Education that goes to work.

March 6, 2013

Chair Kleeb
Vice Chair Suellentrop
Ranking Minority Member Frownfelter
Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

RE: Sub 2027 negotiation of working conditions under the Professional Negotiations Act

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, I speak as a proponent of Sub for HB 2027. Our colleges, for quite some time, have been covered under current law and negotiate contracts for our teachers under the Professional Negotiations Act. We appreciate the flexibility you are discussing. However, we do seek an important amendment of section 1 (c). Currently under subsections b and c of K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 72-5413, community colleges are included in the definition of "board of education" **and** "professional employee".

Sub 2027 Section 1 includes community colleges in the definition of Board of Education in (b), but eliminates community colleges in (c) defining professional employees. This occurs when the words "or employed by a board of education in a professional, educational or instructional capacity" are struck. Our teachers are not licensed by the State Board of Education and this change would set up a conflict within the bill and within other definitions currently in statute like K.S.A. 72 -5436 which includes "any teacher or instructor in any area vocational-technical school or community college" in the continuing contract law.

We are asking for a minor amendment to (c) to include the wording "or employed by a board of trustees of a community college in an instructional position." We believe this minor, but important, amendment can avoid conflicting definitions and still serve the intent of narrowing (c).

Thank you very much for your consideration. I would be glad to stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Fund, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

House Commerce & Economic Development Committee
Date:_____3·6·13_____
Attachment #:_____6_____