



**Testimony Re: Sub SB 393
House Education Committee
Presented by Neeley Carlson
on behalf of
Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association
March 6, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Neeley Carlson, I am the VP of Education & Training for the Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association Educational Foundation. I also serve on the Kansas Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education for the Kansas Department of Education. I am submitting written testimony in support of Sub SB 393.

KACCTE is comprised of industry leaders representing each of the 16 career clusters recognized by KSDE. These industry representatives have worked to identify the knowledge and skill sets needed so that students participating in these programs will be college and career ready. Industry has also worked with KSDE staff to identify industry recognized certificates and certifications.

It is exciting to see that discussions are being had about the positive impact that Career & Technical Education (CTE) has on students and the development of our states workforce. These programs provide a path for students to be college and career ready. It is important for everyone to recognize that post-secondary education includes apprenticeships, technical college, community colleges, as well as the traditional four year institutions. Not all of the jobs in our state require a four year degree. In some career fields it is important for us to identify stackable credentials that allow students to fill high need jobs while continuing their education and working towards the next step in their profession.

Requiring the development of statewide articulation agreement is a positive change. However, if we are going to go through this process it is important to ensure the agreements have some sustenance to them. There needs to be more to the agreement than the school will allow the student to apply to their program. Post-secondary institutions should be encouraged to look at industry certifications and incorporate these into the articulation process.

We would ask the committee to consider altering new sec. 2 (a) in which the school receives an incentive in the amount of \$1,000 for each pupil who graduates with an industry-recognized credential for high need occupations. As currently written, schools can use these funds for any expenses occurred in operating the school. It would seem more appropriate to require the \$1,000 be used to support the CTE program that the student was participating in. If the CTE program is being conducted by the school district, the incentive should stay in the CTE budget.

The original proposal had designated funds that would be used to promote career & technical education in our state. Perhaps this section is still included in the bill and I was not able to identify it. Many individuals do not see career & technical education as a pathway to a

successful career. As a state we need to ensure all departments are working together to promote the importance of CTE training and the career opportunities that come from it. Having funds designated to assist with this process will help create a consistent message.

As more data is gathered, the impact and return on investment of CTE in terms of student achievement is clear. Students in CTE programs have a higher-than-average high school graduation rate. Students concentrating on CTE programs in high school are more likely to attend college and stay there to graduate. Seventy-nine percent of CTE concentrators enrolled in postsecondary education within 2 years of high school graduation

The passage of Sub SB 393 identifies the importance of CTE in Kansas. This will bring a positive change to the current system. I would like to ask this committee to support the passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.