



COWLEY COLLEGE

Date: June 3, 2020
To: Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee
From: Jessica Lucas, Cowley College Government Affairs Liaison
Re: Inclusion of Community Colleges in Liability Protection Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the liability protection bill. I urge you to amend the bill to include community colleges.

Cowley College has worked from the beginning of this pandemic to appropriately adjust our operations to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and the public, while continuing to offer our students the quality education they expected. This included rapid systemwide changes to transition to virtual instruction for many classes, but notably, changes that also enabled the continuation of face-to-face coursework for technical courses. With careful planning and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Kansas, we've been able to reduce class sizes to fewer than ten for our highly technical instruction that simply can't be delivered through an online setting (welding, non-destructive testing, etc.). Making this adjustment kept students on track to complete their degrees within their planned timeline.

Cowley College has worked diligently during this time to aid our students and the community as we deal with the effects of the virus. We've made housing transitions, altered dining services, acquired (and continue to acquire) personal protective equipment, integrated screening procedures, increased the numbers of employees teleworking, changed our course delivery, and implemented summer and fall enrollment recruitment plans, all in the face of many unknowns. During this time, we've done our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in every endeavor, but **we remain concerned about potential exposure and liability that could be incurred despite our best efforts to mitigate all risk.**

Schools are facing lawsuits. We need the legislature to act to include us in liability protection definitions.

We appreciate your consideration. For more information, contact: Jessica Lucas for Cowley College. 620-931-7161 / jessica@wsks.us