



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2626  
For the House Appropriations Committee  
March, 17, 2022**

**Matt Lindsey  
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chair Waymaster and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written-only proponent testimony related to House Bill 2626.

**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.

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).

**Response to HB 2626:**

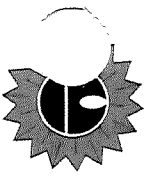
Teacher education has been and continues to be a mainstay of the educational offerings at KICA institutions. In many cases, KICA's colleges were founded initially to train two types of professionals: ministers and teachers. That priority remains today.

- 16 of the 20 non-profit colleges and universities in KICA offer undergraduate degrees in teacher education, with more than 1,300 students enrolled in those programs each year.
- Last year, KICA awarded 474 bachelor's degrees in education. 20% of the new teachers who earn bachelor's degrees in the state come from KICA institutions, even though we only have 12% of the total enrollment.
- Each year, nearly 200 of our teacher education graduates are accept positions at Kansas schools.

The teacher education students at KICA institutions have been recipients of the state's Teacher Education Service Scholarship. In 2019-2020, KICA students were awarded \$311,700 in state funds from this scholarship. Page 2 has a chart showing the amount received and number of students supported at each KICA institution with a teacher education program.

We believe strongly that more investment from all parties in critical to grow the teacher education workforce in Kansas. This is especially true for high-need rural and urban communities and in high-need areas such as special education and STEM and computer science instruction. Investing in the Teacher Education Service Scholarship as proposed in HB 2626 would represent an important tool in achieving that growth. As such, we offer our strong support for the passage of HB 2626.

Appropriations Committee  
Date 3-17-22  
Attachment 1



<b>KICA Institution</b>	<b>Amount, 2019-20</b>
Baker University	\$35,994
Barclay College	\$22,144
Bethany College	\$5,536
Bethel College	\$11,072
Central Christian College of Kansas	\$11,072
Friends University	\$29,900
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$16,608
McPherson College	\$2,214
MidAmerica Nazarene University	\$5,536
Newman University	\$131,759
Ottawa University	\$7,197
Southwestern College	\$5,539
Sterling College	\$5,536
Tabor College	\$16,057
University of Saint Mary	\$5,536