

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 17
WRITTEN ONLY
PROPONENTTESTIMONY HB2195

Chairman Billinger and Committee Members, thank you for allowing us to provide testimony today. Our four-community coalition, representing Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka and Lawrence, are writing today to voice support of HB2195. United we represent the interests of nearly 3,500 business and 600,000 in our respective communities.

Our regional legislative agenda focuses on workforce development, technical colleges, and childcare. The technical colleges priority reads; *When it comes to training our next workforce and attracting more skilled jobs to our state, Kansas technical colleges are at the forefront. For more than 50 years, our state's technical colleges have trained and prepared students to meet the ever-changing demands of today's employers. Support measures to spur an increase in career, technical, and trade education in the region access.*

To adequately support this priority there are several components, education being one of them. We are passionate about the career technical college system as it is a nimble and agile industry that creates substantial economic benefits. These institutions often pivot themselves to fulfil the needs of our local economies, engaging with stakeholders in business they curate programs to fill market demands. In a time when labor is challenging, these institutions are crucial to developing our talent pipeline. The impact of CTE programs on state economies is not just a theory; it has truly materialized in our communities. States have gained a competitive advantage by investing in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

We ask you to take our position into full consideration and encourage the committee to move HB2195 forward.

Respectfully submitted by:

Juliet Abdel, MS, IOM
President
Greater Topeka Chamber
On Behalf of M.E.T.L. Coalition

METL

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A coalition of local Chambers of Commerce