



January 25, 2021

Chairwoman Baumgardner and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,800 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 32, Authorizing school districts to pay the tuition for a student's dual or concurrent enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution and requiring a tuition waiver for foster children who are dually or concurrently enrolled.

This legislation essentially allows a school district to use general fund dollars to pay for secondary education credits for Kansas high school students, grades ten through twelve, and grades nine through twelve for gifted students. The current statute allows high school students to attend secondary educational institutions while in high school, but school districts are prohibited from paying the costs associated with said educational activities.

The Chamber stands in strong support of SB 32 because we believe it is sound public policy that benefits both students and Kansas job creators that are desperate for trained and educated workers.

With this in mind, we urge the Committee to report SB 32 favorable for passage.

Thank you again for this opportunity, and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce