



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 4, 2015

Testimony Regarding HB 2266

Chairman Highland and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony concerning HB 2266.

HB 2266, as introduced, would require the Board of Regents, as well as the governing boards of Washburn University, each community college and each technical college, to adopt a policy concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking involving a student. The Bill would require that this policy include a number of specific standards and address a number of listed items. The Bill also would require implementation of comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Based on the premise of providing equal access to educational opportunities, benefits and programs, higher education institutions that receive Title IV financial aid on behalf of their students must comply with Title IX and Office of Civil Rights requirements related to receiving, investigating and resolving claims of sexual violence, violence between those in an intimate relationship and stalking. These requirements and others include provisions in the Violence Against Women Act, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act. The Board of Regents requires each state university to comply with these and all other federal laws applicable to the universities due to their receipt of federal funds, and each university actively and continuously takes the steps necessary to achieve such compliance.

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Aside from these federal requirements, public higher education institutions in Kansas have long been concerned with the safety of their students. A myriad of comprehensive policies and procedures are currently in place to address sexual assault and other criminal activity that may impact the safety and well-being of students. The following are links to state university websites that contain such policies and procedures. Please note that this is only a very small sampling of the information that is available at each institution, on their websites and elsewhere, with regard to this topic.

- <http://www.emporia.edu/student-wellness/counseling-services/thrive/sexual-violence-prevention/know-your-rights.html>
- <http://www.fhsu.edu/policies/student-affairs/>
- <http://www.k-state.edu/policies/ppm/3000/3010.html>
- <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/campus-life/reporting-sexual-assault/policy-on-sexual-misconduct-and-relationship-violence.dot>
- <http://policy.ku.edu/IOA/sexual-harassment>
- http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=sexualassault&p=/about_care

Each state university also has existing prevention and outreach programs to assist students to protect themselves, know their rights and responsibilities, report any violations, and to deal with related trauma and other ramifications associated with incidents of sexual and relationship violence. These programs address the items listed in HB 2266 and more.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2266 and to provide you with information on what is already being done on state university campuses to address these very serious concerns.