

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

## Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Deena Horst  
Phil Black, Dean of Academic Affairs, Brown Mackie College, Salina  
Christina Lakkari, Student at Brown Mackie College  
Ramona Newsom, Graduate of Brown Mackie College  
Kristy Green, Student at Brown Mackie College (written only)  
Doug Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association  
Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents

## Others attending:

See attached list.

**Hearing on HB 2228 - Private postsecondary institutions eligibility for the Kansas comprehensive grant program**

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **HB 2228**. Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this legislation would amend the Kansas Comprehensive Grant statute to allow eligible students of a private post secondary institution of higher education to qualify for the grant. The bill would expand the definition of a full-time resident postsecondary education student; and would change the definition of a "Kansas educational institution" from "not-for-profit independent" institution to "private postsecondary" institution, thus including for-profit independent institutions. (Attachment 1)

Representative Deena Horst spoke in support of **HB 2228** introduced at her request. She reported that an administrator at Brown Mackie College, which is located in her district, suggested this change. This bill extends access to Kansas Comprehensive Grants to eligible Kansas students who attend for-profit institutions located in Kansas. She noted these students have similar financial needs as other students who are eligible to receive comprehensive grants, but are unable to access the grants because the school is a for-profit entity. (Attachment 2)

Phil Black, Dean of Academic Affairs, Brown Mackie College, Salina, testified in support of **HB 2228** to make Kansas Comprehensive Grants available to all Kansans attending degree-granting institutions of higher learning. He stated that most students at Brown Mackie are non-traditional students that are highly motivated to improve their lives and contribute to the Kansas economy, noting that most of their students stay in Kansas. (Attachment 3)

Christina Lakkari, a student at Brown Mackie College, appeared in support of **HB 2228** and related her experience as a single working mom and full-time nursing student at Brown Mackie. She said this was one of the most difficult and best decisions she ever made. She knew she was going to need assistance and decided the only way to ensure the assistance was temporary was to get an education. She said the Kansas Comprehensive Grant would be very helpful to students like herself. (Attachment 4)

Ramona Newsom, a graduate of Brown Mackie College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Management, appeared in support of **HB 2228**. She said she was able to attend school by searching out and applying for grants and scholarships and the work study program; however, most of her financial aid consisted of student loans. Therefore, as a result of those 24 months of school, she amassed upwards of \$14,000 in debt. She said that an additional grant would have been helpful. (Attachment 5)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

Kristy Green, a student at Brown Mackie College, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2228** and the importance of grants. (Attachment 6)

Doug Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association, representing 18 non-profit colleges and universities in the state testified in opposition to **HB 2228**. He reported that when the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program was enacted into statute in 1998, the statute explicitly identified not-for-profit institutional status as a qualifying criterion. The Legislature deemed that limited state funds should be directed to needy students at public or independent four-year institutions whose business model returned any surplus funds to strengthening programs, facilities, and institutional aid to students. This legislation would modify the institutional criteria to include any accredited college or university, regardless of for-profit status. Their Association would argue that this change would be a fundamental shift in the program's intent, and that two key issues should be considered: 1) Appropriations in the current budget are already inadequate to fund all of the students who qualify for the grant; and 2) The committee should seriously consider whether the state should direct its limited financial aid resources to the for-profit sector. (Attachment 7)

Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents, offered neutral testimony on **HB 2228**. She explained that under the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program eligibility requirements, there is one accredited institution that meets the definition and does not currently receive grant funding—Brown Mackie College. She explained that, potentially, an additional 63 students might be eligible for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program at the Brown Mackie College locations in Salina and Lenexa. The current maximum award for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant is \$3,500. If the Board of Regents received additional funding for the 63 students, it would require an increase of \$220,500 in funding. Without additional funding, the bill would just increase the pool of students eligible for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. She noted that the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program's Fiscal Year 2009 State General Fund appropriation was \$15.6 million. She reported that during the 2007-08 academic year, there were 23,014 Kansas resident students who were eligible for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. Only 11,023 or 48% of those students were actual recipients because the current level of funding does not meet the financial need of 52% of our Kansas resident students. If ultimately enacted into law, **HB 2228** would expand eligibility in a program that is already under funded. (Attachment 8)

The hearing on **HB 2228** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for February 12, 2009.

# HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE February 11, 2009

NAME	REPRESENTING
Doug Penner	KICA
Diane Lindem	K BOR
Phil Black	Brown Mackie College
John Knaples	Brown Mackie College
Christina Larkin	Brown Mackie College
Ramona V. Newsom	Brown Mackie College
Matt Warner	
John Dougherty	ESU
John Peterlin	PITTSBURGH - SMITH

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Higher Education

From: Renae Jefferies, Assistant Revisor

Date: February 11, 2009

Subject:: House Bill No. 2228

HB 2228 amends the Kansas comprehensive grant statute to allow eligible students of a private post secondary institution of higher education to qualify for the grant.



**DEENA HORST**

REPRESENTATIVE, SIXTY-NINTH DISTRICT

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES

**TESTIMONY – HB 2228**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND  
CULTURAL RESOURCES  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON: EDUCATION  
MEMBER: AGING AND LONG TERM CARE  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
ELECTIONS

**Chairman Huntington, Vice-Chairman Rhoades, Ranking Minority Member Mah and fellow committee members:**

**Thank you for allowing me to appear before you in regard to HB 2228. HB 2228 amends current law which provides for the granting of comprehensive grants to eligible Kansas residents who attend colleges and universities located in Kansas which are non-profit public and private accredited institutions. The bill extends access to the comprehensive grants by eligible students Kansas residents who attend for-profit private institutions located in Kansas. It also adds to the hour requirement a recognition that some schools are on a quarter system rather than a semester system.**

**An administrator at Brown Mackie College, which is physically located in my district, suggested this change. He shared with me the needs which a number of the students have. A fact that concerns me is that they have similar financial needs that other students who are eligible to receive comprehensive grants but they are unable to access the grants or something similar in nature because the school is a for-profit entity.**

**While I understand the opposition to dividing a pot of money which most likely doesn't stretch as far as it should, I believe that we need to have a discussion regarding the philosophy promoted by current law. That philosophy seems to be...only Kansas residents who attend non-profit colleges or universities can receive financial assistance from the state. When a student determines which school to attend, I doubt they spend much time agonizing over whether the school is non-profit or for-profit. They are more likely to look for a school which is affordable and offers the program which will provide the training necessary for them to acquire the position which they desire. The question we must answer is whether or not it is appropriate to deny students who are Kansas residents a grant based on the fact that the private post-secondary school they have chosen to attend is a for-profit entity.**

**Thank you for your consideration of this issue.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Deena'.

**Representative Deena Horst**

Phil Black  
Dean of Academic Affairs  
Brown Mackie College - Salina

### **Who are our college students today?**

The faces of today's college students are no longer represented by students about to graduate from high school. According to the National Center for Education Statistics the percentage of undergraduate non-traditional students is "72 percent larger in 1999 than in 1970" (NCES 2002). "Between 1980 and 2005, enrollments of persons under 25 grew 40 percent and enrollments of persons 25 and older increased 52 percent" (NCES, 2007, p.12). This NCES study goes on to say the increase in the percentage of women over the age of 25 enrolling in post secondary education is 72 percent.

NCES has developed seven characteristics of non-traditional college students:

- Delayed enrollment into postsecondary education
- Attend part time
- Are financially independent of parents
- Work full time while enrolled
- Have dependents other than a spouse
- Are single parents
- Lack a standard high school diploma (Upcraft, 2005, p.18)

Students meeting one or more of these characteristics would be identified as "non-traditional."

At Brown Mackie College, the majority of our students fit into one or more of these categories. At the Salina campus, more than 93% of new students enroll one full year after their high school graduation and more than 50% have been out of high school at least five years before enrolling. Between both campuses 75% of the current students are female and 68% are single with a very high number of these students being single parents.

### **What are the challenges facing non-traditional college students?**

Bean and Metzner (1985) suggest that the success of the non-traditional college student lies among many non-academic issues including, "personal and family illness; dating and marital discord; students' tribulations with their children; co-worker and other employment-related difficulties; problems with peers, relatives, and neighbors" and most pertinent to this house bill, "personal and family debt" (Bean, 1985, p.526). As the current economic conditions have worsened, so have the finances of many of our students. More than 15% of our students drive 30 miles or more, some from as far away as Wichita and Hays. Though gas prices have receded, considering the extreme fluctuations over the last year, who can forecast the price of gas in the near future, much less a year from now?

### **Why colleges like Brown Mackie College?**

Non-traditional students attend Brown Mackie College because our schedules are consistent, all in the evenings or all in the mornings, allowing student to continue working while focusing on one class at time. Our classes rarely have more than 32 students and are often below ten. With neither campus being over 500 students, staff and faculty have created a family-like culture where they know individual students.

The fact that these adult learners have chosen Brown Mackie College instead of one of the public institutions should not prevent them from accessing the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. They are Kansans trying to improve their lives and contribute to the Kansas economy. Because we are two-year degree granting institution, and because our non-traditional learners are highly motivated, those improvements and contributions are realized in much shorter lengths of time, thus creating benefits to Kansas much sooner.

Finally, students at Brown Mackie College typically stay in Kansas. They have built their families and their lives here. The very real threat of “brain drain” occurring among graduates of our research institutions is no threat at all among graduates of career-oriented institutions like Brown Mackie College. We ask that you give these non-traditional students a better chance at changing their lives and building a better Kansas. Make the Kansas Comprehensive Grant available to all Kansans attending degree-granting institutions of higher learning.

#### References

Bean, J. & B. Metzner. (1985). Review of educational research. Winter. *A conceptual model of nontraditional undergraduate student attrition*. Vol. 55, No. 4, Pp. 485-540

Choy, S. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Nontraditional undergraduates*, NCES 2002-012. Washington, DC: 2002.

National Center for Education Statistics. *Digest of Education Statistics 2007*. Retrieved January 12, 2009 from [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d07/ch\\_3.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d07/ch_3.asp)

Upcraft, M., J. Gardner, & B. Barefoot. (2005). *Challenging & supporting the first-year student*. San Francisco: Josey-Bass.

Good afternoon, I am Christina Lakkari, single mom and full time nursing student at Brown Mackie College in Salina. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration today. I am here as a representative of non-traditional students. I started my college experience in March of 2007. This was one of the most difficult and best decisions I have ever made. At that time I was struggling financially working full time as an administrative manager at a manufacturing plant. I knew that I was going to need assistance and decided the only way to ensure the assistance was temporary was to get an education.

I had heard of the associates program for nursing at Brown Mackie from my mother. I wanted to be a nurse but until that moment thought the only option was a four year degree. When you are a single parent of a toddler, four years of not working full time is too long. Two years is difficult but possible. I made the decision, gave my work notice and started school. The monthly classes and the hours made the decision a little easier. I take my daughter to daycare, go to class then to work and picked my daughter up around 5pm everyday.

Everyone knows that going to college is expensive. When you are working part time, raising a child and trying to go to school the "stakes" are raised that much higher. I am not the traditional student. I don't go home and leisurely do my homework. I go to work and then I pick up my daughter. I then make dinner, discuss her day, get her in the tub, read a book and then to bed she goes. At about 9pm I start my homework. My day ends around midnight and at 7am I start all over again. This is a typical schedule for many Brown Mackie students. I am not alone in this, many of my classmates are single parents. And there are many of us that are also on the honor roll.

It is not easy being a student, a parent and an employee. Living below poverty level is extremely difficult. Using a food stamp card to pay for groceries is embarrassing. Having to rely on family and friends for anything extra that may come along is humbling. I made \$400 a month that first year of school and it was hard. But I did it. And very soon I will no longer have to rely on HUD, food stamps, or any other assistance to take care of my family. I graduate in June of this year with my ASN. I am on the Presidents Honor Roll and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. I will be a registered nurse working full time and paying taxes. I believe that myself and all other students like me deserve the same opportunities as any other student at any other school. We work just as hard for our education. My persistence and drive has paid off. But I could not have done all of this without the support of my family and the state. Every little bit helps, and we do deserve it. I would like to thank you again for your time and consideration and hope you see fit to allow this grant to be allocated to all schools.

Thank you.



## Testimony of Ramona V. Newsom On behalf of Brown Mackie College – Salina

The 2008 presidential election was driven by a general theme demonstrated by both parties, a message of hope, change and following your dreams. Whatever one's station in life . . . democrat or republican; black or white; male or female; old or young; rich or poor, this message rings clear. As you follow your dreams they **may** not become reality, but one thing is certain, if you choose not to pursue them, they **will** not.

I have two favorite movies. One is "The Sound of Music." As the story unfolds on an oppressed Austria, we see a father and his children striving to preserve family in the midst of war and the loss of a wife and mother. Enter Julie Andrews, a nun seeking only to do the will of God, yet finding love and the realization of a dream. Fast-forward to the end and we find the Von Trapps performing in a contest before the father is sent to war. I always cry at that moment because I know what happens next. They exit not only the stage, but also their homeland, under the guise of their closing song "Good Bye." Little did I know that one day I would be in a similar situation.

April 2006 I graduated from Brown Mackie College-Salina. Not a Big-12 school, but the right place for me. It is an institution where the faculty and staff not only go the extra mile, but almost adapt the road to custom fit each student. This is significant because my road was exceptionally challenging. It had taken me 28 years to receive my degree. Although I was an honor student in high school, my senior year began a cycle of abusive relationships. Three failed marriages were spawned from those relationships, yet behind each dark cloud was a silver lining. From my first marriage, I gained two beautiful children, and a three-year-old grandson. Through the desperation and pain of the second, I became a Gospel songwriter and music workshop facilitator. On May 5, 2004, I left Kansas City, Missouri to escape the third, a nightmare that only recently truly ended. Like the Von Trapps, I had to leave all that was familiar and important to me, and travel to a "small town" big enough for me to grow...and I thought I was just going on a two-week vacation! ☺

My journey started a few weeks later when I met Judy McClintock-Holmes, President of the Salina campus. I received a call from the Admissions office on July 8 inviting me to visit the college the next day, which was **Friday, July 9**. I was intrigued by the idea of taking one course at a time, having access to computers for assignments, and the willingness of staff and faculty to help me meet my needs, rather than the other way around. Hope . . . change . . . would I finally be able to follow my dream? Once I completed all the paperwork, including financial aid applications, I was given my textbooks for class which started that following **Monday!**

Being new to the city and the state, life was challenging. Before relocating I had been a very successful piano teacher, but starting over was difficult, so my main source of income was a stipend I received as pianist for my church. Today I have an incredible job. I almost feel guilty for getting paid to be there...notice I said, "almost." ☺ The position was not advertised, but an email was sent to the Career Services Director. They needed someone with strong proofreading skills. My nickname is "red pen," and I claim to be God's Favorite Child, so I believe it was created just for me. I had not worked in a corporate setting for many years, but the coursework and training I received from Brown Mackie helped me to feel confident in the position. I am thankful to say that on January 3 of this year I celebrated three years with that company.

Hope . . . change . . . follow your dreams.

## Testimony of Ramona V. Newsom On behalf of Brown Mackie College – Salina

I am totally indebted to this school. In less than 24 months I received an Associate of Applied Sciences degree in Business Management. I was extremely proud of that accomplishment since my entire adult life had been riddled with physical, emotional and psychological abuse. Brown Mackie restored my self-esteem and that frightened woman of the past is fading away. Unfortunately, I am also indebted to Sallie Mae. I was able to attend school by searching out and applying for grants and scholarships. When funding was available, I qualified for the work study program and that was very helpful; however, most of my financial aid consisted of student loans. Therefore, as a result of those 24 months of school, I have amassed upwards of \$14,000 in debt. While I am blessed to have a job in these difficult economic times, finding the \$150 each month for repayment is a definite struggle. An additional grant would have been more than a drop in the bucket...it could have given me buoyancy to maintain focus on studying.

Dreams reflect the desires of your heart. Through Brown Mackie College-Salina I gained the strength to find myself and become a productive citizen in this great state. Earlier I mentioned that I had two favorite movies. "The Wizard of Oz" is the other one. I can watch it over and over and the story never gets boring or outdated. Young Dorothy was content with her life. She loved her family, but knew in her heart that "**somewhere over the rainbow dreams really do come true.**" My prayer is that you will consider this petition before you as an opportunity to empower students to move beyond contentment and venture over the rainbow.

Hope . . . change . . . follow your heart.

## The Importance of Grants

By: Kristy Green

Imagine being a dual military family and one half of that dual is constantly deployed. Take that same family and add two children. This was my life until two and a half years ago when my husband and I made the decision I would get out of the military and go back to school as a full time student. The questions we had to ask ourselves at the time were: could I handle this while he is deployed, how would this benefit us later in life and mostly how would we pay.

My family has always been a top priority in my life. My husband, who is currently deployed in Central America, and my two young children are very important and I made the decision to leave the military after nine plus years in the Army for my children's stability. My husband has been deployed to Iraq three prior times to this deployment and we didn't want to take the chance of my deploying at the same time. When we started looking at colleges there were many to choose, however, no other college in the area would give me an opportunity like Brown Mackie College-Salina could. This college worked with my schedule allowing me to go to class while my children were attending school. Brown Mackie allowed me to focus on one class a month instead of multiple classes which gave me more time to spend with my children whose father has been deployed.

Every person benefits from a secondary education. My purpose of going to school is to better my family and make it so when hard times come in, like our current economic state, we will be fine. I see students daily here at school who are trying their hardest to keep their heads afloat because we know when this is all said and done we can look at our children and say we have done what they said couldn't be done.

One of the biggest decisions I ever made in my life was leaving a steady paycheck watching my family drop from being a two income to being a one income family. This has made the making ends meet difficult at times. Granted, I have been blessed to receive scholarships from the VA and a local hospital, however, I see my fellow students suffering as they pay the tuition because their pay is far too sparse and I have even seen them let their dreams slip through their fingers because the tuition has gotten too hard to pay. Allowing Brown Mackie College students to have access to the Kansas Grants will allow the students of this college who are currently enrolled to reach their fullest potential instead of being short handed and lose their dreams due to dropping out because of finances. Also, I ask you to look at the future of Kansas and what these Grants can give back to our own community and the future of our children by allowing what once was a dream to now be a reality.

Testimony provided for the  
House Higher Education Committee  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Doug Penner, President  
Kansas Independent College Association

Regarding H2228

I am Doug Penner, President of the Kansas Independent College Association, representing 18 non-profit colleges and universities in the state. I'd like to provide our perspective on House Bill 2228 which would change the institutional qualifications for enrolled students to receive support of the Kansas Comprehensive Grant.

When the Kansas Comprehensive Grant program was enacted into statute in 1998, combining existing need-based aid programs for students attending the regents institutions and Kansas independent colleges, the statute explicitly identified not-for-profit institutional status as a qualifying criterion. The legislature deemed that limited state funds should be directed to needy students at public or independent four year institutions whose business model returned any surplus funds to strengthening programs, facilities and institutional aid to students.

The current bill would modify the institutional criteria to include any accredited college or university, regardless of for-profit status. Our colleges would argue that this change would be a fundamental shift in the program's intent, and that two key issues should be considered as the committee deliberates.

First, appropriations in the current budget are already inadequate to fund all of the students who qualify for the grant. For the program as a whole, 23,014 students were eligible for the grant, but funding was available for 11,023 students (48%) which left 11,991 (52%) unfunded. 1,743 eligible students at independent colleges were unfunded. As I've testified earlier to this committee, the KICA colleges consistently do their part, significantly supporting student access by returning almost half of their tuition revenue dollars to students in additional institutional financial aid.

Second, the committee should seriously consider whether the state should direct its limited financial aid resources to the for-profit sector. Our shared independent colleges' goal is to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to study, not to enhance the institutional financial bottom line for the benefit of stockholders. When our colleges are able to generate a surplus of revenues over expenses, it should matter to the state whether those funds are directed to strengthening programs for students or to support corporations and the investors who have bought stock in those corporations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these brief comments.



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## House Higher Education Committee February 11, 2009

### *Testimony Regarding HB 2228*

**Diane Lindeman**  
**Director of Student Financial Aid**

Chairwoman Huntington, Ranking Member Mah, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon. I am here on behalf of the Board of Regents to provide **neutral** testimony regarding HB 2228, legislation pertaining to the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program, the state's need-based financial aid program.

HB 2228 would amend the current Comprehensive Grant Program by eliminating the term "not-for-profit" in reference to eligibility for private postsecondary educational institutions. Currently, only private postsecondary schools that are considered not-for-profit are eligible for the grant program. In addition, the definition of a full-time student was amended to include students who are enrolled in at least "16 quarter credit hours in a semester". Currently, full-time students are those enrolled in at least 12 credit hours each semester.

Eligibility for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant requires that participating private postsecondary education institutions be accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accrediting agency based on its requirements as of April 1, 1985, or by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools based on its requirements as of January 1, 2006. In addition, they must operate independently and free from control or administration by the state or any agency or subdivisions thereof. They must also maintain open enrollment, and the main campus or principal place of operation must be located in Kansas. Within these parameters, there is one institution that meets this definition and does not currently receive Kansas Comprehensive Grant funding – Brown Mackie College.

Brown Mackie College has two campuses in Kansas. One in Salina; the other in Lenexa. According to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Salina campus enrollment for Academic Year 2006-07 was 459 full-time equivalent (FTE) students; Lenexa campus enrollment was 433 FTE students. Per IPEDS data, the Salina campus awards federal grants to 11% of its student body (50 students) and the Lenexa campus awards 3% (13 students). In most cases, students who are eligible for federal grants (i.e. Pell) are also eligible for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. This is a potential of an additional 63 students who might have eligibility for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. The current maximum award for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant is \$3,500. To provide the maximum award to an additional 63 students



would require an increase of \$220,500 in funding to the program. Please note that the Comprehensive Grant Program's Fiscal Year 2009 SGF appropriation was \$15.6 million.

The Board of Regents supports efforts to financially assist persons in accessing the state's postsecondary educational institutions in their pursuit of a higher education. We would note, however, that during the most recent 2007-08 academic year, there were 23,014 Kansas resident students who were eligible for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. Only 11,023 or 48% of these students were actual recipients because the current level of funding does not meet the financial need of 52% of our Kansas resident students. If ultimately enacted into law, HB 2228 would expand eligibility in a program that is already under-funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2228. I would be happy to stand for any questions that you may have.