



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2644
For the House Education Committee
February 12, 2024**

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

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2644.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents all twenty-one accredited undergraduate degree-granting private non-profit colleges of Kansas. The members of KICA are all *independent* of KBOR. 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 general regulatory role (as it does for any for-profit college or college based outside of Kansas that wishes to operate here) regarding the KICA institutions, however we do seek to work in coordination with the public colleges and universities on issues that affect Kansas.

Interest Rates:

We appreciated the Board of Regents reaching out to us to review the proposed changes in HB 2644 prior to the bill's introduction. KICA students are recipients of several of the "service scholarships" administered by KBOR. These scholarships can be difficult to explain to students given the variety of consequences for non-compliance with the service obligations of each one of those grants. The solution proposed by HB 2644 is one we support. It will ease the work for KBOR, make all scholarships easier to market to prospective students, and improve program efficiency.

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.