



COWLEY COLLEGE

Date: May 15, 2020
To: Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee
From: Jessica Lucas, Cowley College Government Affairs Liaison
Re: Inclusion of Community Colleges in Liability Protection Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the proposed language related to liability protection due to COVID-19. Cowley College offers our support with one technical addition: changing the definition of person in New Section 1(i) to read as “Person” means an individual, association, for-profit or nonprofit entity, *agency of the State and affiliated controlled corporations thereof, local unit of government*, religious organization, or charitable organization.

Cowley College has worked from the beginning of this pandemic to appropriately adjust our operations to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and the public, while continuing to offer our students the quality education they expected. This included rapid systemwide changes to transition to virtual instruction for many classes, but notably, changes that also enabled the continuation of face-to-face coursework for technical courses. With careful planning and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Kansas, we’ve been able to reduce class sizes to fewer than ten for our highly technical instruction that simply can’t be delivered through an online setting (welding, non-destructive testing, etc.). Making this adjustment kept students on track to complete their degrees within their planned timeline.

Cowley College has worked diligently during this time to aid our students and the community as we deal with the effects of the virus. We’ve made housing transitions, altered dining services, acquired (and continue to acquire) personal protective equipment, integrated screening procedures, increased the numbers of employees teleworking, changed our course delivery, and implemented summer and fall enrollment recruitment plans, all in the face of many unknowns. During this time, we’ve done our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in every endeavor, but we remain concerned about potential exposure and liability that could be incurred despite our best efforts to mitigate all risk.

We appreciate your consideration. For more information, contact: Jessica Lucas for Cowley College. 620-931-7161 / jessica@wsks.us