

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 11:45 a.m. on March 20, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Deena Horst- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dennis McKinney, Treasurer, State of Kansas  
April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children  
Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development (written only)  
Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents (written only)  
Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Rhoades moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 11, and 12. Seconded by Representative Palmer, the motion passed.

**Hearing and action on SB 225 - Low-income family postsecondary savings accounts incentive program**

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **SB 225**. Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that **SB 225** would extend the Low-Income Family Postsecondary Savings Accounts Incentive Program indefinitely and would make several changes to the administration of the program. The bill would clarify that qualifying household income would be from the tax year prior to the submitted application, rather than at the time of application. Applications would be submitted each year to report the household income. The bill would allow the State Treasurer to approve 300 applications from each congressional district for a total of 1,200 applications each year. The State Treasurer would be directed to transfer matching funds from the State General Fund to the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program Trust Fund, not to exceed the maximum amount specified by an appropriation act for that state fiscal year. (Attachment 1)

Dennis McKinney, Treasurer, State of Kansas, and Director of the Learning Quest Postsecondary Education Savings Program, appeared in support of **SB 225**. He explained that the program was created as a three-year pilot program in 2006 and assigned to the Treasurer's Office as part of the Learning Quest Education Savings Program. **SB 225** is based on his recommendation to continue the program on a permanent basis providing a \$600 matching grant to up to 1,200 participants each year. He provided a copy of his report to the Legislature outlining the participation in the program during the three-year pilot period. (Attachment 2)

April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children, testified in support of **SB 225** to prevent expiration of the Low-Income Family Postsecondary Savings Accounts Incentive Program. As a public-private partnership, the program gives low-income Kansas families the opportunity to establish a 529 College Savings Plan, and encourages these families to save for their children's education. The program was designed to strengthen our future workforce and the availability of skilled workers in our state by helping more Kansas children obtain a degree or job training. (Attachment 3)

Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development, submitted written testimony urging passage of **SB 225**, stating that the opportunity for higher education and the incentive this bill provides represents a valuable opportunity to invest in the future of the Kansas economy and its citizens. (Attachment 4)

Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, provided written testimony expressing the Board of Regents' support for **SB 225** to extend the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program to help low-income Kansans prepare for and pursue their higher education goals. (Attachment 5)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 11:45 a.m. on March 20, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, submitted written testimony in support of **SB 225** to continue the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program to help low-income individuals and families save for education and training, creating opportunities for them and for future generations. (Attachment 6)

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **SB 225** was closed.

Chairman Huntington then opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Palmer moved to recommend SB 225 favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Mah. Discussion ensued.

Representative McLeland offered a substitute motion to amend SB 225 on page 2, line 20, by inserting the word "accounts" after "1,200." Seconded by Representative Moxley, the motion carried.

Representative McLeland moved to amend SB 225 on page 2, line 23, by reinstating the sunset provision with a date of June 30, 2012. Seconded by Representative Rhoades, the motion failed.

Representative Rhoades moved to amend SB 225 by reinstating the language on page 3, lines 9 - 17, after "On or before January 15, 2009" on line 9. Seconded by Representative Tony Brown, the motion carried.

Representative Mah moved to strike the Senate amendment to SB 225 on page 2, lines 40-43, after "calendar year," on line 40, and on page 3, line 1, before "On or before." Seconded by Representative Moxley, the motion failed.

Representative Mah moved to recommend SB 225, as amended, favorably for passage. Seconded by Representative McLeland, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. This was the last scheduled meeting of the House Higher Education Committee for the 2009 Legislative Session.

HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE March 20, 2009

NAME	REPRESENTING
STEVE KEARNEY	KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN
April Holman	" "
Tara Gillum	State Treasurer's Office
Dennis McKinney	State Treasurer's Office
Berend Koops	Hein Law Firm

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Renae Jefferies, Assistant Revisor  
Date: March 20, 2009  
Subject: Senate Bill No. 225

SB 225 amends K.S.A. 75-650 concerning the Low-Income Family Postsecondary Savings Accounts Incentive Program which is designed to encourage low-income families to establish postsecondary savings accounts by providing state matches for contributions to such accounts. The state will match contributions up to \$600 annually. The program is administered by the State Treasurer.

On page one of the bill in lines 24 and 25, old language is struck and new language inserted to clarify that the qualifying household income would be from the tax year prior to the submitted application rather than the income at the time of application.

On page 2, lines six and seven provide that applications must be submitted each year using the applicants household income from the previous tax year. Additionally, subsection (e) was amended in lines 8 through 11 to strike language which allowed a participant once approved to continue to be approved upon application the following year as long as the participant's income was not more than 200% of the federal poverty level. Under the new language added to this subsection, beginning with the calendar year 2009, the Treasurer would approve no more than 1,200 applications each year. Three hundred applications may be approved from each congressional district. If less than 300 applications in a single congressional district are approved, then additional applications from the remaining districts may be approved. The applications would be approved on a first come, first served basis. The effect of the change to a first come, first serve basis could result in a participant from the previous year not being part of the program

if the participant is not in the first 1,200 approved applications. The language in lines 29 and 30 reemphasizes this intent.

By striking the language in line 23 providing that no applications shall be approved after June 30, 2009, the bill would extend the program indefinitely.

In subsection (g), line 36 inserts the language "state fiscal" before year. In lines 40 through 43 and including line one on page 3, the section (g) was amended to direct the State Treasurer to transfer matching funds from the state general fund to the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program in an amount not exceeding the maximum amount specified by an appropriation act for that state fiscal year.

On page 3, the Senate Committee on Education amended the bill to delete subsection (i) which required the State Treasurer to submit a report on the program to the Governor and Legislature on or before January 31 of each year..

The bill if passed would take effect upon publication in the statute book.

The fiscal note indicates that the bill if enacted would result in the State Treasurer receiving an annual transfer of up to \$720,000 from the state general fund each year for the program.



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STATE OF KANSAS  
**Dennis McKinney**  
TREASURER

PHONE: 785-296-3171  
FAX: 785-296-7950

Senate Bill 225

Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program

House Higher Education Committee

March 20, 2009

By

State Treasurer Dennis McKinney

Director of the Learning Quest Postsecondary Education Savings Program

The Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program was created as a three-year pilot program in 2006. It was assigned to the Treasurer's Office as part of the Learning Quest Education Saving Program. Senate Bill 225 is based on my recommendation to continue the program on a permanent basis providing a \$600 matching grant to up to 1200 participants each year. I have attached my report to the Legislature outlining the participation in the program during the three-year pilot period, and I would be glad to answer any questions you have about the data. The average income of the program's participants was \$26,550.

I am proud that Kansas is one of only 11 states with a matching grant for their 529 education savings program. Matching grant programs like K.I.D.S. ensure that participants at all income levels receive an incentive from the state when they save for their student's future. The tax deduction provided to all Kansas taxpayers who contribute their Learning Quest account is of less value to lower income Kansans who are taxed at a lower rate. Matching grant programs also help break the cycle of poverty by encouraging Kansas families to work hard and invest in education for themselves or their children. Preparing Kansans of all income levels to face the costs of education beyond high school at universities, technical colleges and community colleges also helps create the more educated work force that is necessary in today's economy.

The bill includes a few changes to how we would administer the program.

- Because the matching grant is paid based on the amount that participants contribute each calendar year, we should set the number of participants to be approved by

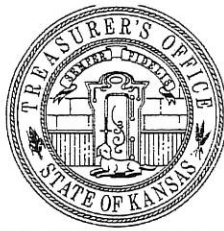
House Higher Education Committee  
March 20, 2009  
Attachment 2

calendar year. The state's matching grant payment will still be made once per fiscal year each January.

- Currently, a participant is considered the adult account owner allowing each account owner to receive one \$600 matching grant regardless of the number of children in the household. The \$600 can be divided into multiple accounts if the account owner chooses. We have found this feature to be confusing to applicants as well as cumbersome to administer. Most parents with multiple children want to treat them evenly. If this bill passes, we plan to amend the regulations for the program to change definition of "participant" from the account owner to the beneficiary whose higher education expenses can be paid from the account. This change would also carry with it the restriction that account owners would not be allowed to change the beneficiary for the account. The effect is that the state would be contributing for the education of a particular student instead of to an account owner who can change the beneficiary to any family member as defined by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The Treasurer's Office is willing to administer and promote this program within its existing resources without an appropriation from the State General Fund. We can also work with private sector partners to help market the program.
- Our office believes that the amendment proposed by the Senate beginning at page 2 line 40 subjecting the program to the annual appropriations process is unnecessary because the annual cost of the program can be controlled by the number of grants authorized by this bill and by placing an expenditure limit on the Postsecondary Education Savings Program Trust Fund that is used to distribute the matching grants.

I know that budgets are tight and that it is a difficult time to request to continue this program. However, I contend that now is not the time to give up on the notion that the state's taxpayers benefit when we enhance workforce development by helping place higher education within reach for every Kansan who is willing to work hard and invest for their children's future. Given the ever increasing cost of attending our regents universities, we must help those who can least afford tuition increases to plan for the future by saving today. My office is ready to work with any suggestions that you might have for improving this program.





STATE OF KANSAS

**Dennis McKinney**

TREASURER

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TOPEKA KS 66612-1235

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FAX: 785-296-7950

## **Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program**

### **Pilot Period Report**

January 15, 2009

#### **Program Objectives:**

The Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program is designed to promote workforce development with traditional Kansas values by providing an incentive for families to work hard, save, and invest in education. Preparing families for the cost of postsecondary education helps create the more educated work force that is necessary in today's economy. Incentives that help motivate families who are willing to work and invest in education will also assist many in breaking the cycle of poverty.

#### **Background:**

The Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program was created as a three year pilot program in 2006 with the passage of K.S.A 75-650 and assigned to the Treasurer's Office as part of the Learning Quest Education Saving Program. The first applications were accepted in August of 2006 after spending two months to implement regulations found in K.A.R. 3-4-1 to K.A.R. 3-4-7 and creating procedures for administering the accounts with our program manager, American Century Investments. The program was designed to focus on the account owner as the participant because account owners are the individuals who have control over education savings accounts established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

- Participants must be a Kansas resident, but they may select any beneficiary for the account. The designated beneficiary is the person whose higher education expenses can be paid from the account.
- Just like all 529 account owners, K.I.D.S. participants were given the right to choose their investment portfolio and can change the beneficiary to another family member at any time.
- The program looks to the household income in the participant's home and not the beneficiary's if they are different.
- Restrictions were placed on the accounts to ensure that only contributions by the participant qualify for the state's match of up to \$600.



- Participants are also required to show that they have incurred qualified higher education expenses before they are allowed to withdraw the state's matching contribution. A non-qualified withdrawal of the participant's contribution results in a forfeiture of the state's matching contribution.
- Each participant can only receive one \$600 matching grant, but they can choose to divide it into multiple accounts for multiple beneficiaries. Joint account owners can receive one \$600 matching grant for each joint account owner.

### **Participation:**

- **Totals:** Over the first three years of the program, 1111 participants have received a total of \$582,239.75 in matching grants for their contributions. 397 participants were approved for one year, 321 for two years and 34 for all three years. Matching contributions have been made to accounts for 862 beneficiaries.
- **FY07 Match:** In February of 2007, the state contributed \$43,278.15 to accounts for 93 beneficiaries based on the contributions by 84 participants from August 1 to December 31, 2006. Their average contribution was \$515. Their average household federal adjusted gross income was \$20,966 or \$24,795 if the participants with negative incomes are excluded with a mean of \$28,101.
- **FY08 Match:** In January of 2008, the state contributed \$274,715.84 to accounts for 611 beneficiaries based on contributions by 528 participants in calendar year 2007. Their average contribution was \$516. Their average household federal adjusted gross income was \$24,623 or \$27,287 if the participants with negative incomes are excluded with a mean of \$36,112.
- **FY09 Match:** In January of 2009, we will be contributing \$264,245.76 to accounts for 576 beneficiaries based on contributions by 499 participants in calendar year 2008. Their average contribution was \$531.86. Their average household federal adjusted gross income was \$25,474 or \$27,869 if the participants with negative incomes are excluded with a mean of \$34,582.

### **Effectiveness of the K.I.D.S. Program:**

Because 65% of the 862 of the accounts for K.I.D.S. beneficiaries were opened after the account owner applied for the K.I.D.S. program, we consider the account owners' participation in the program their as primary motivation to begin saving for postsecondary education expenses. Only 35% of the K.I.D.S. participants already had Learning Quest Education Savings Program accounts for their beneficiaries when they applied for the matching grant.

Adding the state's match to the participants' contributions allowed a total of \$1,160,451.50 to be set aside for the education of these students after high school.

35 beneficiaries have already withdrawn \$30,834.50 from the program to attend junior colleges, technical colleges and universities. One half of that amount or \$15,417.25 is the state's matching funds and the earnings in the state's match account. The other one half is the participants' contributions and their earnings. Even though the program is just in its third year, it has already made an impact by helping these families of limited means afford the costs of postsecondary education.

K.I.D.S. participants have also made significant contributions in addition to the amount that is eligible for the state's match. In 2006, 60% of the accounts for K.I.D.S. beneficiaries had contributions greater than their \$600 matching grant for total of \$51,114. In 2007, 42% of the accounts for K.I.D.S beneficiaries received contributions of \$200,146 more than their match, and in 2008 34% of the accounts for K.I.D.S. beneficiaries received excess contributions of \$169,215. The three year total of \$420,475 shows that this program has been a powerful incentive to encourage working families to save for their children's future beyond the level of the matching contribution provided by the state. Creating this type of positive investing and asset development behavior is precisely why this program was created.

### **Marketing:**


The program was allotted \$50,000 in FY2007 and FY2008 for administration and marketing. The Treasurer's Office has absorbed the soft administrative costs such as salaries and has spent all the funds on marketing and supplies. In the first year we promoted the program on the internet, and through flyers sent to schools and local SRS offices. Posters with detachable flyers were sent to all school counselors and principals, local SRS offices, health departments and local housing authorities in FY 2008. In September of 2007, we sent 193,000 postcards to Kansas families with dependents and with incomes close to the program's guidelines. This mailing could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the Department of Revenue, and it was largely responsible for the increased participation in 2007. The \$50,000 appropriation was eliminated in FY09. With the over 600% increase in participation between year one and year two, we believe the program would have reached the 1200 participant cap in its third year with appropriate marketing resources.

### **Recommendations:**

The Treasurer's Office recommends continuing the program with a few minor changes. We suggest changing the matching grant from one per participant/account owner to one per beneficiary. This would allow families with more than one child who are capable of investing more to receive additional matching funds. This would also spread available funds to more students if the program becomes full by preventing multiple account owners from receiving matching grant funds for the same beneficiary. We would prohibit the participant from changing the beneficiary to prevent multiple matching grants from being transferred to one beneficiary. These changes can be accomplished through rules and regulations.

The bill proposed by the Treasurer's office cleans up language in the current statute by limiting the number of participants by calendar year rather than by fiscal year to align it with the requirement to match their contributions from the previous calendar year each January.

# FISCAL FOCUS

Budget and Tax Policy in  Perspective

April Holman, Director of Economic Policy  
Kansas Action for Children  
Legislative Testimony – SB 225  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 20, 2009

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. On behalf of Kansas Action for Children (KAC) I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 225.

Kansas Action for Children is a not-for-profit child advocacy organization founded in 1979. For more than 30 years, KAC has worked with lawmakers on policy solutions that improve the lives of Kansas children and their families.

## **The KIDS Program**

The KIDS Program is a three-year pilot project designed to strengthen our future workforce and the availability of skilled workers in our state by helping more Kansas children obtain a degree or job training.

The KIDS program is a division of the state's Learning Quest program. As a public-private partnership, KIDS gives low-income Kansas families the opportunity to establish a 529 College Savings Plan, and encourages these families to save for their children's education by matching the first \$600 the families contribute to the 529 account in a year.

Children whose families earn 200% of poverty or less are eligible to save through the KIDS program. To ensure equal opportunity across the state and to encourage workforce development in rural areas, slots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis in each of the state's four Congressional Districts. The KIDS program is currently capped at 1,200 children. Right now, 515 children participate in the KIDS program.

## **Why should we renew the KIDS Program?**

- **Strengthens our workforce** - Right now, more than 250,000 Kansas children are growing up in low-income homes. Statistically, these children are less likely to achieve financial independence as adults, which creates a burden on our system. The KIDS Program is a low-cost way to ensure many of these children develop the skills they need to succeed in the workforce and become self-sufficient as adults.
- **Helps Kansas compete with overseas workforce** - As more and more employers require a skilled workforce, and we compete for jobs with workers in other countries, we simply cannot afford the likelihood that those children growing up in low-income homes - roughly one-third of our next generation - would be unprepared for the workforce.

- **Attracts new jobs to Kansas** - Employers cite a readily-available skilled workforce as a key factor in determining where to locate a business. With the KIDS program, we can grow the kind of skilled workforce we need to attract new employers to Kansas and provide the resources our existing employers need to remain competitive in a global economy.
- **Bolsters rural and smaller communities** – The geographic guidelines in place for the KIDS program provide an opportunity for small- and medium-sized communities to develop a highly-skilled local workforce. By encouraging these program participants, legislators can provide a long-term solution for attracting jobs and growing the local economies in these communities.
- **Fosters financial responsibility** – By providing incentive for low-income families to save, the KIDS program encourages healthy financial decisions that will ultimately help improve the economic conditions for Kansas families seeking to break the cycle of poverty.

### **What needs to happen to maintain the KIDS Program?**

To prevent expiration of the program, the Legislature would need to approve SB 225, a bill that authorizes continuation of the KIDS program and allows low-income Kansas families to continue saving for their children's education. The Senate Committee amended the bill to make funding for KIDS subject to appropriations. In order to fund the program fully, it would cost \$720,000 SGF. However, lawmakers would have control over how much of that amount, if any, would be available each year.

We urge you to pass SB 225 in order to maintain the KIDS Program and the important role it plays in preparing future generations for the workforce and fostering financial responsibility in Kansas.



## Background on the KIDS Matching Grant Program

### HISTORY OF PROGRAM

Spearheaded by former Rep. Ed O'Malley, the KIDS Matching Grant Program was approved by the Kansas Legislature in 2006 as a three-year pilot project. KIDS is limited to 1,200 participating children. To ensure equal opportunity across the state and to encourage workforce development in rural areas, slots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis in each of the state's Congressional Districts.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The KIDS Matching Grant is a division of the state's Learning Quest program. KIDS encourages low-income Kansas families to establish 529 College Savings Plans and to save for their children's education by matching the first \$600 a family contributes per year. Children whose families earn 200% of poverty or less are eligible to save through the KIDS program.

### WHY IS IT CRITICAL?

Right now, more than 250,000 Kansas children are growing up in low-income or poverty-stricken homes. Research tells us that when families struggle financially to meet basic needs, their children are less likely to succeed in school and less likely pursue higher education. As a state, we simply cannot afford for such a large segment of our next generation to be unprepared for the workforce. With the KIDS program, we can put college and job training opportunities in reach for more Kansas children. And, we can grow the kind of skilled workforce we need to meet the demands of a competitive and global economy.

## Strengthening our next workforce

When it comes to the Kansas economy, we have a lot of success stories to tell. Kansas has established itself as a world leader in aerospace technology, manufacturing and agriculture. All of these success stories have been made possible by a strong Kansas work ethic and a strong Kansas workforce.

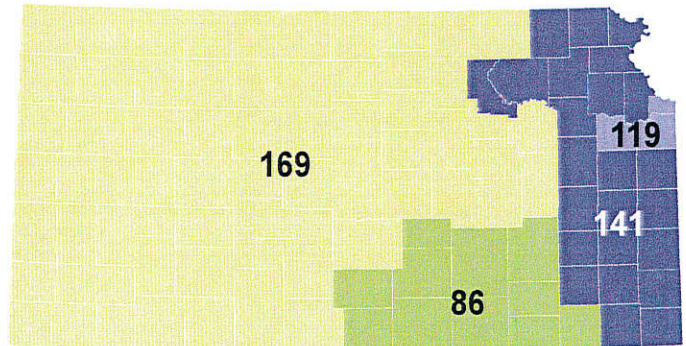
As we look for ways to strengthen our future economy, it's critical that we look toward resources proven to strengthen our next workforce.

Just as the G.I. Bill equipped veterans in the 1950s and 1960s with an education and job skills training to strengthen our nation's workforce. Today, the KIDS Program is creating opportunities for more children in working-class families to pursue the education resources they need to strengthen our workforce in Kansas.

### BUILDING A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

Maintaining existing industries and attracting new employers to our state will require a workforce that can meet the demands of a global and changing economy. In fact, employers cite the availability of a skilled workforce as the key

### CURRENT KIDS PARTICIPANTS BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Currently, 515 low-income Kansas families maintain a KIDS account. These families have saved more than \$260,000 toward their children's education.

factor in determining where to locate their businesses. By fostering opportunities – like the KIDS Program – for more Kansans to access higher education and job training programs, we can strengthen our state's workforce and increase the financial independence of our next generation.

### FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION

With a skilled workforce comes increased financial security for Kansas families, our communities and our state. Research tells us that, just 10 years out of high school, individuals with a bachelor's degree earn an average of 23% more than their peers with no college experience. By helping our next generation increase their earning power and job stability, we will broaden our tax base and improve the quality of life for Kansas families.



Founded in 1979, Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to shaping policy that improves the lives of Kansas children and their families.

# Kansas Partners in Asset Development

Working to Establish Opportunities for Kansas Families

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Testimony in support of Senate Bill 225

March 19, 2009

Members of the Committee:

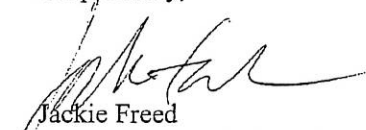
I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of SB 225. I am Jackie Freed and am representing the members of Kansas Partners in Asset Development. This coalition is comprised of 32 organizations representing social service agencies, disability advocates, educators, and private sector organizations, all of whom believe that in order for our state to thrive we must work to encourage financial stability and asset expansion for Kansas families. Kansas Partners for Asset Development firmly believes in the strength of Kansas families to achieve their financial goals; however we also acknowledge that at times families need a helping hand.

Kansas Partners in Asset Development encourages the passing of this legislation, to stabilize and increase earning potential for Kansas workers. Individuals who do not receive higher or technical education are quickly sliding in comparison to their counterparts. The Pew Research Foundation a non partisan think tank reported in 2008 that individuals without training beyond high school have seen a 16% drop in income status since 1970 whereas those who receive additional training have remained relatively consistent. Additionally, according to the same research those who have training beyond a high school diploma are less likely to experience financial difficulties. The KIDS program and its ability to encourage training beyond the halls of high schools will stabilize the financial situation of Kansas household and increase earning potential while decreasing severe financial hardships, when fewer Kansas families are forced to rely on programs such as food stamps, LIHEAP, SCHIP, and others all Kansans benefit.

Finally, during a difficult economic time families often feel discouraged by the market conditions and reduce investments or remove them entirely. The match provided by the KIDS program will incentivize higher education savings and encourage families to continue thinking about higher education goals even through our nation's economic recession. As we all well know the earlier savings begins the better the outcome, any time lost not thinking about long term financial goals can undermine the potential impact of the saving. Thus, now more than ever encouraging families to save for technical and higher education should be a priority for this body.

Kansas Partners in Asset Development and its organizations are enthused that this committee is considering Senate Bill 225 and urge the passage of this piece of legislation. The opportunity for higher education and the incentive that this bill provides represents a valuable opportunity to invest in the future of the Kansas economy and the citizens of this great state. By stabilizing income for families and increasing earning potential, the coffers of the State will reap the rewards of this investment in the future employees of this state.

Respectfully,



Jackie Freed  
Kansas Partners in Asset Development

House Higher Education Committee  
March 20, 2009  
Attachment 4



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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March 20, 2009

Representative Terrie Huntington, Chair  
House Higher Education Committee  
Docking S.O.B.  
Topeka, KS 66612

Representative Ann Mah, Ranking Member  
House Higher Education Committee  
Docking S.O.B.  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairwoman Huntington and Ranking Member Mah:

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, I write to you to express the Board's support for Senate Bill 225, legislation that would extend the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program.

The Board has long-supported the state's Learning Quest Program. As an advocate for higher education in Kansas, the Board is pleased to support programs, such as Learning Quest, and legislation, such as Senate Bill 225, that help Kansans to prepare for and pursue their higher education goals and dreams.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Board's support for Senate Bill 225.

Sincerely,

Reginald L. Robinson  
President and CEO

House Higher Education Committee  
March 20, 2009  
Attachment 5



March 20, 2009

The Honorable Terrie Huntington  
Chairwoman  
House Higher Education Committee  
915 SW Harrison Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: SB 225

Dear Chairwoman Huntington:

I would like to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 225, which continues the KIDS College Match Savings Program for post-secondary school expenses for low-income individuals and families. This saving program helps low-income individuals and families achieve greater economic security and stability. Lack of access to post-secondary education is a critical barrier preventing low-income individuals from building the personal and financial resources needed to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Higher education results in increased personal income, greater earning potential, and contributes to continued economic growth in Kansas. Asset development programs like this savings plan help move families on a path of self-sufficiency. The KIDS College Match Savings Program enables individuals and families to save for education and training, creating opportunities for them and for future generations.

Sincerely,



Don Jordan