1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 2 - - - - - - - - - - - - x KENTUCKY RETIREMENT 3 : 4 SYSTEMS, ET AL., : 5 Petitioners : б : No. 06-1037 v. 7 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT : 8 OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION. : 9 - - - - - - - - - - - - - x 10 Washington, D.C. Wednesday, January 9, 2008 11 12 The above-entitled matter came on for oral 13 argument before the Supreme Court of the United States 14 at 11:09 a.m. 15 APPEARANCES: ROBERT D. KLAUSNER, ESQ., Plantation, Fla.; on behalf of 16 17 the Petitioners. 18 MALCOLM L. STEWART, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor 19 General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on 20 behalf of the Respondent. 21 22 23 24 25

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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (11:09 a.m.) CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument 3 4 next in Case 06-1037, Kentucky Retirement Systems v. 5 EEOC. 6 Mr. Klausner. 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ROBERT D. KLAUSNER ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS 8 9 MR. KLAUSNER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it 10 please the Court: 11 Retirement eligibility in Kentucky is based on 20 years of service or age 55. Age is not the only 12 13 determinant. And "age" is not a bad word. As Justice 14 White said in McMann v. United Airlines, all retirement 15 plans necessarily make distinctions based on age. 16 Here it is age or service. And the EEOC's 17 focus on age alone fails to appreciate that Kentucky is 18 an integrated, consolidated retirement plan with the 19 goal of providing benefits to all qualified workers. To 20 say, as the EEOC does, that all younger workers will 21 always fare better than all older workers is factually wrong, and it fails to appreciate the myriad factors 22 23 that go into determining pension amounts. 24 It's not age alone that determines the 25 result. Age is a factor. It's not the factor. The

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plan is not facially discriminatory, it's not arbitrary, and it doesn't violate --

3 JUSTICE BREYER: I guess the part that they 4 are saying is arbitrary as I understand it, and I 5 appreciate your correcting me if I don't understand it correctly, is that you get double your pension at 55 if б 7 you've worked 20 years as opposed to 10. Is that right? 8 MR. KLAUSNER: No, Mr. Chief Justice --JUSTICE BREYER: A worker who has been 9 10 there, he's qualified, he has only worked for 10 years 11 and now he's 55 years old. There is a chart in the SG's brief, and as I read that chart, he got amount "X". He 12 13 started at 45, he ended up at 55, he gets "X". If he 14 started at 35 and worked for 20 years, he would get much 15 more than "X". 16 MR. KLAUSNER: If the EEOC's chart were --17 correct, that would be true, Your Honor, limited only to 18 the amount of imputed service. The person who began 19 younger in the example which Your Honor used would get 20 more imputed service. 21 JUSTICE BREYER: You would get "Y", because 22 he worked for 20 years rather than 10; is that right? 23 I'm not talking about a disabled person. I'm talking

about anybody.

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MR. KLAUSNER: No, Your Honor. That's only

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1 in the case of disability. In a normal requirement 2 setting, one works a number of years and you get two 3 and-a-half percent of your salary for each year that you 4 worked. 5 JUSTICE BREYER: So if a person works for 20 years, he gets more than if he worked for 10 years; is б 7 that right? 8 MR. KLAUSNER: That's right. 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Now he is disabled. And 10 when he's disabled, if he's disabled after working only 11 10 and he is 45 years old, they pretend he had worked 12 the full 20? 13 MR. KLAUSNER: They impute -- yes, Your Honor. They impute the additional service to you. 14 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Now I understand it. 16 Now, this individual says, I was working 17 there after the age of 55, I only worked for 14 years, 18 now I become disabled. If I become disabled before I 19 was 55, let's say I had six years to go, they would give 20 me six years extra. But because I was disabled after 21 I'm 55, I get nothing extra. Nothing is imputed. Is 22 that right? 23 MR. KLAUSNER: It's only partially right, Mr. Justice. Justice Breyer, the reason that you get 24 25 additional before age 55 is the same as the reason why

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1 you get extra before you reach 20 years. 2 JUSTICE BREYER: I didn't ask you for the 3 I want to know if I'm factually right. reasons. 4 MR. KLAUSNER: Your only partially --5 JUSTICE BREYER: Where am I factually wrong? MR. KLAUSNER: The difference is that the б 7 imputed service comes before 55, because you're not eligible for after 55 or after 20 years you are eligible 8 for benefits --9 10 JUSTICE BREYER: You're giving me reasons. 11 I'll ask you in a second for the reasons. I want to know if what I said is factually true? 12 13 MR. KLAUSNER: If you were disabled before normal retirement, you receive imputed service. 14 15 JUSTICE BREYER: And not after? 16 MR. KLAUSNER: Correct. 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Now I'll say that I 18 think is the discrimination of which he is complaining. 19 And now what he would like to know is what possible reason is there for that difference? Now I'd like to 20 21 hear what the reason is that justifies that difference. 22 You give him six extra years when he retired 23 after 14 years and though he was only 49 years old, and you don't give him even one extra year when everything 24 25 else was the same but he retired after he was 55.

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1 Now, explain to me what the reason is for 2 that. 3 MR. KLAUSNER: The reason for that, Justice 4 Breyer, is as follows: The person who's 49 and gets 5 disabled, assuming he does not have -- he or she doesn't have 20 years of service, can't retire. The person who б 7 is 55 in your example can leave tomorrow. Additionally, the person who begins work 8 older starts out closer to retirement. We are not 9 10 talking about two different groups of people. The plan 11 favors the older worker by saying on the day you begin 12 work, you're always closer to retiring than a younger 13 person. 14 The purpose of the imputed service is to try 15 to replicate as closely as possible within some 16 financial limits set by the -- by the General Assembly 17 of Kentucky what you would have received had you made --18 JUSTICE BREYER: No. He says now, what he 19 says to that, I take it, is fine. He is 49 years old. 20 He has six years to go to qualify for retirement, so let 21 him retire. If you let him retire, and you gave him 14 22 years of credit, you would be treating him just like 23 you're treating me. 24 But in addition to letting him retire, you 25 give him six extra years of credit, which at two

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1 and-a-half percent per year. Good, I'm glad you do 2 that. Give me the six extra years at two and-a-half 3 percent as well. Treat us alike. 4 What's your response? 5 MR. KLAUSNER: My response, Justice, is 6 They start out un-alike. As I mentioned before, this. 7 the person who was in 55 in your example, A, is already eligible for benefit. He doesn't have to wait to be 8 9 disabled. He may leave tomorrow. 10 The person who starts younger, particularly 11 in a public safety retirement plan, spends more time in 12 the line of fire than the person who starts older. The 13 person who starts older takes advantage of the fact that 14 in this retirement plan you can retire with as little as 15 five years of service. Actually a person who is 55 is

17 Kentucky may be the only plan in the country that does 18 that.

eligible for a benefit after only a month. In fact,

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But where they don't start out alike and where the EEOC's chart is based on fallacy is that the person who began older in work in your example was always closer to retirement, they needed less years. The purpose of the plan for disability purposes, which is not a separate plan, it's simply a means of getting one to normal retirement who is not

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1 otherwise eligible.

2 JUSTICE KENNEDY: This has been very 3 helpful, but it does seem to me to raise a question 4 about the fairness of your opening statement. You began 5 by saying something to the effect that this does not 6 discriminate on the basis of age. It does. Age is the explicit factor that the statute uses in order to answer 7 Justice Breyer's question. And the Act does not 8 prohibit the use of age in all circumstances to which it 9 10 applies, but it does -- the Act goes on to prohibit the 11 use of age in some of the circumstances. And one of 12 those circumstances is the hypothetical of the 13 55-plus-year-old person used in Justice Breyer's 14 statement and example.

15 So, it is not correct, it seems to me, for 16 you to say that this does not discriminate on the basis 17 of age. Now, maybe there is some good reasons for doing 18 that, you can get into that, but it seems to me it does 19 make an explicit determination based on age as to some 20 people.

21 MR. KLAUSNER: Respectfully, Justice 22 Kennedy, I think that's not entirely correct, for this 23 reason. The plan makes the determination of eligible to 24 retire on 20 years or age 55 with five years. In other 25 words, it makes the determination not based on age but

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on pension status, that is, eligibility to receive an
 unreduced normal retirement.
 JUSTICE SCALIA: You're saying you're one

4 step removed. You're making your determination on the 5 basis of eligibility for retirement, which in turn is based on age. And you're saying that that --6 7 JUSTICE STEVENS: It's sometimes based on 8 age. 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: Huh? 10 JUSTICE STEVENS: It's sometimes based on 11 age, sometimes years of service. 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: Right. 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And always based on 14 age plus service. 15 MR. KLAUSNER: Right. Yes, Mr. Chief 16 Justice. 17 JUSTICE SOUTER: But your answer, as I 18 understand it, to Justice Breyer's question was, could 19 be boiled down to this: The person whose disability benefit or total benefit following disability is 20 21 calculated on the basis of age 55, is less likely to 22 have worked or is likely to have worked less long than 23 the person whose benefit is imputed and calculated on 24 the basis of 20 years. And because the odds are that 25 we'll say the person in the 55-year-old category has

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1	worked less and endured less risk, it is, therefore,
2	fair to impute less time on average to such a person,
3	and therefore, give a lower benefit.
4	You're saying there is a tradeoff. And the
5	tradeoff is because the 55-year-old retiree may get a
б	benefit after very little work and very little risk, it
7	is therefore fair and not a discrimination that on the
8	average the windfall is less for that person by the
9	imputation than the windfall to the person who retires
10	on the basis of age 20.
11	Is that a fair statement of your argument?
12	MR. KLAUSNER: Yes.
13	JUSTICE SOUTER: Okay.
14	MR. KLAUSNER: As I noted before, it's
15	about retirement eligibility, not about age.
16	In Hazen Paper you dealt with the question
17	of an individual who was fired because they were about
18	to meet the 10-year vesting requirement in a private
19	sector plan. The person was also over the age of 40.
20	The Court found that it wasn't an age discrimination
21	case because it said that age was merely correlated with
22	what the Court called pension status. I think pension
23	status and retirement eligibility, which can occur at 20
24	years or it can occur at age 55 with some service, is
25	exactly the same. In

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1	JUSTICE ALITO: That would be a good	
2	argument if the sole basis for retirement under your	
3	system was years of service, but it's not just years of	
4	service, isn't that right?	
5	MR. KLAUSNER: That's correct, Justice. One	
6	needs some service, but one may retire at 55 or one may	
7	retire at 20 years.	
8	JUSTICE ALITO: You can't take your you	
9	couldn't take your statute and erase all the references	
10	to age and have the statute work, could you?	
11	MR. KLAUSNER: No. And I don't I don't	
12	think that pension statutes are required to eliminate	
13	any use of age at all.	
14	JUSTICE ALITO: Because the ADA expressly	
15	allows them to do that; isn't that right?	
16	MR. KLAUSNER: The ADA is designed to	
17	eliminate arbitrary age discrimination. That is where	
18	the design of the plan is motivated by a policy of the	
19	employer to discriminate, to provide less solely because	
20	of the individual's age.	
21	JUSTICE SOUTER: That's you're sticking	
22	in a word, "arbitrary," that appears nowhere in the body	
23	of the statute. You picked it up from the preamble, and	
24	that's and you're interpreting the statute with that.	
25	And it isn't customary for this Court to take words that	

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1 don't appear in the text of the statute and read them 2 in, based on some statement of purpose or preamble. 3 MR. KLAUSNER: Justice Ginsburg, I'm aware 4 that the preamble alone doesn't direct, and I understand 5 that the operative language is in 623(a). But I think 6 that the --7 JUSTICE SCALIA: You'd be in better shape if 8 it was in legislative history and not in the preamble. 9 We probably would take it into account. 10 MR. KLAUSNER: I think, Justice, the 11 legislative history is important for this reason. When 12 Title VII was first written age was included and then it 13 was taken out, and there was a reason why it was taken 14 out: Because there is never a reason to discriminate on 15 the basis of race, there is never a reason to 16 discriminate on the basis of national origin or 17 religion; but in government retirement plans, which are 18 paid for life and in which the calculation is determined 19 in part on age, on how long someone will live and how 20 long they've worked and that interrelationship, I think 21 Congress recognized age is qualitatively different. 22 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I think the Congress 23 recognized that what they were protecting was not age as 24 such, but old age, where in the other case they say it's 25 the racial criterion and whether it's -- or the sex

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1 criterion, whether it's a man that's adversely affected 2 or a woman it doesn't make any difference; Title VII 3 applies to them both. But the Age Discrimination Act 4 doesn't apply to younger workers. It doesn't say that 5 you can't discriminate on the basis of age, so you can't 6 prefer the older person over the younger person.

7 MR. KLAUSNER: Justice Ginsburg, I 8 understand this Court's holding in Cline was that the 9 statute is intended to protect the relatively older as 10 it relates to the relatively younger. But you also said 11 in Cline that age is qualitatively different, because 12 what gives age reason in terms of discrimination is when 13 it's arbitrary. That is, when it is invidious, and 14 that's the distinction between the Title VII cases that 15 the Government relies on, and why I think Hazen Paper is 16 important, because, as the Court said, unless you can 17 show in a disparate treatment case that the policy is 18 motivated by age, then I think that the -- the intent 19 goes. And the -- one cannot draw from the face of the 20 Kentucky statute -- and that's what this is; this was a challenge that said the statute discriminates on its 21 22 face -- that the only inference that one can have is 23 that the design of the plan is motivated to pay older 24 people less.

JUSTICE GINSBURG: There is one little piece

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1 of it that seems, that clearly does favor the younger 2 retiree. And that's the -- what is it -- you're 3 quaranteed, what was it, at least 25 percent of your 4 final monthly salary. That's not under -- for a regular 5 retiree; and also this 10 percent that you get added on for each child -- that's not part -- that's somebody who 6 7 is disabled gets that, but not somebody who is already a retiree. Isn't that so? 8

9 MR. KLAUSNER: That is correct, but Justice 10 Ginsburg, that type of disability is not the disability 11 which was at issue in this particular case. That is for 12 a person who is disabled from any ability to work, 13 period, in other words, the Social Security standard of 14 disability. The disability at issue in this case was 15 the inability to work as a public safety officer, in 16 this case a police officer.

17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I'm not sure that I 18 follow that answer.

JUSTICE STEVENS: Am I correct in understanding that your plan does not provide a disability benefit just as a disability benefit? The only time disability is relevant is when it determines whether or not a person will become eligible for the regular retirement benefit?

MR. KLAUSNER: That's correct. This isn't,

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1 for example, a stand-alone disability insurance policy. 2 JUSTICE STEVENS: So that for the old person 3 who has already reached retirement age the fact that he 4 doesn't get a disability benefit is common to everybody 5 subject to the plan. 6 MR. KLAUSNER: It is common subject to 7 everyone in the plan without --JUSTICE STEVENS: Isn't that the answer to 8 Justice Breyer's question? 9 10 MR. KLAUSNER: And I -- you certainly said it better than I did, Justice Stevens. 11 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But is there any 13 reason -- I think what you're saying is we should view 14 this as a retirement plan and there are a number of ways 15 you can be eligible for retirement: Age plus years of 16 service, but another way you can be eligible is 17 disability. 18 MR. KLAUSNER: Disability fills in -- it 19 covers a gap. Disability is designed to cover you in most instances from the time you get five years of 20 21 service -- and by the way, you're uncovered in this plan for disability for the first five years of employment 22 23 except for a very limited, specific number of instances 24 in which only total disability from all work applies. 25 So in the case of the individual who the

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1 EEOC talks about as having been discriminated against, 2 if you were a younger worker for the first five years of 3 employment you would have been not covered. A 55 -- for 4 any benefit at all. A person who starts at 21 and gets 5 disabled from work as a police officer or firefighter for the first five years of employment has no protection 6 7 at all. 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But let's take the one 9 who gets over the five-year initial period. The 10 disability pay when you no longer can be in the 11 hazardous occupation, it will begin immediately, right? 12 You don't wait until you get -- you're 55 to get it. 13 MR. KLAUSNER: No, ma'am. That's the 14 purpose of the imputed services. And it's 15 essentially -- we say if during this gap of time before 16 normal retirement, this risk that's covered, that if 17 this disabling event occurs, we advance you to normal 18 retirement immediately and try to replicate as closely 19 as possible the benefit that one would have achieved had 20 you worked to the closest --21 JUSTICE BREYER: But that's the point, 22 right? 23 MR. KLAUSNER: -- point of eligibility. 24 JUSTICE BREYER: There -- that's what the 25 complaint is, I think, that you say it's the second part

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that you just said. What you do when the person is disabled and he is not yet 55 -- he hasn't qualified yet -- is you both qualify him, and when you qualify him you give him credit for years he hasn't worked. Now, the older person who is still working and is also disabled says: Fine, you let me retire, but you don't give me any extra years.

8 Now that's the complaint, I think. So that if you had a person who had started at 45, eligible to 9 10 retire at 55, works for 4 years and becomes disabled, he 11 is credited with 14 years; while the person who started at 35 and at 45 becomes disabled, he is given 20 years. 12 13 He is given the 10 extra years. So the first person, 14 older person, says: You gave him some extra years; you 15 didn't have to give him those extra years in order to 16 qualify him to retire. You could have just said you can 17 retire, but you gave him 10 extra years and you give me 18 no extra years. Why not?

MR. KLAUSNER: The answer to your question, Justice Breyer, is the person who has either 20 years or is 55 on the day they become disabled is already eligible to retire. The plan is a single plan that provides a benefit. If you start older, you have to work less to get there. By the same token, by starting closer to retirement you need less added to your balance

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1 to bring you to normal retirement. In the example --2 JUSTICE BREYER: You don't need anything to 3 bring you to normal retirement. You could rewrite the 4 plan and say when a person becomes disabled you get 5 retirement, right at that moment. You could say that. And what the plaintiff is saying is, why don't you say б 7 that? Though it's a bit mean. But I think what he 8 would probably like is you would extend the extra years 9 to him.

10 MR. KLAUSNER: There's reasons why that 11 isn't done. Number one, to follow your example, Justice 12 Breyer, for current employees, people hired before 2004, 13 of which there were several hundred thousand, you'd have 14 to lower the benefit to follow your example. The 15 Kentucky Constitution forbids lowering the benefits. 16 Actually, the Commonwealth, in response to the liability 17 in this case, did change the disability benefit. For 18 people hired after 2004, they slashed its economic value 19 substantially, and now everybody just gets a certain 20 amount of disability. It doesn't, however, accomplish 21 the Commonwealth's goal of attracting and retaining 22 employees to do hazardous duty jobs.

23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So the effect of 24 this litigation is that policemen or firefighters who 25 are injured and become disabled now get lower benefits

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1 for disability?

2 MR. KLAUSNER: Much lower. It's a 3 substantial reduction. They just get a small piece of 4 change.

5 It's interesting, you know, in the Federal 6 Civil Service Retirement System, the police officers, 7 for example, who work in this Court, if they become 8 disabled, they have imputed service to an age. It's a very similar system. In fact, all employees in both 9 10 FERS, the Federal Employees' Retirement System, and the 11 Civil Service Employees' Retirement System, both 12 participate in a program where age is imputed to normal 13 retirement. It's a common practice, as the Court can 14 see from the amicus briefs. It's a common practice 15 throughout the United States. I think --

JUSTICE BREYER: See, that's why I think the result in this case is just terrible. I think it takes disabled people and cuts their benefits with no benefit. I cannot believe for two minutes that Congress would have intended that result. But the reason I asked you the question was I want you to tell me how to get to that result under this statute.

23 MR. KLAUSNER: You may get to this result in 24 this way: If you determine that age is not the driver, 25 that is, that because you have a plan that has normal

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retirement based on service alone, a 38-year-old
 employee who gets disabled with 18 years of service gets
 two years of imputed service. The 45-year-old, in your
 example, who started at 35 would get 10 years.

5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Suppose I can't make that assumption or adopt that premise. Is there another б 7 basis on which to reach the result? I think this does explicitly discriminate based on age as to some people, 8 and you're telling me you don't want me to do that. 9 But 10 Suppose I don't agree with you. Is there some other way 11 to reach the result?

12 MR. KLAUSNER: I think Your Honor you can 13 reach the result in this way. The statute was 14 challenged as being facially discriminatory, and I think 15 under this Court's precedents for facial discrimination, 16 one would have to say that the only reasonable inference 17 in the statute, by its mere use of age, is that you say 18 that it starts out presumptively discriminatory. What 19 the Government has really argued here is an as-applied 20 circumstance. They said the effect of the statute in 21 certain cases, and in those circumstances the statute would stand on its face and if there is a circumstance 22 23 in which someone effectively is discriminated, then you 24 look to see are there reasonable factors other than age 25 that effect -- that take effect in this instance?

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1 Secondly, I think the Court can determine --2 and I think this is the question that is the next step 3 after Hazen, where you said that age correlated with 4 pension status, in that case being vested for 10 years. 5 The question is, if a plan has eligibility to retire as its motivation, that is, it is service regardless of age б 7 or age plus service, is it really motivated by age? And I think the answer to that question, Justice Kennedy, 8 9 clearly is no.

10 The one thing I would add is if you look at the statute in Betts, the Ohio case, which is the last 11 12 time an age case on a public plan got to this Court, in 13 the Ohio plan you couldn't get a disability because you 14 were 60, but you could also retire in that plan just 15 like Kentucky on years of service alone, but a 16 years-of-service retiree in Ohio could get a disability. 17 That's not true in Kentucky. Somebody who 18 starts as a firefighter at 18 no longer has disability 19 protection at 38 years old. A person who starts as a police officer at 45 retains disability coverage until 20 21 they're 55. I think -- I think the language of the 22 statute alone enables you to get there. 23 And I think to get back to Justice

24 Ginsburg's question -- and I don't believe I fully 25 answered on this issue of the role of the word

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1	"arbitrary" in the statute I think that that gives
2	that word meaning, not just because it's in the
3	preamble, but because it's in the legislative history,
4	and the evil that Congress was trying to get to is what
5	is it that we're trying to prevent? We're trying to
6	create job opportunities for older workers, and what
7	Congress said after Betts is you want to make sure
8	benefit plans are covered. And I think Kentucky has
9	accomplished both. It doesn't use a retirement age, as
10	many employers do. Again, the Federal Government forces
11	police officers and firefighters out of their jobs.
12	Firefighters at 55, police officers at 57. Kentucky
13	doesn't. The program doesn't discriminate on the basis
14	of age.
15	If there's no question, I'd like to reserve
16	the rest of my time for rebuttal.
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
18	Mr. Stewart.
19	ORAL ARGUMENT OF MALCOLM L. STEWART
20	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
21	MR. STEWART: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
22	please the Court:
23	In calculating the retirement benefits owed
24	to disabled workers, Kentucky uses age as an explicit
25	decisionmaking factor in a way that disadvantages older

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employees. Although Kentucky may be able to establish
 on --

JUSTICE BREYER: Let me ask you this sort of basic question: Does it use age any differently than it uses years of service?

6 MR. STEWART: It does in the sense that, 7 with respect to disabled employees, two employees who 8 have the same total years of actual service but who are 9 of different ages may receive dramatically different 10 benefits.

11 JUSTICE STEVENS: That's because of the 12 period necessary to qualify for retirement? 13 MR. STEWART: It's -- let me direct your 14 attention to the relevant provision of the Kentucky 15 statute, and it's at page 7a and 8a of the blue brief. 16 This is with respect to -- it's true that, for a normal 17 retirement, an individual either has to be age 55 with 5 18 years of service or have 20 years of service at whatever 19 But if you look at the requirements for disability age. retirement in particular, the very bottom of the page, 20 21 it says: "Any person may qualify to retire on 22 disability subject to the following. The person shall have 60 months of service, 12 of which shall be current 23 24 service credited under provisions of Kentucky law." 25 JUSTICE STEVENS: Let me just interrupt you.

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1 Is there -- is it your position there is a disability 2 benefit that is different from the retirement benefit? 3 MR. STEWART: They -- they are different in 4 the sense that they are calculated differently. That 5 is, if all Kentucky had done was say --JUSTICE STEVENS: I thought that all that 6 7 disability did was determine -- help get a man who is 8 disabled eligible for the retirement benefit. 9 MR. STEWART: The program --10 JUSTICE STEVENS: That's the only function 11 it provides. 12 MR. STEWART: I think that's incorrect. 13 There are two distinct functions of -- there are two 14 distinct differences between disability retirement and 15 normal retirement: The first is that the eligibility 16 criteria are different. In order to qualify for normal 17 retirement, you have to be either 55 years old with 5 18 years of service or have 20 years of service. For disability retirement, you become eligible if you are of 19 20 any age and are forced to retire due to disability and 21 have at least five years of service. JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, why does that matter? 22 23 I mean, the exception in the statute is for -- for retirement, taking age into account for retirement, is 24 25 narrowly crafted. It says that they can make any

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1 decision about -- they can require the attainment of a 2 minimum age as a condition of eligibility for normal or 3 early retirement.

Now, we have not read that to exclude adding
an additional element to age, namely age plus years of
service. We don't say that that disables you from the
-- from that exemption. Why can't you add a third
factor? Age, years of service, and disability.

9 MR. STEWART: You can't. The first thing I 10 would say about that exception is it refers specifically 11 to a minimum age, and what that was intended to make 12 clear was that to the extent that Kentucky allows 13 55-year-olds to retire with only 5 years of service, but 14 requires a 45-year-old to have 20 years of service, that 15 minimum age would not violate the statute. Now, as a 16 result of this Court's decision in Cline, that provision 17 in a sense is superfluous because the younger worker 18 wouldn't have an ADEA claim anyway. But the reference to a minimum age is intended to address that situation. 19 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: And --JUSTICE ALITO: It seems to me that what 21 22 Kentucky is trying to do is to, at least in part, 23 provide make-whole benefits for a police officer who 24 becomes disabled below the age of 55. So what they want 25 to do is to say we want to give you the benefit that you

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would have received if you had not been hurt on the job
 and therefore unable to work and had been able to work
 to the normal retirement age.

4 Now, if that's correct, is that an 5 illegitimate objective? And if it's not an illegitimate objective, is there any way that they can do that б 7 consistent with your understanding of the ADEA? Because 8 when someone is over the retirement age, it's rather hard to see how many years you would add on projecting 9 10 how long that person would continue to work beyond the 11 age of retirement eligibility.

MR. STEWART: It is certainly not illegitimate for Kentucky to say: We want to be more generous to people who are forced to retire due to disability than to people who choose to retire voluntarily when they are physically capable of continuing to work.

And so if Kentucky wants to say, in the case of an individual who is forced to retire due to disability, we will add additional years in computing benefits to estimate the number of years this person would have worked had he or she not become disabled, that's fine as well.

24 What they can't do, at least what they can't 25 do without establishing one of the affirmative defenses,

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is use age as a proxy, as the basis for deciding how
 many years would this person have worked if he or she
 had not become disabled because --

JUSTICE ALITO: So if they want to do that and they have a case of a police officer who works beyond 55 -- the officer is 55-plus with 10 years of service and then becomes disabled -- you say they have to give that person 10 years of credit.

9 MR. STEWART: If they are going to give the 10 45-year-old with 10 years of service 10 years of credit, 11 they have to give the 55-year-old 10 years of service --12 with 10 years of service 10 years of credit, again, 13 unless they can establish the cost-justification 14 defense.

And part of the argument they are making is it would be unduly expensive to guarantee the 55-year-old an additional 10 years of service, because it's much more likely that the 55-year-old will become disabled than it is with the 45-year-old.

JUSTICE SOUTER: But he is saying one thing more. He is saying it's also highly unlikely that the 55-year-old has worked as long subject to risk at the point at which the calculation is made than is the case with the person who retires on the basis of 20 years. And so that there is a tradeoff. And, therefore, you

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constantly analyze this as the kind of garden variety of
 discrimination based on age which Congress was aiming
 for.

4 MR. STEWART: Well, to go back to the 5 question you were asking Mr. Klausner, I think if we were looking at the class of voluntary retirees, it б 7 would be an accurate generalization to say that those 8 above 55 were likely to have fewer years of service than 9 the younger people. Because the only way that a younger 10 person could qualify for normal retirement would be to 11 amass 20 years of service; whereas, the older person 12 could do it with fewer years.

But if you are looking at people who want to continue working but who are prevented from doing so by reason of disability, there is no reason to assume that the older people are going to have spent less time in the line of fire than the younger people. And, in any event, the comparison that we are making --

JUSTICE SCALIA: Just say that again. Justsay the last thing again. I didn't follow you.

21 JUSTICE SOUTER: Yes. I didn't get it 22 either.

23 MR. STEWART: If we're looking at the class 24 of people who -- including over 55-year-old and under 25 55-year-old -- who want to continue working but who have

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1 been prevented from doing so by reason of disability, 2 there is no reason to think that the older people within 3 that class, as a group, will have fewer years in the 4 line of fire than the younger people. And, in any event 5 _ _ 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why? I -- I think -- you 7 mean in the future? 8 MR. STEWART: No. No. Under their belt. 9 Under their belt. 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: Under their belt. I see. 11 JUSTICE SOUTER: They are exactly the same people. The only thing that distinguishes the one 12 13 class, those who voluntarily do and those who are 14 disabled, is happenstance; and the happenstance is 15 disability in the line of service. 16 MR. STEWART: It's not just happenstance, 17 because if you're quessing the likely tenure of service 18 of people who take voluntary normal retirement before 19 age 55, in a sense you are skewing the class, because 20 the only people who can do that under Kentucky law are 21 people with at least 20 years of service. 22 So the voluntary retirees, the younger 23 people, as a group, are likely to be -- have longer tenure. But that generalization doesn't hold true with 24 25 respect to people who are forced to retire due to

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1 disability.

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2 JUSTICE STEVENS: It seems to me your 3 argument boils down to the claim that people who have 4 already reached -- become eligible for retirement by 5 either age or period of service, the State has a duty to give them a chance to recover a disability benefit if 6 7 they give a disability benefit to younger workers. 8 MR. STEWART: No. Our point is that they should use the same computation methodology for both 9 10 categories of employees. 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: The computation is for a 12 different purpose in that -- in -- for the younger 13 workers the purpose is to make them eligible for 14 retirement. For the older workers, they are already 15 eligible for retirement. 16 MR. STEWART: I think that's incorrect, and 17 that was really the point I was making by quoting from 18 the Kentucky law on page 7a and 8a. The Kentucky 19 provision that I quoted was the provision that 20 establishes eligibility for disability retirement. And 21 it says, as the criterion for eligibility, beyond, of course, the fact of disability, the person shall have 60 22 months of service. 23 24 So an individual under Kentucky law who is

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forced to retire due to disability and has at least five

years of service is eligible for disability retirement.
 The imputation of additional years of service is not
 necessary --

JUSTICE STEVENS: The term "eligibility for retirement," as used in that part of the statute, is referring to actually the same thing as retirement achieved by getting their -- getting credit for post-disability years.

9 MR. STEWART: Exactly. Well, the purpose of 10 defining the category of eligible persons is to make 11 sure that they do get a retirement benefit even though 12 they wouldn't satisfy the normal age and service 13 requirements for ordinary retirement. And we have no 14 problem with that.

15 Kentucky can say we want to define a 16 separate category of individuals who don't satisfy 17 normal age and service rules but who should, 18 nevertheless, be given a retirement benefit because they 19 have been forced to retire due to disability. That's 20 fine.

And if they use the same computation methodology, namely, some factor of actual years of service times final compensation times a multiplier, as they do for normal retirement, that would be fine. Our --

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1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So it's fine for	
2	them to use that, but you're saying it's not fine for	
3	them to use any element of age in making that	
4	computation?	
5	MR. STEWART: That's correct.	
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Even though, under	
7	the Federal law, they can use age as the exclusive	
8	requirement in determining retirement?	
9	MR. STEWART: Well, again, there is a an	
10	explicit exemption in the ADEA for a minimum retirement	
11	age. And so it wouldn't have violated even apart	
12	from this Court's decision in Cline, it wouldn't have	
13	violated the ADEA to say an individual who is 55 with	
14	five years of service can get retirement, even though a	
15	younger	
16	JUSTICE BREYER: What is wrong with using	
17	that as a benchmark? If you can fire a person when he	
18	is 55, why can't you use it as a benchmark as to how	
19	much you're going to give a disability person on	
20	pension?	
21	MR. STEWART: Well, again, I think the	
22	JUSTICE BREYER: The lesser or greater	
23	this would be an instance where greater includes lesser	
24	for the reason that this lesser business has no	
25	stereotypes. All they're trying to do is to help people	

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who are disabled at a time when they are younger and
 probably have fairly good expenses, and everybody gets
 this kind of insurance.

And this man who is the Plaintiff here had it, too, while he was there. So it's true you are really using in a minimal sense age, but you are doing it in a statute that permits you to do it because it's a lesser version of that.

9 MR. STEWART: There are a couple of things 10 I'd say. The first is that the Act is quite specific in 11 saying that a State may establish a minimum -- may 12 establish a retirement age with respect to its State 13 police and firefighters, but it doesn't say the ADEA is 14 inapplicable to police and firefighters who are over age 15 55.

16 JUSTICE BREYER: It doesn't say it's 17 inapplicable. I wasn't saying it's inapplicable. What 18 I am worried about -- and this is a perfect example of 19 people using absolutely mechanical rules, and 20 particularly when you talk about pension systems, which, 21 of course, age is relevant to a pension system, and what 22 they do is find comparisons; and, before you know it, 23 you are in the kind of a -- of a hamburger situation 24 where it's so chopped up that perfectly worthwhile 25 things are forbidden. And this would seem to be a

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1 number 1 exhibit.

2 MR. STEWART: There are several different 3 answers I would give. The first is if the greater 4 included the lesser, it would be permissible for 5 Kentucky to say: We will keep the over 55-year-old 6 people on the work force, but we'll pay them less 7 because of their age.

3 JUSTICE BREYER: No, because what you are 9 looking at is to see whether the purpose of Congress is 10 somehow implicated, a purpose designed to prevent 11 stereotypical thinking from being used to put older 12 people at a disadvantage. And there is no indication 13 that this is so in this case.

14 MR. STEWART: I think --

15 JUSTICE BREYER: Now, what's the response? 16 MR. STEWART: I think that's incorrect, that 17 is, the two justifications that have been given for the 18 disparate treatment of older workers are, first, younger 19 workers as a group are likely to need more of a boost; 20 and, second, the younger disabled person probably would 21 have worked longer if he had not become disabled. And 22 so this replicates the situation that would have 23 prevailed.

I think, whether or not you want to think of those as stigmatizing stereotypes, it's quite clear that

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neither of those generalizations could typically be used
 as a basis for age-based disparities.

For instance, nobody would claim that an employer could pay the older workers less because they are likely to be less in need of financial assistance. And with respect to the initial --

JUSTICE SOUTER: The reason for that is that
we accept the criterion at the outset that your pay
bears some relationship to what you do.

We are now in a situation in which the benefit does not bear a relationship to what you are doing or going to do.

MR. STEWART: Well, on the whole, the benefit bears a close -- the retirement benefit bears a close relationship to what you have done. That is, the benefit is calculated on the basis of actual years of service, and the purpose clearly is, in part, to reward the employee for service to the employer.

But with respect to -- and that's the way it's done with respect to the older disabled worker. His benefits are computed based on what years of service he has actually contributed to the employer. With respect to the younger people, it's not based on that alone. Rather, the State imputes additional years --JUSTICE GINSBURG: And with respect to that,

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1 Mr. Stewart, the problem that Justice Breyer brought up, 2 you -- if you would look to your brief, page 30, footnote 13, the question is, so we have this -- if we 3 4 take your interpretation of the statute, how can we deal 5 with a person in her 30s who becomes disabled when she is making a low salary and has only, say, 10 years of 6 7 service? She is going to get a very low disability. 8 And you say that's one thing that's all right. 9 On a prospective basis, what could Kentucky

do? One is give the younger workers only their actual years of service, which Mr. Klausner said is what is happening, and therefore, these people are getting a lot less than they used to get. And then you say, oh, but there's another way, and that is to impute additional years of service on an age-neutral basis. And you're not specific about what would the age-neutral basis be.

MR. STEWART: I guess there could be a range of alternatives. One alternative, for instance, would be for every disabled worker of whatever age impute an additional five years of service as something of a rough estimate of the number that person might have worked if he or she had not become disabled.

Another possibility would be to impute years of service up to 10 or 20. Again, there would be probably an infinite number of ways it could be done as

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1	long as age were not used as, as the basis.
2	The other thing I wanted to say about
3	JUSTICE ALITO: But if do you that, aren't
4	you going to be you're going to be undercompensating
5	the younger person who gets disabled and
6	overcompensating the people over 55 who gets disabled
7	who may not it may not be realistic to think that
8	someone's going to continue to work as a police officer
9	until 65. I don't know.

10 MR. STEWART: Well, the other thing I would say about that justification, which rests on I think the 11 valid statistical correlation between how old you are at 12 the time that you're disabled and how much longer you 13 14 would have worked. Again, whether or not -- I think you wouldn't think of that as an invidious stereotype. But 15 16 again, it's not a generalization that could typically be 17 used as a basis for age-specific decisions.

18 For example, the Wirtz report makes clear 19 that the paradigmatic pre-ADA practice that Congress 20 wanted to get rid of was a limit of age 50 or age 45 and 21 an employer saying: We're not going to hire anybody who 22 is over that age. And certainly the employer could say justifiably as a group people above that age are likely 23 24 to have fewer work years ahead of them than people below 25 that age. And if that generalization could provide a

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basis for an explicit age-based distinction, the Act
 would really be eviscerated.

3 The other thing I wanted to respond to is 4 the suggestion that, while we might be able to tease 5 this out of the literal language of the statute, this is certainly an unintended consequence. It is not б 7 something that Congress would have wanted. I think, to 8 the contrary, this is not identical but very similar to 9 the type of disparity that was present in Betts. That 10 is, in Betts the individual was over the age of normal 11 retirement but had elected to keep working. She became 12 disabled and was prevented from continuing to work. She 13 was eligible for normal retirement benefits. She wanted 14 to collect disability retirement benefits, because 15 again, the reason for her retirement was disability. 16 She was told that she couldn't do it. And the State's 17 computation methodology for calculating disability 18 retirement benefits was significantly more generous than 19 the one that it offered for --

JUSTICE BREYER: What about this idea, which is -- would this wreck the statute? You say we're talking about age, which is not an immutable characteristic. Everybody goes through it. Everybody is younger, everybody is older. And therefore we take the word "discriminate" and the word "discriminate" in

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1 this context, when considered in terms of pension 2 requirements, which inevitably are age mixed to a 3 considerable degree, means that if there are plausible 4 justifications and no significant reason for thinking 5 that it reflects stereotypical thinking, that it does not fall within the scope of the word "discriminate." 6 7 MR. STEWART: I think, first, that would be contrary to the way that the word "discriminate" has 8 been construed in Title VII. 9 10 JUSTICE BREYER: I started out by saying, 11 that's why I said that this is not an immutable 12 characteristic, and it is -- that's why I put all the 13 qualifications in there. 14 MR. STEWART: Well, the court in Thurston 15 has said the language of the ADEA should be construed 16 similarly to that of Title VII because the basic 17 anti-discrimination prohibition was drawn in haec verba 18 from Title VII in the legislative history to the older 19 workers's Benefit Protection Act when Congress amended 20 the statute to cover fringe benefits, which the Court in 21 Betts had held were not covered. Congress did that by 22 enacting a new 29 U.S.C. 630(1) to say the term -- that 23 the phrase "terms and conditions of employment" includes 24 fringe benefits.

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And the legislative history explains that

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1	Congress could have achieved the same result by adding a
2	reference to fringe benefits in the basic
3	anti-discrimination provision contained in 29 U.S.C.
4	623(a), but the Congress chose not to do that because it
5	wanted to maintain the similarity in wording between the
6	ADEA's anti-discrimination provision and that of Title
7	VII in order to reinforce the inference that the two
8	were to be construed in pari materia.
0	

The other thing I would say with respect to 9 10 your reference to age distinctions that are not based on 11 stereotypes is again to return to what I was discussing earlier. The two justifications that have been offered 12 13 are first, younger people are likely to have fewer 14 financial resources, so they need more of a boost; the 15 second is the younger worker probably would have worked longer if he hadn't become disabled and therefore this 16 17 is replicating the situation that would have prevailed 18 absent the disability.

And again, my point is, whether or not you think of those as invidious stereotypes, they are plainly not generalizations that could typically be used to justify --

JUSTICE STEVENS: May I ask this question right on that point. Supposing you have two different people retire, one -- that become disabled, rather --

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1	one because he's five years short of the age eligibility
2	and the other because he's five years short of years of
3	service, so it would be a younger person, and both would
4	have become eligible for retirement in five years after
5	their disability. Are they treated the same way under
6	the plan? And if they are, where is the discrimination?
7	MR. STEWART: Well, the discrimination is if
8	you imagine
9	JUSTICE STEVENS: Well, first of all, tell
10	me whether they're treated the same way under the plan.
11	MR. STEWART: Well, it depends on other
12	variables. For instance, if you have a
13	JUSTICE STEVENS: What other variables?
14	MR. STEWART: As to the person who is five
15	years away from qualifying by reason of
16	JUSTICE STEVENS: Years of service.
17	MR. STEWART: years of service, if that
18	person is younger than 50, then they'll be treated the
19	same, because each of them will have
20	JUSTICE STEVENS: That's a hypothesis.
21	MR. STEWART: But
22	JUSTICE STEVENS: So then how is that
23	discrimination on the basis of age?
24	MR. STEWART: But it is a discrimination on
25	the basis

1	JUSTICE STEVENS: It's not even
2	discrimination as far as I see it.
3	MR. STEWART: Well, it wouldn't there
4	wouldn't be any claim of disparate treatment with
5	respect to those two individuals. But if you have an
б	individual who is 55 years old with 15 years of service
7	and 50 years old with 15 years of service, they are both
8	equally close to the 20-year threshold for qualifying
9	for normal retirement on the basis of years of service.
10	Yet the 50-year-old gets 5 imputed years added and gets
11	a significantly larger benefit than the 55-year-old.
12	Their justification is, well, the
13	55-year-old is already eligible for normal retirement
14	and therefore, it's fair to treat him differently. And
15	the point I was making with reference to the Kentucky
16	code is the 50-year-old who is forced to retire due to
17	disability is also eligible for retirement. It's called
18	disability retirement.
19	JUSTICE STEVENS: It seems to me that your
20	claim boils down to an argument that the statute
21	requires someone who is already qualified for retirement
22	to get a disability benefit that the younger person
23	would. It seems to me that's the basic difference.
24	MR. STEWART: No, I don't think that's
25	correct. If all the State did was to say disability

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1	retirement benefits will be available to people who have
2	at least five years of service and are forced to retire
3	due to disability and we are excluding people who are
4	above 55, in and of itself that's fine. If the only
5	purpose of excluding the older workers is to make clear
6	that they can't get both benefits simultaneously, there
7	is no problem with that.
8	Our problem is that, having defined the
9	class of persons eligible for disability benefits to
10	include only those who are under 55
11	JUSTICE STEVENS: I see you talking about
12	two benefits.
13	MR. STEWART: they did use a more
14	generous computation methodology.
15	JUSTICE STEVENS: There not two benefits.
16	It's only one.
17	MR. STEWART: It's only one benefit. And
18	really, that's part of our point. It's only one
19	benefit, so why would they say that people who are older
20	will have their benefits computed using a different
21	formula than people who are younger?
22	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You prevent the
23	State from taking into account the fact that younger
24	disabled workers have not had the same opportunity that
25	older disabled workers have. And it results if we

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adopt your system where you can look only at years of
 service, what it, in effect, is going to do is to
 prevent Kentucky from giving disability benefits to
 older workers who become disabled.

5 For example, if you have two workers, one who starts work at 18 and acquires years of service, б 7 say, 12 years of service and becomes disabled, you would 8 say, well, you can take those years of service into 9 account. The older worker who begins at age 30 and is 10 disabled in his first year on the job, you say, well, 11 you can only look at years of service. You can't impute 12 to both of them retirement age. So the 30-year-old who 13 becomes disabled has to get less, fewer benefits than 14 the 18-year-old who becomes disabled.

MR. STEWART: Well, first, we are not preventing Kentucky from imputing additional years. We are simply saying the method of determining how many years will be imputed, absent an affirmative defense, can't be dependent on the employee's age.

JUSTICE BREYER: Would it be the same as --I mean it seems to me now -- I'm thinking the problem is we are going into the package; we are starting opening up the package that the 55-year-old retiree normally gets.

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Suppose they said this: here's what we'll

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1	do to the disabled person. We'll treat him just as if
2	he retired at 55. He is only 35; and, moreover, at 55
3	when you retire in our police force, we give you a big
4	party and a gold watch. Well, we don't do that if you
5	retire later on. Same kind of claim.
6	Why not? Over 65 years old, he retired.
7	Hey, you didn't give him the gold watch. Why did you
8	give the other person the gold watch? You said the
9	reason is we treat them all like we treat them when you
10	retire at 55.
11	MR. STEWART: I'm not quite sure if I
12	understand the question, but I don't think that there is
13	any
14	JUSTICE BREYER: That's fair, that you don't
15	understand.
10	
16	(Laughter.)
17	(Laughter.) MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be
17	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be
17 18	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be anything wrong with Kentucky saying we are going in
17 18 19	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be anything wrong with Kentucky saying we are going in fact, this is what we are asking for. If Kentucky wants
17 18 19 20	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be anything wrong with Kentucky saying we are going in fact, this is what we are asking for. If Kentucky wants to say a younger person who is forced to retire due to
17 18 19 20 21	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be anything wrong with Kentucky saying we are going in fact, this is what we are asking for. If Kentucky wants to say a younger person who is forced to retire due to disability will be treated as though he were 55 years
17 18 19 20 21 22	MR. STEWART: I don't think there would be anything wrong with Kentucky saying we are going in fact, this is what we are asking for. If Kentucky wants to say a younger person who is forced to retire due to disability will be treated as though he were 55 years old, that's fine. If they give him disability benefits

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1 Our problem is that they say we are treating 2 him as though he had worked additional years until he 3 was 55 when he hasn't, and when the older employee isn't 4 given that same opportunity.

5 And, again, it is true that Kentucky's system is particularly generous to older employees who б 7 want to retire voluntarily. They can retire with as 8 little as five years of service, even though the younger worker would have to have more. But the people on 9 10 whose behalf the EEOC is suing have not derived any of 11 that benefit. These were people who did not retire 12 voluntarily. They were people who were eligible for 13 retirement benefits, but chose to remain in the work 14 force. And, essentially, they are being told, in 15 estimating how many more years you would have worked, we 16 are going to have an irrebuttable presumption that the 17 answer is zero, even though their very circumstances, 18 the fact that they continued to work after they could 19 have retired, belie that assumption.

20 And just a final point I wanted to make 21 about Betts, is that the system here is not identical, 22 but very similar to the system that was at issue there, 23 in the sense that an older worker who was forced to 24 retire due to disability got a lower benefit than she 25 would have received if she had been younger with the

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1 same years of service and the same disability.

It couldn't be clearer that Congress wanted
to overturn that decision. That was the impetus for the
enactment of the OWBPA.

5 So I think there is really -- it's not 6 correct to suggest that, even if we win, this is somehow 7 an unintended consequence of what Congress did. This is 8 the very situation that Congress wanted to cover while 9 providing an affirmative defense to employers who can 10 satisfy it.

JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Stewart, before you finish, that little piece that seems to be favoring the younger worker that you guaranteed at least -- what was it, 25 percent of your final monthly salary, and you get 10 percent for each child -- now that does seem to be something that's -- that's not available for a regular retiree.

18 MR. STEWART: It's not available for a 19 regular retiree, and it's not available for a person who 20 is eligible for normal retirement but becomes disabled 21 and is forced to retire for that reason.

If the only problem were that Kentucky made those benefits available to people who were forced to retire due to disability, that wouldn't be an ADEA violation, so long as they made those benefits available

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1	to the older worker who was also forced to retire.
2	But I take your point that those aspects of
3	the statute introduce a further element of age
4	discrimination without even the justification that
5	Kentucky has proffered for the imputed years.
6	With respect to the children, in particular,
7	that seems to be the only other area in the plan in
8	which Kentucky is directly targeting the people who are
9	in greatest financial need, at least by one measure
10	having dependent children, and yet the older workers are
11	left out of that entirely.
12	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
13	Mr. Stewart.
14	Now, Mr. Klausner, you have four minutes
15	remaining.
16	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF ROBERT D. KLAUSNER,
17	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
18	MR. KLAUSNER: I'd like to start back where
19	we just left off with Justice Ginsburg's question about
20	the guaranteed benefit. If a person is 38 years old and
21	has 20 years of service, that benefit is not available.
22	If you're 50 years old with 5 years of service, the
23	benefit is available.
24	The benefit is not available to the
25	38-year-old because that person is eligible to retire on

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a normal retirement benefit. Age isn't the driver.
 Eligibility for retirement is the motivation.

And while my brother says that Congress 3 4 wanted to overturn Betts, what they wanted to overturn 5 in Betts was the language in this Court's decision that 6 cast doubt on whether pension plans were generally 7 covered by the language of the Age Discrimination in 8 Employment Act. And the Older Workers Benefits Protection Act, if one looks at the legislative history, 9 10 was focused far less on what happened in a public 11 employee retirement system. The real issue that Congress focused on, if one looks at the House and 12 13 Senate reports, is they said there is a problem in 14 private industry in the Rust Belt that normal retirement 15 eligibility is being used to force people not to get 16 some other benefit in some other stand-alone plan. 17 That's not the issue here.

And the plan in Betts is no more like Kentucky's plan than the Thurston plan. In Thurston, the pilot case, no pilot over 60, no matter how skillful, had bumping rights to be a flight engineer. In Kentucky, one with 20 years of service, regardless of age, is in the same posture as someone who is 55 with a minimum service.

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My brother also pointed you to a provision

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in the Kentucky statute on pages 7a and -- page 7a in
the appendix. Look also at 2a, which defines normal
retirement to be 55 with 5 years of service, or 20 years
of service regardless of age. The methodology for
determining disability in this case is exactly the same.
It's based on your proximity to normal retirement, not
based on your age.

8 One example was given. If a person is 45 years old with 4 years of service and became disabled, 9 10 that person would get nothing because they haven't met 11 the five-year service requirement. But a 55-year-old with 4 years of service has a normal retirement benefit. 12 13 It's about limited Government resources not 14 being duplicated, and perhaps that's the reason why the 15 EEOC adopted its regulation on December 26th 16 coordinating retiree health care. The rationale they 17 gave was we looked at all the -- all the ways to do 18 this, and we couldn't come up with a reason to do it any 19 other way.

In the Sixth Circuit Federal argument, Judge Boggs noted in his dissent -- Chief Judge Boggs noted he asked the EEOC for a reason on how to fix this, and they couldn't give him one.

24 What this case is about is about being fair 25 to workers without regard to age. All the people who

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1	run these plans, who fund these plans, who are in these
2	plans, are all lined up on Kentucky's side of the table.
3	That should tell you that it's neither
4	arbitrary nor discriminatory. The plan is fair, and the
5	plan does not violate the law. We ask you to reverse
6	the decision below and reinstate the district court's
7	original final summary judgment.
8	Thank you.
9	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you
10	Mr. Klausner. The case is submitted.
11	(Whereupon, at 12:07 p.m., the case in the
12	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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A	ADEA's 41:6	37:15,16	appreciate 3:17	41:10 51:6,7
	adopt 21:6 45:1	age-specific	3:22 4:5	basic 24:4 40:16
ability 15:12	adopted 51:15	38:17	arbitrary 4:1,4	41:2 43:23
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