



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Neutral Testimony on SB 78 For the Senate Education Committee

February 7, 2025

**Blake Flanders
President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents**

Good afternoon, Chair Erickson, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written neutral testimony on SB 78 on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents.

SB 78 proposes several new requirements related to accreditation for Kansas postsecondary institutions. The bill would require institutions to regularly review and update their policies and practices on accreditation. By the end of 2025, SB 78 would require institutions to identify accrediting agencies or associations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and ensure the institution's policies would permit pursuit of accreditation by any appropriate accreditor. The bill also establishes protections for institutions regarding compliance with state law and provides legal recourse for institutions should an accrediting agency take adverse action based on such compliance.

The Board of Regents acknowledges the importance of accreditation in ensuring academic quality and institutional accountability. Kansas institutions currently maintain accreditation through recognized accrediting bodies, and I am not aware of any existing concerns that would necessitate a change in current practice. While SB 78 allows institutions to seek accreditation from an alternative accreditor, it is unlikely that institutions will exercise this option given the stability and established relationships with current accreditors.

From a fiscal standpoint, SB 78 is not expected to have a significant financial impact. Kansas institutions already have policies in place regarding accreditation, and the requirement for regular review aligns with existing practices. Any costs associated with compliance are expected to be minimal.

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The Board of Regents appreciates the Legislature's attention to accreditation and institutional oversight. We remain committed to ensuring that Kansas postsecondary institutions continue to meet rigorous academic standards while maintaining compliance with state and federal requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.