

Approved March 22, 1988  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Denise Apt at  
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on March 16, 1988 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Hensley, Excused  
Representative Williams, Excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Steineger  
Ms. Kathy Dick, Associated Students of Kansas  
Ms. Clantha McCurdy, Board of Regents  
Mr. Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association  
Dr. Richard Funk, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Dr. Bob Kelly, Kansas Association of Independent Colleges  
Ms. Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education  
Mr. Jim Cople, Kansas Federation of Teachers

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Apt. The chair drew the committee's attention to S.B. 616, an act establishing the Kansas-Rhodes scholarship program.

Chairman Apt recognized Senator Steineger who explained S.B. 616 and stated the purpose of the bill is to lure the Rhodes scholarship students back into Kansas academic institutions not only as students but as future staff members. Senator Steineger stated the provisions of the bill would allow any Kansas resident student who has been selected as a Rhodes scholarship recipient to be eligible for a tuition and fee scholarship in any Kansas institution of higher learning. Senator Steineger pointed out S.B. 616 received no opposition in the Senate.

Ms. Kathy Dick testified that while the Associated Students of Kansas has not formally endorsed S.B. 616 they are very supportive of the spirit behind it. (Attachment 1)

Ms. Clantha McCurdy spoke in favor of S.B. 616 pointing out passage of this bill would endorse the efforts to attract and retain the brightest and best minds of our Kansas students. Ms. McCurdy drew attention to some of the language of S.B. 616 and asked for clarification. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Craig Grant spoke in favor of S.B. 616 stating it would be a boost to our state universities to have Rhodes scholarship students as part of the student population.

Dr. Richard Funk asked the committee to consider S.B. 616 favorably. Dr. Funk stated the provisions of this bill would serve to attract out-of-state students as well as holding our own students in Kansas institutions.

Dr. Bob Kelly testified in favor of S.B. 616. Dr. Kelly observed that while independent colleges would not be affected by S.B. 616 the concepts contained in the bill would enhance the field of education in general.

The chair closed hearings on S.B. 616.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

room 519-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on March 16, 1988

Hearings on S.B. 459, an act concerning the minimum competency assessment program, were opened by the chairman.

Dr. Richard Funk testified in support of S.B. 459 stating it provided the means for identifying students in need of remedial assistance. (Attachment 3)

Mr. Craig Grant spoke in favor of S.B. 459 pointing out there is a provision in the bill for study next summer before the five year cycle runs out. (Attachment 4)

Ms. Connie Hubbell testified in favor of S.B. 459. Ms. Hubbell stated the State Board believes the tests can be used in evaluation of curriculum and in the development of instructional materials as well as identifying students with needs for remedial instruction. (Attachment 5)

Mr. Jim Copple spoke in opposition to S.B. 459. Mr. Copple believes the test results are being used in a manner inconsistent with the intent of the legislation. Mr. Copple also stated he feels there should be an external audit of the results of the state minimum competency test. (Attachment 6)

After a period of questions and discussion the chair closed hearings on S.B. 459.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 17, 1988 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.

DATE March 16, 1988

## GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Cynthia Leh	KFT	Topeka
Janice	KFT	Widit
Grace Myers	Unity Club	Iola
Helene Guljan	" "	Iola
Carolynn Krohn	" "	"
<del>Wanda</del> <del>Caprice</del>	" "	"
Margie Shetlar	" "	"
Mickey Lynn	" "	"
Cecile Bonick	" "	"
Wendy Githelman	" "	"
Ann Dray	Life Still Best	Topeka
Richard Frank	KAOB	"
Bella Highlee Scott	USA	Topeka
Techny Pysant	USD 259	Wpshky
Don C. Fauer	USD 444	Sabetha
Karen Lu	Unity Club	Iola
Nanette Byham	Unity Club	Iola
Gerald Anderson	USA	Topeka
CLANTHA McCurdy	BOARDS OF REGENTS <del>TOPEKA</del>	TOPEKA
Jay Colas	K-NEA	Topeka
Craig Grant	H-NEA	Topeka
Bob Kelly	KICA	Topeka
Rose Mary Riley	Unity Club	Iola
Eileen Shannon	Unity Club	Iola





# ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

*The Student Governments of the State Universities*

Suite 608 • Capitol Towers • 400 S.W. 8th St. • Topeka, Ks. 66603 • (913) 354-1394

Christine A. Graves  
Executive Director

Mark E. Tallman  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
and Development

**MEMBERS:**

Associated Student Government  
Emporia State University  
Memorial Union  
Emporia, Kansas 66801  
316-343-1200 ext. 5494

Student Government Association  
Fort Hays State University  
Memorial Union  
Hays, Kansas 67601  
913-628-5311

Student Governing Association  
Kansas State University  
Student Union  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506  
913-532-6541

Student Government Association  
Pittsburg State University  
Student Union  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762  
316-231-7000 ext. 4813

Student Senate  
University of Kansas  
Burge Union  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045  
913-864-3710

Student Government Association  
The Wichita State University  
Campus Activities Center  
Wichita, Kansas 67208  
316-689-3480

TO: House Education Committee  
FROM: Associated Students of Kansas  
DATE: March 16, 1988

RE: SB 616

Position

Because SB 616 was not introduced in time to be considered by ASK's Policy Council, we do not have a formal position on this bill.

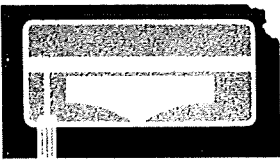
However, our Association's Statement of Policy does call for greater support of student scholarship. It reads: "Incentives for higher achievements in scholarship should be increased, as well programs that challenge students to go beyond ordinary requirements. High achieving students should be encouraged to attend Kansas schools, and remain contributors to the state after graduation."

We believe that the Kansas Rhodes Scholarship Program proposed in SB 616 is consistent with these goals. At a modest cost it would provide a special recognition and incentive for Kansans who have achieved one of the highest levels of scholarly distinction.

While ASK has not formally endorsed this particular bill, we are strongly supportive of the spirit behind it.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Attachment 1  
House Education 3/16/88*



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

SUITE 609 • CAPITOL TOWER • 400 SW EIGHTH • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603-3911 • (913) 296-3421

March 16, 1988

Senate Bill 616 - Kansas-Rhodes Scholarship Program  
Testimony by  
Clantha McCurdy  
Director of Student Financial Aid

The Board of Regents supports the concept of Senate Bill 616. Establishing a scholarship assistance program to pay the tuition costs for students who have earned the prestigious distinction and honor of being named a Rhodes Scholar certainly will assist Kansas with its continued efforts of attracting and retaining its brightest and best minds.

The Board of Regents has provided favorable testimony for numerous scholarship and tuition assistance bills. Senate Bill 616 is consistent with the Board's emphasis on scholastic achievement. This bill also advocates the commitment that the Regents and the Kansas Legislature has in continuing to promote academic excellence. Kansas desperately needs to retain its young scholars. Their ideas, energies, and talents are definite attributes and resources for the future of the state.

The Board of Regents is concerned about some of the language of Senate Bill 616. The Legislature's intent with reference to the definition of a Kansas-Rhodes Scholar in Section 1 (b) is unclear. Does the Legislature intend the scholarship for those who have completed their training at Oxford? Or, is the designation of a Rhodes Scholar sufficient?

Section 2 stipulates that a Kansas-Rhodes scholar "may be awarded" to any qualified scholar enrolled at any state education institution. Does the legislature intend some discretion to be exercised? If so, what? If not, might the word "shall" be more appropriate? We would also suggest, in view of the other recommended changes that the words "as a full time student in a specified degree program" be added after "enrolled" and before "at" on line 0041.

Finally, Section 6 refers to rules and regulations of the Board of Regents. Language should be inserted clearly indicating the Board's authority to promulgate rules and regulation for the Kansas-Rhodes Scholarship program.

*Attachment 2  
House Education  
3/16/88*



KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS

5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606  
913-273-3600

TESTIMONY ON S.B. 459

by

Richard S. Funk, Assistant Executive Director  
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 16, 1988

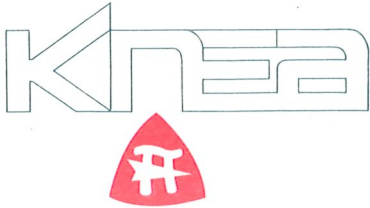
Madam Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the 302 members of the Kansas Association of School Boards. KASB supports the provisions found in S.B. 459.

The Delegate Assembly of the Kansas Association of School Boards approved a legislative policy at the December 1987 meeting to continue the Minimum Competency Assessment Program and that the test's purpose should be for the referral of those students who may need remedial assistance.

We believe that the Kansas minimum competency assessment programs should a) continue; b) be used to help identify students in need of remedial assistance; c) be used to help identify "at-risk" students; d) cause local boards of education to continue remedial assistance to students or cause them to do so; and e) cause local boards of education to continue to evaluate and upgrade their curricula.

We urge your support and passage of S.B. 459 and ask your continued fiscal support of the "Kansas Competency Assessment Program" and for programs to address the "at-risk" student.

*Attachment 3  
House Education 3/16/88*



Craig Grant Testimony Before The  
House Education Committee  
Wednesday, March 16, 1988

Thank you, Madame Chairman. Members of the Committee, my name is Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with you about SB 459.

Kansas-NEA supports SB 459 because not only does the bill state definitely what the purpose of the minimum competency test is--to identify students who need help, but also it provides for study next summer before the five year cycle runs out. We agree with the stated purpose and hope that the use of the test to compare buildings and districts should be diminished.

Much study of the entire competency testing program is needed before we start the next cycle of testing. Such items as what time of year tests should be given, what type of test should be utilized, what remediation programs should be offered, and what grade levels are appropriate should be discussed in depth. Our instructional commission, comprised of instructional leaders (20 in all) from all over the state, would like to provide further input and assistance in the summer study of this program.

For the above reasons, Kansas-NEA supports SB 459. Thank you for listening to the concerns of our teachers.

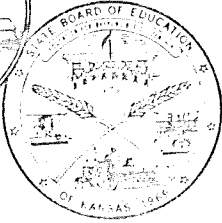


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# Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103



Mildred McMillon  
District 1

Connie Hubbell  
District 4

Bill Musick  
District 6

Evelyn W. Itcomb  
District 8

Kathleen White  
District 2

Sheila Frahm  
District 5

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Robert J. Clemons  
District 9

Paul D. Adams  
District 3

Marion (Mick) Stevens  
District 10

March 16, 1988

TO: House Education Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1988 Senate Bill 459

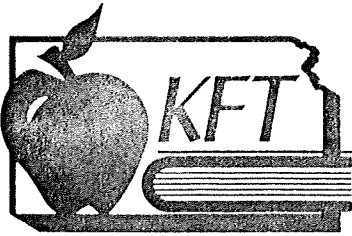
My name is Connie Hubbell, Legislative Chairman of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education supports the concept in Senate Bill 459 which specifies that the Kansas minimum competency tests should be used to identify students who have failed the test so that appropriate remediation may be provided. In addition, the State Board is supportive of school district use of the test in evaluation of curriculum and in the development of instructional materials, strategies, techniques, and action plans for improving pupil achievement.

Despite the fact that existing legislation does not specify the identification of students needing remediation as one of the purposes of the tests, the State Board is on record as endorsing this use. By providing enhanced analysis of results to school districts and an optional pre-testing program in which districts may participate, the State Board has encouraged the use of the test as a formative evaluation tool. In addition, the State Board has directed department staff to undertake activities which will encourage such use. Workshops in test interpretation emphasizing this use were conducted in the fall of 1987 and a videotape presentation on interpretation of results is currently being developed. Curriculum guides which incorporate test objectives have been developed and distributed to the LEA's. The State Board has also directed that district test results be forwarded to districts as they are completed rather than waiting until all districts' results have been prepared. This action will allow districts to receive their results in the most timely manner possible.

The State Board advocates a review of the assessment program during the 1988 and 1989 legislative sessions. The Board is in the process of considering options and alternatives related to the future of statewide competency assessment. We anticipate that our recommendations will be available during the 1988 interim.

*Attachment 5  
House Education 3/16/88*



# KANSAS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

310 West Central/Suite 110 • Wichita, KS 67202 • (316) 262-5171

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 459

James E. Copple  
Kansas Federation of Teachers

March 16, 1988

Madame Chairman, members of the House Education Committee, the Kansas Federation of Teachers rises in opposition to Senate Bill No. 459. We recognize the need of a minimum competency device, but feel the current program does not fully address that need. A minimum competency test should assist in establishing programs of remediation for children, who for a variety of reasons, have not acquired the academic skills to achieve a minimum standard of performance. The membership of the Kansas Federation of Teachers believes it is important for both the Legislature and the State Department of Education to frequently assess the skill levels of Kansas students. Minimum competency testing, used appropriately, provides valuable information to those responsible for the education of our youth. This legislation represents an attempt to more clearly define the goals of minimum competency and to provide a specific focus for those who must interpret the results of the test. If remediation is the goal of this assessment device, then our organization supports that goal. Before we can support this specific program, however, we would ask the Legislature to address these specific concerns related to the administration and interpretation of minimum competency testing.

1. This legislation declares what the Legislature intends for minimum competency. There is, however, no enforcement clause and there is no way to assure that the results of the test will be used in a manner consistent with the intent of the legislation. This legislation, while providing a more defined purpose, provides no safe-guards against using the test to compare districts with other districts, or to use the device as a form of teacher evaluation. Currently, some representatives of media, school boards, administrators and even teachers use the device in that manner. That is not the defined intent of minimum competency.

2. There is no external audit of the results of the state minimum competency test. This is not to question the validity of the results presented by the Center for Educational Testing at the University of Kansas nor the work of the State Department of Education. Both groups, however, have a vested interest in

the device. Because of that interest, we believe an audit of the findings should be conducted by an outside agent. The validity of any research finding is dependent on that study's replication. There is some question as to whether or not the study provided by KU for the Legislature and the Department of Education can be replicated from the research design presented to the LEPC this summer.

3. The cost of the test remains a serious issue. The state spends approximately \$250,000 on this program and remediation goals are ill-defined. While some districts benefit from the results and use the test to improve curriculum and instruction, not all districts are compelled to comply.

To address these concerns we ask the Legislature to continue its study of the validity of state minimum competency testing. As the Legislature examines this process, we ask you to consider the following recommendations:

1. Allow for voluntary participation in the State Minimum Competency Program. Districts who want to use the device for determining needs can purchase the test from the State.
2. To determine state-wide performance, administer the test using a stratified random sample of Kansas districts and schools. This would save money and still provide useful information to the Legislature and the State Department of Education.
3. Contract for an outside audit for the purpose of replicating the results of the Center for Educational Testing and the State Department of Education.

The Kansas Federation of Teachers wishes to affirm its support of the concept behind minimum competency testing. We must realize there are problems in the way the results are interpreted and used. The above concerns should be addressed in order to justify the expense of the program. Our recommendations are consistent with the desire to implement minimum competency testing.

We ask the Legislature to seriously consider the recommendations of the Kansas Federation of Teachers before passing favorably Senate Bill No. 459.

A-6-2  
3/16/88