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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 47 Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas Senate Education Committee February 18, 2019

Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Mike Gibson and I am the Executive Vice President of Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas. On behalf of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas, "The Chamber of Commerce for the Kansas Construction Industry" in representing 325 Kansas construction firms and their 9,000 employees", we support SB 47 and its goal to establish alternative education path for Kansans.

Over the last decade AGC of Kansas has invested over \$ 3 million in three layers of workforce development;

- **Built an Open-Access curriculum**
- **Built a network of 125 community level training partners, and;**
- **Built a job placement platform.**

I would like to hand out a "Build Up Kansas" – www.buildupks.com brochure to help illustrate how this scholarship program and our effort fit well together. Build Up Kansas is both the culmination of this effort and an external tool we are using to reach Kansans who want to build a meaningful professional career.

SB 47 would allow for a Kansas student to have currently appropriated dollars follow them to a place where they may find a more productive career path for them as an individual. By receiving a certificate or beginning a path toward a stacked degree, students who want to work with their hands can earn money while they earn a career. Our Build Up Kansas program is an effort to show both Kansas students and families a financially meaningful path forward.

Keep in mind, Build Up Kansas is the broadest private sector educational effort in Kansas. We are working with 125 Kansas high-schools, vo-techs, community colleges, Kansas State, Pittsburg State, Ft. Hays State as well as the Kansas Department of Corrections to promote and place candidates in the many professional careers in the construction industry.

Economist's predictions tell us there will be a need for over 25,000 employees in our industry over the next few years in Kansas alone.

Scholarship efforts like Senate Bill 47 offer more personal flexibility so individuals can find a meaningful professional career. Thank you for your leadership in Kansas and for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts.

Mike Gibson
Executive Vice President

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