



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2515
For the Senate Education Committee
March 9, 2020
Matt Lindsey
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chair Baumgardner and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony related to House Bill 2515.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the twenty independent colleges of Kansas, all of which are not-for-profit institutions of higher education, all of which offer undergraduate degrees, all of which have their principal campus in Kansas, all of whom are regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and all of whom maintain an open enrollment policy consistent with Kansas statutes.

The state of Kansas, via the Kansas Board of Regents, has specific obligations governing “private and out-of-state” educational institutions, per the Private and Out-of-State Post-Secondary Educational Institutions Act (K.S.A. 74-32,162 and subseq). All twenty KICA institutions are exempt from that statute. Thus, for the independent members of KICA, KBOR has no governing role (as it does for the six 4-year Regents universities), coordinating role (as it does for the community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn University) nor regulatory role (as it does for any for-profit college or college based outside of Kansas that wishes to operate here). Furthermore, KICA institutions do not receive any direct institution funding from the state of Kansas, as befits our independent status.

KICA supports the intent of HB 2515. We agree with the bill’s sponsors that the State can and should do more to support Kansans pursuing some form of post-secondary credential as a means to enhancing their employability and lifetime earnings.

We are grateful that the House amended the original version of the bill to ensure that associate’s degree and technical degree programs at accredited non-profit colleges in Kansas are included as eligible programs for students to receive support through the Promise Act in Section 1(D). We also are grateful that Section 5 includes further enrollment in a public or private postsecondary institution based in Kansas as an option for meeting the requirements of receiving the scholarship. In both cases, the bill recognizes that Kansas’ independent colleges are part of the educational and economic development policy landscape.

On the second page of this testimony is a list of KICA institutions with degree programs relevant to this bill and the number of credentials awarded last year.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your deliberation. If the committee has further questions, I am happy to follow up.

Data on KICA Institutions:

For the committee's reference, here are the number of associate's degrees and certificates awarded by KICA institutions during the 2018-2019 academic year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). Nine institutions are not listed here as they do not award either type of credential.

Institution	Associate's	Certificates
Baker University	20	0
Barclay College	8	0
Central Christian College of Kansas	22	0
Donnelly College	47	43
Hesston College	98	0
Manhattan Christian College	10	0
MidAmerica Nazarene University	18	31
Newman University	38	0
Ottawa University	0	11
Southwestern College	0	15
Tabor College	1	0
TOTAL	262	100