

Proponent Testimony of HB2138
For the Senate Education Committee
March 8, 2023
Michael Murphy
Kansas 114th District

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 2138.

A year and a half ago Clelia McCory came to me with the idea that became HB2138. It became clear early on that there are many high schoolers across Kansas who are stuck in a difficult situation in planning their future.

Some want to go to college but financially they will need to work to help pay expenses. Others are not college bound and would like to enter the workforce, but jobs can be hard to find without the proper training and certificate. I personally know a number of kids who simply cannot pay for their certification test, in fact the family is in such financial straits they will not even ask because they know the answer will be no.

Many jobs in rural Kansas require a certificate that does not fit the definition of “high value”, but are “industry sought”. HB2138 will help fill this gap, helping young people enter the workforce while helping employers obtain the needed workers. Building our workforce will pay dividends well beyond the small price of these certificates.

I urge you to favorably pass HB2138. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully,

Rep Michael Murphy

114th District