to retire faster and at a higher benefit after years of service through 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 us

Final: 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,

SGT Kevin Pistotnik

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

First: My name is Deborah Canady and I am a FMS- Lock Smith/Corrections officer at HCF Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for 10 years.

Second: These are some things you should know about my work: I work several hours of overtime to try and help with staff shortages and covid issues. Everyone here is constantly on their feet moving all the 8-16hrs a day. The disciplinary system is failing and makes it hard to enforce rules, so the constant looking behind you and your coworkers, taxes a person mentally. Not to mention the verbal abuse we a subject to daily because of the disciplinary system is not working, makes people bitter and yet we remain perfectional.

Moving to KP&F is the best thing that could happen. Through everything a Correctional Staff member goes through , being able to be vested and retire sooner with better benefits is a very good idea. This would allow staff to have something to look forward to. 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,

*Deborah Canady
FMS Lock Smith/Corrections Officer*

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

My name is Jeff Wasson and I am an Activity Specialist I at Ellsworth Correctional Facility within KDOC. I have worked for this facility for roughly 3 years.

These are some things you should know about my work: I run the activities for the prison Sunday through Thursday. I supervise a group of about 10 inmates as gym and yard workers. Sometimes I have officer help me, most of the time I am on my own. Summer averages about 85 inmates per yard callout. During the Winter I average 65 inmates in a small gym. I also help with our Jaycees program special projects.

Covid has drastically changed things at our Facility. Because the officers or sick, or quit, or retired we have a shortage of Officers. This affects me because now I am one person watching 100 people in the yard or the gym. Pods have been locked down, so I then now have to go to those pods and deliver Jaycee special projects.

This Retirement transfer would greatly help me because I would be able to retire a few years earlier with a better rate of return on my money. After years of service to the State of Kansas this 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. I think it would also help with retention of employees. KDOC spends way too much money on training new employees, because of the subpar retention rates at each facility.

Final: 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. I would also look at reclassifying employee positions for this. If you noticed I supervise a group of inmates for my job. I also watch over a large group of inmates by myself. I only mention this because I receive a shift differential for watching inmates, but how my job is coded my Retirement is KPERs 3. So, I would not get put into this retirement, because the Legislature and KDOC have not updated their classification job titles in over 30 years

Sincerely,

Jeff Wasson