



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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Testimony before the  
**House Education Committee**  
on  
**HB 2139**

by

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on **HB 2139**. We rise as an opponent.

KASB has a long-standing policy on this issue.

**Tuition for Undocumented Immigrant Children:** KASB supports legislation that would allow students who have attended Kansas high schools for a reasonable period of time and successfully completed a high school program and other requirements for college admission to pay resident tuition rates, regardless of whether or not these students are citizens of the United States.

Recent studies show by 2020 over 60 percent of the Kansas workforce will need some sort of training/education after high school graduation, a far higher number than the current status. KASB believes the possibility of going on to a post-secondary institution in the state, and paying in-state tuition, for this group of students, is an appropriate policy for the state given its impact on the workforce in particular and the state's economy in general.

The undocumented students affected by this bill came to this country as children. Many of have lived here most of their lives. Kansas has already paid to provide for their education to a point they are ready for college. KASB believes the best policy is to help them continue to develop their skills. We do not know what future U.S. immigration policy will be, but we believe it is better to promote more education, rather than less.

The fiscal note of the bill is worth noting.

The Board of Regents reports that based on the fall 2014 enrollment, the average educational expenditures per student for the universities was \$10,178. The average cost per student at the community and technical colleges in FY 2013 was \$11,251. There were 651 students (headcount) enrolled under the provisions of current law. Of the 651, 169 students were enrolled at universities, 476 students were enrolled at community colleges, and 6 students at technical colleges. The cost of the students' attendance was \$7.1 million; however, overhead costs remain constant as long as no classes are added or removed.

The revenue estimate shows a range of increase in revenue of \$2.4 million assuming 651 students shift from paying resident rates to non-resident rates, and a decrease in revenue of \$2.5 million assuming none of the estimated 651 students who previously met the criteria of KSA 76-731a enroll at a postsecondary educational institution.

It appears, if the cost doesn't go down, and increased tuition drives students away, the short term impact of the repeal of this window hurts the state's revenue rather than helps it. In the long term, damage is done as well as lesser-trained employees will have lower salaries, which create lower taxable incomes.

Thank you for your consideration.