



COWLEY COLLEGE

Date: February 17, 2021
To: Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Commerce Committee
From: Jessica Lucas, Cowley College Government Affairs Liaison
Re: Support of HB 2287

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act is a tool to aid the lower-middle-class families that community colleges want to serve but for whom the cost can often be a barrier to access education, the most reliable means to increase an individual's lifetime earning power.

We urge the advancement of the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. Kansas is a varied state. Our regions depend on different talent sectors to meet area businesses' needs; we appreciate this bill's ability to meet statewide and regional workforce needs.

Cowley College is excited about the opportunities the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act presents for prospective students in our service area. Throughout its 99-year history, Cowley College has always been a "can-do" institution. We're proud of our work to match our area's workforce needs with skilled employees we're training at Cowley College and appreciate the recognition by the bill's sponsors that additional financial tools would aid our efforts. Our college, and our peer institutions across the state, are all working on training and educating a skilled workforce who will hopefully find employment with a Kansas-based company. Yet, there is a cost involved to achieve advanced credentials and education. Our region has many families who make too much to qualify their children for Federal Pell Grant support. Still, these families don't make enough to afford the costs associated with higher education. This bill would give students the resources needed to bridge the affordability gap.