



Testimony before the Senate Education Committee

Regarding

SB388 -concerning postsecondary education; relating to the awarding of credit hours for degree completion.

By

Woody Robertson, Lumerit Education Chief Development Officer

Chairman Abrams, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me to come and share my views as a proponent of **SB388**. I stand in support of this bill because of the stance it takes to offer guaranteed transferability of CLEP credits between colleges and universities in Kansas. This bill will also provide students an opportunity to get through their general education requirements with pass/fail grades with the intent that their GPA will be based off of their junior and senior year and the courses that apply to the specific degree chosen by the student.

Woody Robertson, CDO

I am a college graduate who personally used CLEP to accelerate my degree. I started my collegiate studies at age twenty-five after engaging in an extended apprenticeship and mentoring. Being twenty-five and feeling as though I was significantly behind my peers, I was looking for a way to take more control over my studies and build a personalized plan which matched my life and schedule. With the help of fourteen CLEP exams and a CLEP friendly regionally accredited college, I was able to transfer in sixty hours of credit and save \$26,000, reducing my degree completion time significantly and allowing me to graduate debt free.

Brief Overview of CLEP

What is CLEP? CLEP is a group of standardized tests created and administered by CollegeBoard. These tests assess the knowledge of students at a college level and provide an apparatus for earning college credits without taking traditional “brick and mortar” college courses. CLEP tests primarily apply to lower level, general education, courses and offer students a fiscal and schedule friendly way to get their foundational credits.

My Background with CLEP

After personally experiencing the value of CLEP exams, I've watched thousands of students use these exams to accelerate their degrees, significantly reduce their cost and benefit from the flexibility these exams provide. Rather than sitting in a class to relearn the first two years of college, subjects which are in most cases a review of high school, the CLEP exams allow students to study at their own pace and ability. Once a subject is mastered, the student can schedule a time to take the exam at a proctored test center (typically a college Testing Center).

Benefits of CLEP

CLEP tests offer many attractive benefits to college students, from affordability to flexibility. CLEP tests are often much more fiscally conservative than traditional college courses, costing about \$80 per three credit exam (\$27 per credit hour). This, compared with colleges who typically charge \$250-\$400 per credit hour, is a massive cost savings. Additionally, CLEP tests are also more flexible than a typical college course. With no deadlines for enrollment and no set assignment schedule, CLEPs can be taken anytime.

Why This Bill Would Benefit Kansan's

The passage of this bill would enable students (young or old) to finish their degrees quickly and flexibly. With the decrease in course costs for the first one to two years of college credit, Kansas should see their college debt ceiling decrease. Not only will young people have an increased chance of starting their careers purposefully and debt free, with the increased flexibility CLEPs provide, students will have more time to pursue valuable hands-on learning opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships and world-travel learning the critical skills that will enable them to prepare for successful careers.

And with that Chairman, and committee members, I stand for questions.

Thank you,



Woody Robertson
Chief Development Officer

(1) <https://clep.collegeboard.org/register/exam>