



**House Education Budget Committee
Written Opposition Testimony HB 2394
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
March 4, 2015**

Madam Chair, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA) opposes the proposed changes in HB 2394 because we are of the opinion the program is working as planned. The goal of SB 155 was to prepare students for the workplace in jobs that exist and have the potential to earn a living. The idea continues to be an innovative approach to breaking down the bureaucratic barriers between education levels and the results are promising.

The Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association represents members who employ over 137,000 Kansans. We are one of the primary tax collectors for the state, collecting more than \$424 million as an industry.

Entrepreneurs in our industry have given life to their own dreams through opening their own business and making them as successful as their talents allow. Some have made millions while others have made a good living and provided jobs for their communities where people can learn concepts from serving, managing inventory, and even managing people. These are transferable skills on which our larger business community depends.

Identifying trained employees is challenging for every industry. We believe the concept of career technical education is working for our industry in Kansas. While we are not testifying that the current award amount is the exact amount needed, we are testifying that the incentive to remove the barriers is productive and functioning well.

We would be in front of your committee personally today if not for our Kansas ProStart Invitational event being held in Wichita. High School culinary teams from across the state are in Wichita today to compete in the areas of management, culinary, and edible centerpieces. Our industry is proving its commitment to training the next generation and is putting into practice what we are attesting to today. We would encourage this committee to proceed with much caution before making any significant changes. Our industry believes the program is working well.

Sincerely,

Adam Mills
President and CEO
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association