



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2489
For the House Transportation Committee
January 29, 2020**

**Matt Lindsey
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2489.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the twenty independent colleges of Kansas, all of which are not-for-profit institutions of higher education, all of which offer undergraduate degrees, all of which have their principal campus in Kansas, all of whom are regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and all of whom maintain an open enrollment policy consistent with Kansas statutes.

The state of Kansas, via the Kansas Board of Regents, has specific obligations governing “private and out-of-state” educational institutions, per the Private and Out-of-State Post-Secondary Educational Institutions Act. All nineteen KICA institutions are exempt from that statute. Thus, for the independent members of KICA, KBOR has no governing role (as it does for the six 4-year Regents universities), coordinating role (as it does for the community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn University) nor regulatory role (as it does for any for-profit college or college based outside of Kansas that wishes to operate here). Furthermore, KICA institutions do not receive any direct institution funding from the state of Kansas, as befits our independent status.

KICA has a partner organization, the Kansas Independent College Foundation (KICF). The KICF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, originally established in 1952, to develop, promote, and direct unified approaches to selected corporations, foundations, and individuals for financial support of Kansas' independent colleges and universities, to strengthen the ability of those institutions to attract charitable support for their missions and programs, and to develop and implement approaches to leverage the collective assets and purchase power of Kansas' independent colleges and universities to achieve operational cost savings for the individual institutions.

KICF's Role in Providing a Proud Educator License Plate:

Sixteen of the twenty KICF institutions offer teacher education programs, and annually we award about 19% of the bachelor's degrees in teacher education in Kansas. Thus, we care deeply about the work of educators in Kansas, as well as the young people they educate.

However, the mission of the KESF makes no preference for teachers who attended a public or non-profit institution. The role of KICF would be to provide a managed foundation account to hold any distributions from the royalty fund, manage the accounting and auditing of such funds, and disburse the funds in accordance with the instructions of the board of the KESF. This is specified in Section 1(j) of HB 2489. Our role is solely as financial partner with an established record of donor account management.

We strongly support HB 2489 and encourage its passage. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request.