

Proponent Testimony of SB2138  
For the Senate Education Committee  
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Organization Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 2138 on behalf of Stafford High School USD 349

I would like to relay the importance and impact of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to a small rural community. I have the opportunity to teach two CTE pathways; Healthcare and Manufacturing.

Our healthcare students play an important role in providing a stream of CNAs to our local healthcare facilities. Over the past few years Stafford High School has graduated 29 students with healthcare certifications. Most of whom have been employed by Stafford County Hospital and our local extended care facility, Leisure Extended Care.

Fifteen of those students have continued their medical training and have become Epidemiologist, Nurses, Veterinary, Dental Hygienists and Medical Lab Technicians. Two of these students with advanced training have returned to employment in Stafford.

The manufacturing pathway focuses on electrical education, electronics, and robotics. Recently the electrical/electronics class was approached by two local businesses to help with the coding of programmable logic controllers (PLC) to aid in industrial automation. Our students' ability to code the PLC controllers enabled the local businesses the opportunity to bid and secure large projects that resulted in money staying in our local economy.

Last year, two of our students received extensive training in FANUC (six-axis robot) commonly used in manufacturing. Both accepted jobs with Viega in McPherson, directly out of high school. Both have the opportunity to attain additional certification in advanced manufacturing paid for by Viega.

Stafford High School has embarked on a program helping students receive their first level CDL training. Last year we had 3 students enrolled in the program. One of the three passed the first test and as a result was hired by a construction company in Wichita to "earn and learn" where he will have the opportunity to continue his training toward a completed CDL.

Stafford High School is committed to the success of individual students and the process of preparing them for post secondary success by encouraging industry recognized certification. Many of our students are on "free or reduce lunch" and find it difficult to find additional money for the certification training and/or the certification test. Stafford School Foundation has set aside financial support for students that apply and demonstrate the need for financial help. This financial support comes at the expense of school improvements and needs.

The manufacturing examples are the result of training in multimeter, programable logic controllers and FANUC robotics, none of which are on the State of Kansas list of certifications. I would encourage those with the responsibility of determining funded certifications, to consider a provision allowing communities to identify local certification needs and provide funding based on community evaluations. Thank you for your consideration.