



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 3, 2016

SB 420

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Good morning Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 420 which effectively eliminates the service areas and territories agreed to by Kansas' community and technical colleges, shifting approval responsibility from the Kansas Board of Regents to the Chief Executive Officer at each of the 19 community colleges.

We have begun a process to review the geographic service areas currently in Board policy in consultation with all participating colleges and universities. This review will ensure any changes do not negatively impact the current access Kansans have to postsecondary education.

Geographic service areas are commonly found in states with statewide postsecondary education governing bodies. The Board of Regents oversees the geographic service areas of the public institutions in Kansas as part of its statutory responsibility to coordinate all 32 public institutions in order to provide Kansans access to postsecondary educational opportunities while limiting duplicative efforts and promoting efficient use of resources.

While the Board has several issues with this bill, one concern with the bill in its current form is its potential impact on dual credit/concurrent enrollment courses. Because the service areas for community colleges cover 97 of the state's 105 counties and overlap with the service areas for universities and territories for technical colleges, as an example, this bill would require:

- Northwest Kansas Technical College to obtain permission from Colby Community College to offer classes to, or enroll high school students in, its hometown of Goodland and some surrounding counties,

- North Central Kansas Technical College to obtain permission from Cloud County Community College to offer classes to, or enroll high school students in, its hometown of Beloit and some surrounding counties, and
- The University of Kansas to obtain permission from Johnson County Community College to offer courses in which secondary students may be enrolled at its own Edwards campus.

These are just three of many examples of how the bill could have unintended consequences for the Kansas postsecondary system.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.