



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

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Testimony before the
House Education Budget Committee
on
HB 2394

by

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on **HB 2394**. We rise as opponents.

It is a simple bill, reducing the overall expenditure on Career Tech incentives, from \$1.5 million to \$750,000. It also is likely to reduce the value of each student's industry-recognized credential assessment, as under the bill, a student would have to earn three credentials for a district to collect more than the \$1,000 maximum currently in place.

In terms of a state budget of approximately \$6 billion, this is a very small appropriation, either the past appropriation or the one suggested here. Regardless, we think it's the wrong policy direction to take.

First, because it would reduce funding for a popular, proven program to help get more students college and career ready. The three prongs of SB 155 - transportation, tuition and incentives - have all played a role in seeing enrollment skyrocket the last 2-3 years.

Second, it encourages CTE classes, which are the one most necessary to reaching the Kansas goal of at least 65% of our workforce with a post secondary degree or credential by 2020.

And third, albeit by not a lot of money, it would reduce funding for districts that have trying to expand CTE. The \$1000 incentive generally created a small amount of money for program support. Under this bill, those same dollars would have to come from an already shrinking general fund.

Though not a part of the bill, we are hopeful a cut in half of the incentive amount is not indicative of the future of the tuition appropriation that is a critical part of our state's moving forward in filling its future workforce needs.

Thank you for your consideration.