



• Responsive • Affordable • Accessible
• Quality Learning Opportunities

March 1, 2016

Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Calvert, President of Pratt Community College.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Our colleges educate more students than any other higher education sector. We are efficient and affordable for our students and parents, and we are very responsive to our local taxpayers who support the bulk of the education happening at our colleges. We taught 123,000 students in 2014. (KBOR

http://www.kansasregents.org/resources/Enrollment_Report_Presentation_2015.pdf)

We get very bright students, we get students needing remediation, and we give students who might not have a chance to get an education or skill any other way, because of the inability to relocate geographically or the inability to commute, or to afford tuition at a four year university, the chance to move up and earn a good living for themselves and their families.

There is only one higher education institutional type that is statutorily prohibited from teaching courses in certain counties in Kansas and getting paid for it, and that type is community colleges. That statute, K.S.A. 71-609, has been in place since 1973. The candid truth is, our colleges want an equal footing because of behavior which has occurred.

Service areas were community college gentlepersons' agreements not to offer courses in another community college's area. Our service areas cover the state except for Regent Universities' home counties which by statute, includes Saline County. It turns out, universities have service areas, too. But they take up the whole state, including community college home taxing districts and their service areas, except for Washburn who has Shawnee county. That works fairly well if they aren't soliciting our students until those students are ready to transfer. Or better yet, if they are working with us in partnerships to create pathways for students or a "Through in Three Program" or 2 + 2 program.

This year, our colleges' students, specifically those in south central Kansas, who are concurrently high school students taking college courses, are being aggressively solicited by a major public university who was given approval by the Board of Regents to charge \$100 per course (whether three hours or five hours) and then that university has offered to scholarship that \$100 to any student on free or reduced lunches. Those students are in community college service areas, and home taxing districts.

We have raised this problem with the Board of Regents' CEO. Seeing no relief, we therefore are here today asking you to give us the right to protect our students and school districts from this aggressive solicitation. Based upon comments made by that university's CEO, we have reason to believe it is not only our concurrent enrollments that are at risk. Our Presidents have spoken with that CEO, but there has been no relief or expressed desire to partner.

We believe that by partnering with universities, we can have the very best environment for higher education certificates and degrees and in fact, help KBOR reach its goal of 60% of Kansans credentialed or degreed by 2020. Moving students from one sector to another will not accomplish that goal. Gutting community college enrollments will not help with that goal.

All we are asking, is an equal footing. Colleges and universities should ask and be granted permission before they come into our service area to offer what we are already offering. Or, we shouldn't have to ask to go into their main campus or home county. It all works if the university doesn't come after the high school or freshman and sophomore students that we work so diligently with to ensure success. This bill is a compromise, which asks that we be afforded the same rights that universities have been given. We would ask that the four balloon amendments on the attached copy of the bill be added for clarity. We would appreciate your favorable consideration and passage of SB 420 with balloon amendments.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the community colleges,

Dr. Michael Calvert, on behalf of Kansas Community Colleges and KACCT
President, Pratt Community College

SENATE BILL No. 420

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-8

AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to state funding for community colleges; amending K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 71-609 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 71-609 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-609. (a) ~~No amount of state funding shall be based upon enrollment in any subject or course the principal part of which is taught at a location outside the county of the main campus of the community college, unless the location of such subject or course is specifically authorized by the state board of regents.~~

(b) (1) No amount of state funding shall be based upon enrollment in any subject or course which is taught in a county in which the main campus of a state educational institution is located, unless the teaching of such subject or course is specifically authorized by the chief executive officer of the state educational institution or by a designee of the chief executive officer. The chief executive officer of each state educational institution may designate and authorize a person or committee to act on behalf of the chief executive officer in granting the authorizations required by this subsection.

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(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "main campus of a state educational institution" as applied to Kansas state university of agriculture and applied science means and includes the campus of the university located in Riley county and the campus of the university's college of technology located in Saline county.

(b) No postsecondary course in which secondary students may be enrolled shall be offered when such course is offered by a state educational institution, technical college, Washburn university or the institute of technology at Washburn in the county of the main campus of a community college or in the service area of a community college, unless such course is specifically authorized by the chief executive officer of such community college.

community college,

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 71-609 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.