



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2144</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Pensions</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/6/2026 11:56 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I am in Support this Bill and providing this Benefit.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BETSY VANDERHEYDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 2:11 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DONNA FURMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:43 AM</b>	
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**I fully support this bill!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOYCE L. SCHUTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 2:53 PM</b>	
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Please vote in support of HB 2144.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN L MILLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 9:47 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**COLA Cap Adjustment for PSRS and PEERS Retirees**

Chairman Hovis and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2095.

**COLA Cap Adjustment for PSRS and PEERS Retirees**

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I am 75, in good health and I plan to live a lot longer. My COLA sits at 73%

This bill addresses a limited but important issue within the Public School Retirement System (PSRS) and the Public Education Employee Retirement System (PEERS). Under current law, retirees receive cost-of-living adjustments, but those increases are capped once they reach 80 percent of their original retirement benefit. When that cap is reached, benefits stop adjusting permanently, regardless of inflation.

HB 2095 does not remove the cap and does not change the current COLA structure. Instead, it allows a one-time, non-cumulative 2 percent adjustment in years when system investment returns exceed the assumed rate of return by at least two percent. If that threshold is not met, no adjustment would occur.

This approach ensures that any additional adjustment happens only when the system performs exceptionally well, protecting the financial stability of the retirement systems while providing limited relief to retirees who have already reached the cap.

For many retirees, reaching the cap occurs after decades in retirement, often at an age when inflation has significantly eroded purchasing power. HB 2095 provides a modest and responsible way to help address that challenge while maintaining the long-term sustainability of the system.

**This proposal strikes a careful balance between fiscal responsibility and fairness to retirees who dedicated their careers to Missouri's public schools and communities.**

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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARIA WALDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-301-9658</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC.</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY T MAEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:08 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RITA GRELE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 2:31 PM</b>
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**Please support this bill. Retired teachers need this.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TREVA A SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 3:29 PM</b>	
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I see rural retired teachers in their golden years who struggle to make ends meet. As a retired teacher, I still pour into my community as a volunteer with my time, my resources, and when possible with funds. Please support those of us who returned so much of our pay to make sure kids ate, had supplies, and experienced learning that others take for granted. We are still here.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:55 AM</b>	

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**HB 2144 doubles the Public School Retirement System death benefit from \$5,000 to \$10,000.**

**That raises an uncomfortable question.**

**If the legislature believes Missouri’s retired educators deserve more financial support, why is the increase arriving after they die instead of while they are alive?**

**Many retired teachers and school employees are already struggling with rising housing, food, and medical costs. Yet this bill does nothing to strengthen their purchasing power during retirement. It simply increases the payment made once the retiree is gone.**

**A retirement system should protect dignity during life, not primarily increase compensation after death.**

**Before moving this bill forward, the committee should ask a basic policy question:**

**Is the goal to support retired educators — or simply to make the system appear more generous at the end of life?**

**For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote Do Not Pass on HB 2144.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE MOOREFIELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-638-1084</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>PSRS/PEERS</b>		TITLE: <b>CHIEF COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3210 W. TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT SIMON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>298-6620</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MODOT &amp; PATROL EMPLOYEES RET SYS</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>813 W STADIUM</b>			
CITY: <b>JC</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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