

House Education Committee
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Chairman Highland and members of the Committee:

My name is Eric Burks, President of North Central Technical College (NCK Tech), and I am here today in my role as the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges (KATC). KATC membership is comprised of Flint Hills Technical College, Manhattan Area Technical College, North Central Kansas Technical College, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Salina Area Technical College, Wichita Area Technical College and Washburn Institute of Technology.

On behalf of KATC we request this Committee defer action on Senate Bill 193 for the following reasons:

1. Our members currently publish much of the requested information for the general public, specifically intended to inform prospective students and their families. For example, at NCK Tech we provide:
 - a. Information regarding the cost of attending NCK Tech including projected tuition, housing, books, tools, food and fees. In fact the Higher Learning Commission, the accrediting body for all KATC institutions, requires us to have a Net Price Calculator available on our websites. This interactive tool calculates a projected cost based on input provided by each individual student.
 - b. Industry-specific compensation rates for post-graduation career opportunities enabling potential students to determine their expected return on investment as a result of their education, before they enter a program of study.
 - c. I attached a page from our website as an example of just one of our programs.
2. Kansas' system of post-secondary education, in the two-year sector particularly, has grown up locally allowing us to meet the unique needs of the communities and students we each serve. In an effort to accommodate students from a variety of situations with a multitude of needs, we have out of necessity created a system with several variables. A one-size-fits-all approach for providing this information may not be the best course of action and could ultimately be less informative and less accurate than current practices.
3. Locally there are several individuals and entities which monitor similar data sets to determine the viability and affordability of each of our program offerings. In addition to the president of the institution, this group includes a Chief Academic Officer, a Board of Trustees, often industry-specific accreditors, as well as state and federal Perkins monitors. As a result there is ample oversight of the programs each institution offers to ensure they are operated efficiently and effectively.
4. The fiscal note for SB 193 is estimated to be 6 million dollars. This would be an unfortunate expenditure in such a scarcity environment, especially as most of this information is already being provided to constituents. We suggest these dollars could be better invested in educating a skilled workforce where each dollar spent produces an ROI of \$11.81.