



**PROPONENT Testimony on Sub HB 2166
For the Senate Transportation Committee
March 19, 2021
Matt Lindsey
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chairman Petersen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony related to Substitute for House Bill 2166.

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. Our institutions educate approximately 24,000 students and employ more than 5,100 Kansans.

The state of Kansas, via the Kansas Board of Regents, has specific obligations governing “private and out-of-state” educational institutions, per the Private and Out-of-State Post-Secondary Educational Institutions Act. All twenty KICA institutions are exempt from that statute. Thus, 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).

KICA has a partner organization, the Kansas Independent College Foundation (KICF). The KICF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, originally established in 1952, to develop, promote, and direct unified approaches to selected corporations, foundations, and individuals for financial support of Kansas' independent colleges and universities.

KICF's Role:

As specified in Section 2(j) of Sub HB 2166, KICF's role would be to provide a managed foundation account to hold any distributions from the royalty fund, manage the accounting and auditing of such funds, and disburse the funds in accordance with the instructions of the board of the KESF. KICF has a demonstrated record of sound donor account management. KICF's president (Matt Lindsey) also serves on the board of the KESF. However, the mission of the KESF makes no preference for teachers who attended a public or non-profit institution, and KICF's role is only as a facilitator for distribution of funds at the direction of the KESF.

KICF's interest in this issue is intuitive. Sixteen of the twenty KICF institutions offer teacher education programs, and annually we award about 19% of the bachelor's degrees in teacher education in Kansas. Thus, we care deeply about the work of educators in Kansas, as well as the young people they educate.

We strongly support Sub HB 2166 and encourage its passage. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request.