



**House Education Committee
Representative Kelley , Chair
SB 128 – Career Technical Education**

March 11, 2013

*Submitted by: Diane Gjerstad
Wichita Public Schools*

Madame Chair, members of the committee:

We rise in support of SB 128 which would widen the window of time for high school students to successfully earn an industry recognized certificate.

These are exciting times for Career & Technical Education (CTE) and the bill today will allow more students to meet the goal of obtaining an industry recognized certificate. Governor Brownback's Career & Technical Education (CTE) initiative last session, SB 155, is and continues to be very successful. School districts and post-secondary institutions are engaged in conversations to expand student participation in CTE programs and smoothly merge high school coursework with post-secondary programs. The conversations between school districts, area technical colleges and community colleges are building stronger career-based pathways for students.

Last year's SB 155 has increased awareness and interest in postsecondary technical education programs. The tuition assistance funded in the Governor's budget is critical if we are to increase the number of students who receive an industry recognized certificate. SB 155 has removed the financial barrier which prohibited many families from considering Wichita Area Technical College or a community college for their student after high school. The \$1000 incentive, when a student is successful receiving a certificate, will provide needed funding to expand and develop programs categorized as "high demand" (list is attached) by the Kansas Department of Labor.

One of the barriers this bill would help address are the age requirements for some certifications, including commercial driver's license (CDL) and emergency medical technician (EMT). The bill also allows time during the summer for students to complete high school diploma requirements and sit for the industry certification exam. SB 128 provides a wider window of time to complete the requirements and test.

Madame Chair, we encourage the committee to approve SB 128 favorably. Thank you for your time and support of this very positive program for our students and their careers.