KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Proponent Testimony on HB 2560
Senate Education Committee
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Chair Erickson and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2560 on behalf of Kansas State University.

HB 2560 authorizes the sale of the Kansas State University Honors House property located at **1930 College Heights, Manhattan, Kansas**. Kansas State University supports this legislation as it provides the statutory authority necessary to responsibly manage university-owned real estate in alignment with institutional priorities, student success outcomes, and long-term stewardship of state assets.

Over time, Kansas State University has outgrown both the capacity and functional limitations of the stand-alone Honors House. Growth within the Honors Program and changes in how students engage academically and socially have required a more integrated and scalable environment than the current facility can provide.

In response, the university intentionally transitioned the Honors Program footprint into the recently renovated Boyd, Putnam, and Van Zile Residence Halls as part of the Strong Community redevelopment initiative. These renovations include dedicated Honors office space, academic support areas, and a residential Honors living-learning environment embedded within three modernized halls. This integrated model allows Honors students to live, learn, and build community in facilities designed to promote collaboration, accessibility, and academic excellence.

The former Honors House, while historically meaningful, no longer meets the scale or facility standards required to serve today's programmatic needs. Maintaining a separate structure that is underutilized and functionally outdated does not represent the most efficient use of university or state resources.

Additionally, the university has received increased interest from a credible and well-known prospective group regarding the potential purchase of the property. This interest reflects continued market value and presents a timely opportunity to advance a sale consistent with sound asset management principles.

Consistent with guidance from the Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State University is actively evaluating its physical footprint to ensure facilities are right-sized, financially sustainable, and responsive to enrollment trends and student needs. This includes prioritizing investment in mission-critical facilities while reducing long-term deferred maintenance liabilities associated with aging properties.

Proceeds from the sale of the Honors House would be reinvested in university priorities, including facilities renewal and student-centered initiatives, ensuring that the value of this asset continues to benefit students and the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

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