

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Adam Thomas, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Thomas:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2646 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2646 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2646 would amend the Kansas Hero's Scholarship Act by modifying the waiver and reimbursement provisions and expanding scholarship eligibility for the spouses and dependents of military servicemembers. The bill would remove the \$500,000 annual limitation on reimbursements and would instead require the Board of Regents to establish an aggregate limit on reimbursements to be paid to postsecondary educational institutions for scholarships awarded each year. HB 2646 would also remove the requirement to grant waivers regardless of funding and would allow the postsecondary educational institutions to limit reimbursements to the amount of available funding or cover the cost of waivers above the reimbursement.

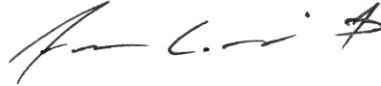
Under current law, any dependent or spouse of any resident of Kansas who died, was injured, or disabled on and after September 11, 2001, while serving in the military is eligible to attend a Kansas postsecondary educational institution and not be charged for tuition or fees. HB 2646 would remove this requirement and make all dependents or spouses eligible for the scholarship for any resident of Kansas who died while serving in military service or sustained an injury or disability that rendered the servicemember incapable of continuing their military service. The bill would take effect upon its publication in the *Kansas Register*.

The Board of Regents indicates enactment of the bill would increase the amount of time Board staff would spend administering the scholarship; however, the Board indicates the additional

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time could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2646 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "P" at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents