



**NEUTRAL Testimony on HB 2466
For the House Education Committee
January 25, 2022**

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

Chair Huebert and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony related to House Bill 2466.

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 2466:

While KICA does not object to the bill's purpose or overall approach, we would request inclusion of Kansas' accredited private non-profit colleges as eligible entities to apply for the postsecondary education grants envisioned in Section 2 of HB 2466.

Teacher education programs have been a core component of the degrees offered by non-profit colleges in Kansas throughout our history. Each year, about 20% of the bachelor's degrees in education awarded in Kansas come from a non-profit college. In 2020-2021, 196 new teachers in Kansas came from one of the KICA institutions. Furthermore, several KICA institutions have a strength in computer science, cybersecurity, and information technology. For instance, Friends University has one of the premiere cybersecurity bachelor's degree programs in the Midwest.

Thus, non-profit colleges are well-positioned to lead the way in developing elementary and secondary teachers who can integrate computer science and computational thinking into their pedagogy. With that in mind, we feel that HB 2466 should not exclude our institutions from eligibility for the grants proposed in Section 2. We request that the committee amend the bill to add language to include them. We suggest the following be added in line 30 after "community college":

“or any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education with its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas, is operated independently and not controlled or administered by any state agency or subdivision of the state, maintains open enrollment and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the United States.”

That language mirrors how KICA institutions are included in other statutes and should provide adequate insurance that only high-quality, Kansas-based institutions are eligible to participate. best and more likely deleterious to the economic and educational well-being of Kansans.