



**Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Association**

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March 9, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Randy Stookey, JD, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: **Proponent Written Joint Testimony on HB 2515, creating the Kansas promise scholarship program.**

Chairwoman Baumgardner and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2515. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the biofuels processing industry in Kansas.

Our associations broadly represent the Kansas agribusiness industry, which provides good paying careers for people in every corner of the state. There is an on-going demand in the agribusiness industry for a trained, skilled, labor force, including the skills and training that are provided by our state's community colleges and technical schools.

We understand the intent of House Bill 2515 is to provide scholarship opportunities for students attending Kansas community colleges and technical schools, to provide the necessary skills and training needed for today's careers and encourage workforce participation. Our industries support efforts to promote a ready workforce with the necessary skills and competency. For that reason, we support and promote vocational and technical training programs which introduce people to various vocational opportunities.

House Bill 2515 encourages participation in vocational and technical training programs, and provides the necessary financial assistance for many people seeking to improve their lives by growing their individual skillset. The bill - which passed the House with 116 members voting favorably for passage - represents sound public policy for promoting workforce training and engagement. For these reasons, we stand in strong support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2515. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.