

Connor England
2027 SW Lane St,
Topeka, KS 66604

To Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in favor of SB 470 – an act establishing the intercollegiate adaptive sport grant program.

The past several years have given me the chance to see what an incredible thing adaptive sports programs can be to the lives of Americans affected with disabilities. Adapted sports have brought community, opportunity, and meaning to many across the nation, and it is the perfect time for Kansas to do its part in expanding upon the legacy of ADA and further legislation.

I am in favor of SB 470 because of the profound impact adaptive sports can have on a person's life, particularly in periods of growth. I have met many student-athletes who have stated that adapted athletics programs made all the difference in their lives, and it is for this reason that I have pushed for growth of such programs across the United States. Instituting these programs will create opportunities for Kansans with disabilities to be physically active and mentally engaged while pursuing a college degree. I have seen firsthand the exchange of students from one program to another, often across state lines, and can say with confidence that strength in this domain would bring new students to our great state. Let Kansas be their springboard for prosperity. Let new citizens help our communities flourish.

I ask for your support on SB 470 to help our state create the opportunities of a lifetime for students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connor England". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Connor R. England

Vice President, American Collegiate Society for Adapted Athletics