



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Committee on Education Proponent Testimony on HB 2466

January 25, 2022

**Blake Flanders, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents**

Good afternoon, Chairman Huebert and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2466.

This legislation aims to promote the advancement of computing knowledge of teachers already in service in the K-12 system, as well as our incoming pool of teachers studying in our higher education programs. This bill achieves that advancement by providing grants to the State Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents each for \$1 million and also by requiring computer science courses for our high school students.

There are many provisions involving the K-12 education system in this bill that we do not wish to weigh in on, but we are supportive of the provision that provides a \$1 million grant to the Kansas Board of Regents. This grant would create a scholarship for pre-service teachers who are working towards a degree in elementary or secondary education and who complete one course in computer science.

Computer science education is an essential component in educating students for the economy of the future. These critical skills will prepare Kansans for a variety of workforce opportunities that previously did not exist. As our economy evolves, our education system needs to evolve with it.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.