

1014 Neosho St.
Emporia, KS 66801
February 19, 2015

Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to address HB2292. My name is Ken Weaver. I am dean of The Teachers College at Emporia State University and am speaking against the passage of HB2292. I am presenting my views as a career educator and not representing either Emporia State University or the Kansas Board of Regents. In 2012, ACT released the results of its National Curriculum Survey (<http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/NCS-PolicySummary2012.pdf>). “The vast majority (89 percent) of high school teachers surveyed by ACT reported that their students are either "well" or "very well" prepared for college-level work in their subject area after leaving their courses. In contrast, only around one fourth (26%) of college instructors reported that their incoming students are either "well" or "very well" prepared for first-year credit-bearing courses in their subject area. These percentages are virtually unchanged from those in ACT's 2009 curriculum survey (p. 4)”

This substantial disconnect between how prepared high school teachers think their students are for college and college faculty's assessment of their freshmen's readiness is one basis for the need for rigorous standards that ensure all students are prepared for college and career.

ACT defines college and career readiness as “the acquisition of the knowledge and skills a student needs to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing first-year courses at a postsecondary institution...without the need for remediation” (*The Condition of College & Career Readiness, 2013*, p. v, <https://www.act.org/research/policymakers/cccr13/pdf/CCCR13-NationalReadinessRpt.pdf>). In 2012, the Legislature approved and the Governor Brownback signed into law a bill that precludes the state general fund from supporting remedial courses at state educational institutions (<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/jun/01/governor-signs-law-bill-aimed-remedial-courses/>). The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards complement this law by ensuring students do not need remedial instruction at the college/university level.

Kansas strongly supports Career & Technical Education. Teacher preparation is one of the beneficiaries of this support through the Teaching/Training career pathway (see p. 16, *KSDE Career Cluster Guidance Handbook*, (http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/CSAS/CSAS%20Home/CTE%20Home/Career_Cluster_Pathway/2014-2015%20Cluster%20Handbook.pdf). The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards complement and are consistent with the legislature's and governor's strong support for Career & Technical Education.

On December 7, 2011, Governor Brownback held a Literacy Summit at Emporia State University with a panel of educators from the public and private sectors. He articulated three literacy objectives: 95% of students to meet standards on fourth grade reading state assessment scores in 2013, Kansas be in the top 5 states for fourth grade reading assessment scores by 2014 based on NAEP scores, and Kansas be first in the nation in average fourth grade reading scores by 2018. Kansas College and Career Ready Standards, which embed literacy preparation across all subjects across all grade levels, strongly complement the Governor's goals for Kansas.

The Legislature approved in 2013 funding to provide the Lexia Reading Core5 program to elementary schools to teach children to read (<http://www.khi.org/news/2013/jun/17/budget-proviso-reading-program-raises-questions/>). The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards complement and expand the goal of this expenditure.

In 2010, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association released the Common Core State Standards (http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/The_Common_Core_State_Standards_Initiative.html) on which the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards are based. The Council of Chief State School Officers and National Governors Association also actively interact with teacher preparation programs. They released in 2012 *Our Responsibility, Our Promise: Transforming Educator Preparation and Entry into the Profession* (http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2012/Our%20Responsibility%20Our%20Promise_2012.pdf). The 24 colleges and universities in Kansas that prepare teachers have been working with the Kansas State Department of Education on the implementation of their 10 recommendations.

HB2292 requires the state to retain sole control over the development, establishment, and revision of K-12 curriculum standards (new Sec. 3 (a)) and the state to return to the curriculum standards prior to October 12, 2010. In crafting standards for a discipline, Kansas does not start at the beginning. Rather, the Kansas process begins with a review of the standards developed by the core discipline organizations: the National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, the National Science Teachers Association, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Kansas carefully reviews these standards and makes decisions what to adopt, what to revise, and what to add. The Kansas curriculum standards prior to 2010 are based on the standards that were originally developed by the same organizations who contributed to the development of the Common Core standards. For example, Kansas standards in mathematics prior to 2010 are based on standards developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Kansas College and Career Ready standards in mathematics are informed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Reverting to old standards runs counter to the direction set by Governor Brownback and the legislature for high school students to be ready for post-secondary education.

The actions of the Legislature and the Governor in the past four years have consistently and strongly supported the importance of college and career readiness for Kansans. HB2292 is a departure from the legislature's vibrant vision of college and career readiness for P-12 education in Kansas and will be detrimental to the state's public universities and Kansas' future competitiveness. I support the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards and advocate that the Legislature stays the course in its support of them as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth A. Weaver