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• Quality Learning Opportunities

January 19, 2016

Chairman Grosserode & Members of the House Education Budget Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the nineteen member community colleges, I provide this written testimony to support inclusion of Johnson County Community Colleges in HB 2483.

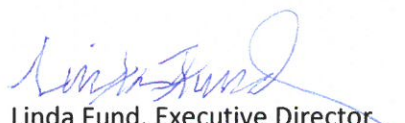
Our colleges help remove barriers to students taking the GED exam. Community Colleges have always focused on ending poverty, turning tax consumers into tax payers. Through our GED programs we reach many people throughout the State who are at the lowest level of educational attainment and may find themselves consuming state resources for their existence.

We believe Johnson County was left out of the original bill because it had another bill running at the same time on another issue that did not come to fruition. This bill provides a capped funding for our colleges us to find residents who need high school equivalency through marketing dollars, and also helps the students pay for the \$150 exam which can be a stumbling block for our poorest Kansans. It incentivizes colleges to get these students through the system with the \$500 reward if the GED is completed, but more importantly, it incentivizes us to get them certified in a technical career path such as welding or nurses' aid and enter the workforce.

If we take someone without even a diploma and help turn them into a certified welder – the likelihood of them returning to poverty is greatly reduced. This makes a difference for them as well as their family.

This program is a good thing for Kansas and for Kansans and we ask that Johnson County Community College be allowed to participate.

Sincerely,



Linda Fund, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees