



March 9, 2020

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Senate Tax Committee

Cowley College is pleased to offer support for HB 2118. Aerospace manufacturing is a critical component of the economy in Cowley College's service area. Our school offers associate of applied science degree programs and career technical education programs identified in this legislation as necessary for employment in the aerospace sector.

Students at Cowley College often graduate with multiple employment opportunities, some of which include offers outside of the south-central region and even the state. For some students, the cost of higher education remains a barrier, and the ability to pay back their education investment is a worry.

HB 2118 provides solutions to address both of these challenges.

First, this bill will incent our students to remain in Kansas to pursue their career, strengthening our local communities and ensuring our Kansas-based companies remain strong. For those who need additional financial resources, the income tax credit is an important offset to any debt they may have incurred in their pursuit of an applied science degree.

We take our job seriously as educators of the next generation of the Kansas workforce. Each tool this legislative body gives us to ensure our students' success on a career pathway is appreciated and championed. While we do not directly benefit as a community college from this legislation, its adoption will enable more individuals in our service area to pursue workforce training, a win for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2118. We believe its an essential component for the retention of Kansas talent and building the workforce needed today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Lucas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Jessica Lucas
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