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Proponent Testimony

HB 2138 - AN ACT concerning education: relating to career technical education: creating the career technical education credential and transition incentive for employment success act; providing state aid to school districts, community and technical colleges and the Washburn institute of technology for students enrolled in high school who obtain a credential; establishing the career technical education credential and transition incentive fund.

Presented to the Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

by

Dr. Deena Horst and Ann Mah, Legislative Liaisons

Kansas State Board of Education

Chair Baumgardner, Vice-Chair Erickson, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and Committee Members:

The Kansas State Board of Education supports HB 2138, which is designed to provide an incentive for local school districts to encourage students to earn a career technical education (CTE) credential. The funds are to be used first to provide for the cost of assessments that lead to a CTE credential. Such a fund will ensure all eligible students are able to take the assessments, which can be cost prohibitive for some.

The bill was amended to include community colleges and tech colleges, presumably, because in some districts, community colleges or tech colleges offer some of the coursework needed for completion of some career technical pathways. In some cases, however, coursework is provided and credentialing is completed in a high school setting without any involvement of postsecondary institutions; therefore, we do have some concern that, in such cases, there may be more postsecondary institution involvement than is needed to accomplish the desired end result. We would suggest monitoring the results to ensure that response to workforce needs doesn't become 'bogged down' by academia and that the processes are working together in a smooth manner.

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Although there appears to be more postsecondary institution involvement than may be necessary, we feel the need far outweighs our concerns. We continue to believe this bill will lead to more high school students earning an industry recognized CTE credential who are ready to enter the workforce with the needed skills upon graduation. Therefore, the Kansas State Board of Education asks the Committee to forward this bill to the entire Senate for its consideration.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding HB 2138.