

House Taxation Committee

House Bill 2433: Income tax credit for certain tuition and related expenses paid to an educational institution located in Kansas

Linda Fund, Executive Director

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Good afternoon Chairman Carlson and members of the House Committee. The Kansas Community Colleges, through their trustee association, KACCT, support allowing a credit against the Kansas tax liability of a resident in an amount equal to 10% of the amount of the credit against such taxpayer's federal income tax liability if paid to an eligible educational institution located in the state of Kansas.

If our economy is to rebound and grow, the community colleges recognize the importance of incenting students to obtain work skills and education.

- Sixty four percent of all jobs in Kansas (1 million jobs) will require some postsecondary training beyond high school in 2018. Between 2008 and 2018, Kansas will create 482,000 job vacancies both from new jobs and from job openings due to retirement;
- 301,000 of these job vacancies will be for those with postsecondary credentials.

There is a burgeoning demand by employers for workers with high levels of education and training. Georgetown's calculations show that America's colleges and universities would need to increase the number of degrees they confer by 10 percent annually, a tall order. (*Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018*, Anthony Carnivale, Georgetown University, Center for Education and Workforce Development, June 2010).

Our grandparents' economy, which promised well-paying jobs for anyone who graduated from high school will soon be altogether gone. Between 1973 and 2008, the share of jobs in the U.S. economy which required postsecondary education increased from 28 percent to 59 percent. Over the next decade, the share of jobs requiring postsecondary education will increase from 59 to 63 percent. High school graduates and dropouts will find it more difficult to find jobs.

We support incentives to educate our residents to obtain workforce skills and post-secondary education to help our citizens and our economy.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this legislation.