



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

**Senate Ways and Means Committee
SB 258 – State Universities; Negotiation of Contracts
Mary Jane Stankiewicz
Director of Government Relations and Communications
January 23, 2012**

Good morning, Chair McGinn and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. I am Mary Jane Stankiewicz, the Director of Government Relations and Communications for the Kansas Board of Regents and I appear in support of SB 258.

Currently, the laws in Kansas prohibits a university researcher from participating in any part of contract negotiations even though they often possess the best information about the technology. It is imperative for everyone's benefit that these individuals be allowed to give advice and information about these matters so that the university can fully understand the benefit and value of the technology and thus negotiate from a place of knowledge.

We understand that the law was enacted to prevent a person from entering into a contract that benefits that person. To attempt to address this issue, the bill also states that these provisions would apply only if the "employee does not have the authority to negotiate the terms of such agreement, or to approve such agreement on behalf of the state university".

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, I ask for your support of SB 258, and ask that you pass the bill out favorably.