



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Committee on Education Proponent Testimony: HB 2567

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President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Good afternoon, Chair Thomas, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to testify in favor of HB 2567.

This legislation would create a new service scholarship to be administered by our agency, in coordination with the Adjutant General. The scholarship would be for up to 200 National Guard members a year for enrollment in any master's degree program at eligible institutions.

We are pleased to support this legislation, and I have several suggestions to optimize the bill, from our financial aid staff's point of view.

The bill would allow National Guard members to enroll at any of the state universities or the private nonprofit institutions with graduate programs, in Section 2(c). The bill would not allow students enrolled at Washburn University to receive EMERGE Scholarships. We want to point that out in case that was not intended.

To avoid unnecessary regulations, we suggest amending page two, lines 4-5 to read as follows:

“The state board of regents may adopt rules and regulations as necessary for the administration of this act and shall:”

On page two, line 36, we recommend referencing “federal tuition assistance” rather than “federal financial assistance.”

On page three, lines 17-26, we suggest eliminating the requirements that National Guard members present a certificate of satisfactory participation to the school and their

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transcripts each semester to the National Guard. With the exchange of information between the National Guard and the Board of Regents staff in administering the program, we can advise schools as to who is approved for scholarship payment and the National Guard as to who is eligible for scholarship renewal and avoid these steps.

And lastly, with the 72-month service requirement for the scholarship, we believe on page three, line 34, the formula for calculating a repayment for non-completion of the service requirement would be to divide the amount of awards by 72 and not 24, as follows:

“(B) divide the amount determined under subsection (d)(1)(A) by **72**.”

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this legislation.