



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE February 8, 2012

Testimony In Support of House Bill 2620

Kathy Howell Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Good morning Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Kathy Howell and I serve as Chair of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority) and CEO of St. Lukes South Hospital in Overland Park, Kansas. I am here on behalf of the Authority and my employer to express support for House Bill 2620.

In 2007 the Kansas Legislature enacted legislation which created the Authority, and in 2011 enacted Senate Bill 143 that provides a systematic uniform approach and structure for funding technical education and a framework for a tiered technical education funding approach with rates established by program delivery costs. This systematic change provides a forward-looking approach resulting in an equitable, coherent funding structure and long-term system incentives for the production of a high wage Kansas workforce

House Bill 2620 provides a structure to allow more high school students to receive industry-recognized credentials upon graduation by providing support for the tuition of students in high school and offering an incentive to the school district for each student receiving an industry-recognized certificate in a high demand occupational area.

Saint Luke's Health System currently employs approximately 9,500 employees, of which 2,533 work and/or live in the State of Kansas. We have found that approximately 50% of our employees require some level of technical credentialing.

As part of the enabling legislation establishing the Authority (K.S.A. 72-4482), the legislative charge to "coordinate the development of a seamless system for the delivery of technical education between the secondary-school level and the postsecondary-school level". House Bill 2620 will assist the Authority to increase the coordination between each educational level and will truly be a "system approach" to the delivery of career technical education.

In summary, the Authority supports House Bill 2620. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will be happy to answer any questions.