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**Oral Testimony – Proponent**

House Education Committee

Senate Bill 123

March 14, 2023

Chair Thomas, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 123.

KNEA believes in equitable and affordable access to higher education. The rising costs of higher education has created a national crisis resulting from student loan debt.

KNEA also supports the men and women who serve our country in the armed forces. We recognize the nature of service that compels most military families to be stationed at multiple places throughout their careers and the impact it has on permanent residency. As a result, military families can often find themselves in an inequitable situation when accessing higher education at the same rate as non-military families in the same community.

Senate Bill 123 attempts to address this inequity.

We understand that this legislation would initially lower revenue for institutions of higher education in Kansas but are hopeful that it will ultimately result in increased enrollment by creating student opportunities that may have been considered unaffordable.

KNEA thanks the champions of this legislation and supports its passage.

Thank you for your time.