



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2265  
For the House Taxation Committee  
February 22, 2021**

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President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chairman Smith and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony in support of House Bill 2265 on behalf of Kansas' independent colleges.

**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 (K.S.A. 74-32,162 and subseq). All twenty 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.

**Textbook Costs at KICA Institutions:**

More than 23,000 students attend an independent college in Kansas. Last year, those students spent an average of \$1,194 per year on required textbooks. HB 2265 would thus save each student an average of nearly \$78 per year.

Providing even this relatively small amount of assistance to students and their families will help them afford a college degree. One of the biggest impediments to college completion – especially on-time completion – is affordability. Moreover, multiple studies indicate that students often delay acquiring the course materials and textbooks due to financial concerns and that delay has significant negative consequences on the students' learning and successful course completion (further delaying degree attainment).

We also appreciate that this new attempt at addressing the issue recognizes and attempts to mitigate the negative impact on sales tax revenues for local governments.

For these reasons, KICA and its member institutions urge you to endorse House Bill 2265 and appreciate the effort by the authors to move this issue forward. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions provide additional data as you request.