



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Attorney General Andy Beshear argues SB151 flaws to the Franklin Circuit Court**

Earlier today, Attorney General Andy Beshear argued on behalf of the plaintiffs in the case of Beshear v. Bevin, Franklin Circuit Court no. 18 -C I -00379. This is the case in which AG Beshear, KEA and the FOP challenged the provisions of S B151, the pension bill from the 2018 legislative session. That bill, which was rushed through the legislative process and passed in a single day without any public review or input, changed pension benefits for current and future certified educators. Shortly after the bill was signed by the Governor, the Attorney General, KEA and the Fraternal Order of Police filed suit. Public pensions are earned throughout a public employees' career and are a financial lifeline for all state retirees, including teachers, classified school employees, police and firefighters. Over 200,000 Kentucky families are directly impacted by public pensions. Retirees who purchase goods and services with their pension checks are significant drivers of the local economy in small towns and in large cities across the Commonwealth. By participating in this suit with the AG and our FOP partners, we are fighting an illegal attempt to diminish or eliminate benefits rightfully earned by public workers in Kentucky.

Today's oral arguments focused primarily on the legislative process used to pass this bill and its impact on the inviolable contract for existing employees. Dozens of school employees and supporters attended the hearing, wearing red and packing the courtroom. Attorney General Beshear presented a compelling case and made the plaintiffs' case extremely well. After hearing both sides, Judge Phillip Shepherd took the matter under advisement and promised to issue a ruling as soon as possible. During an



## NEWS RELEASE

earlier hearing in this matter, Judge Shepherd indicated that he wanted to issue his final Order in this case before July 15, the current implementation date for the provisions of S B151.

KEA thanks the Attorney General and the FOP for their continuing partnership and advocacy on this issue. We are proud of and thankful for the educators who took time to travel to Frankfort today and support this important cause. We have faith in Judge Shepherd and the legal process. When the final Order is issued, we will carefully review it and decide next steps.