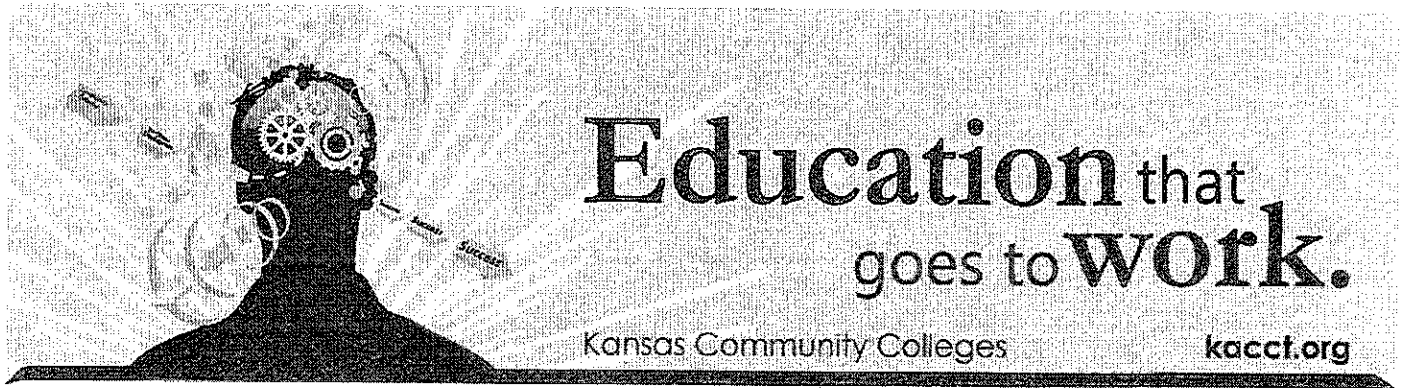




Chair Highland, Ranking Minority Member Winn, Members of the Committee

My name is Linda Fund, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas community colleges in opposition to SB 193.

Our colleges believe in transparency and providing affordable accessible higher education whether for students to transfer on to the universities or as a technical degree or certificate to enter the workforce. We are very open about our tuition costs, our fees, and believe working individually with our students and parents is one of our great strengths. A sixty hour two-year Associate Degree will cost an average of \$4,500 in tuition and fees at our colleges.

Community College Students

- 60% of our students are transfer students who do not have majors but they do intend to transfer to a four year university where they will have majors.
- Two of the three main degrees we offer – Associate of Arts and Associate of Science, provide general education for students to transfer on to the universities. We provide information on what students should take to transfer on in the field they choose, but this is the first two years of general education with no finite major.

Therefore, we do not believe a degree prospectus as described in this bill for these degrees will provide any helpful information to students, parents or taxpayers. The costs for these students are provided by each college and are compiled in one place, the Kansas Association of Community College Business Officers report housed on the KBOR website at

http://www.kansasregents.org/resources/KACCBO_FINAL_ENRL_FINANCE_REPORT_2015.pdf.

- 40% of our students receive our third main degree, the Associate of Applied Science, where there are majors that result in certification or licensure and we already have a Report by the Board of Regents called the Kansas Training Information Program (KTIP) that shows:
Academic Discipline Program Name Award;
CIP Code;

Total # Declared Majors;

Total # Concentrators (students identified as technical program majors who have completed at least 12 credit hours of technical coursework in the same program area);

Total # Graduates;

Total # Pursuing Additional Education;

Total # Concentrators Exiting & Employed;

Total # Graduates Exiting & Employed (employed (in military service, apprenticeships, or employed in the workforce) by the end of the 2nd quarter following the end of the academic year);

Average Wage: Graduates Exiting and Employed (Wages are calculated on an annual basis as reported by students during the follow-up surveys conducted by the institution and/or reported through a review of the unemployment insurance files provided by the Kansas Department of Labor as available.)

For example, this report shows that at Neosho Community College offers Health Science, Registered Nursing which results in an Associate degree. In 2013, they had 186 declared majors in this field, 183 concentrators (students identified as technical program majors who have completed at least 12 credit hours of technical coursework in the same program area), 106 graduates exited and were employed at the average salary rate of \$42,457, and 72 are pursuing additional education.

KTIP also reports on Program Performance by Career Cluster/Academic Discipline.

In addition to this, much of what is requested under SB 193 can be provided without any additional cost to our colleges or the State by promoting and using the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics website called the **College Navigator**.

It is a free tool for students and parents that allows them to search the database of nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States. As you navigate the college decision process, the U.S. Department of Education provides tools for you and your family to make it easy to compare important information such as tuition, fees and estimated student expenses, average student loan debt, retention and graduation rates and cohort default rates across different institutions.

By using the **Net Price Calculator** one can explore the net price of any given college - that is, the price after subtracting the scholarships and grants one is likely to receive. Then, one can easily compare estimated net prices across the institutions being considered. This is at <http://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>.

In addition, each college has on their website, information on tuition fees, and financial aid. In addition, each is required by various levels of government and agencies to post information. For instance, Neosho has a sheet of Student "Right to Know" Information required by federal regulation as well as an Institutional Compliance Information webpage.

All of this information is already accumulated and exists without any extra cost to the State or to the colleges. All of our colleges do not have Institutional Research staff. If you choose to require the prospectus detail, rather than to use the information already available, in order to comply, we need about \$50,000 (salary & benefits, set up) per college to do what is requested under the bill.
(\$50,000 x 19= \$950,000)

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this information on SB 193.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda J. Fund, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community Colleges