Approved:	2/21/94
	Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 1994 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Todd Tiahrt (Excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes LaVonne Mumert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Rodney Cox, Jr., President, Butler County Community College

Mary Moon, Butler County Community College

Ken Clouse, Dean of Occupational Education and Director of the Area Vocational

School, Pratt Community College/Area Vocational School

Ted Ayres, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents

Willie Martin, Sedgwick County

Bob Haley, Department of Transportation

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards

Gerald Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

SB 630 - Community colleges, instruction at military reservations, out-district tuition charges in regents counties

Staff explained that SB 630 would amend laws which pertain to community colleges by changing the reference to off-campus courses at Fort Leavenworth to any military reservation and by allowing community colleges to charge out-district tuition in a county in which the main campus of a state educational institution is located if the community college enters into an agreement with a business or government agency, which is filed with the State Board of Education. Present law requires that prior approval of the chief executive officer must be given in order to maintain eligibility for out-district tuition by the community college.

Dr. Rodney Cox, Jr., President, Butler County Community College, testified in support of the bill (<u>Attachment No. 1</u>). He said that Butler County Community College (BCCC) has taught associate degree programs on McConnell AFB for 20 years but has been notified by the State Department of Education that those programs will no longer be approved. Dr. Cox stressed that industry is seeking quick response to short-term training needs.

Mary Moon, Butler County Community College, testified in favor of the bill (<u>Attachment No. 2</u>). She discussed the workforce training needs of small and medium sized companies and the ability of community colleges, such as BCCC, to be responsive to those needs. Ms. Moon emphasized that the statutory requirement that the school receive authorization from Wichita State University to offer any courses for college credit in Sedgwick County delays the process and/or results in denial. She described a recent situation where Wichita State University turned down BCCC's request to provide Spanish classes for Cessna employees. Because of this denial, BCCC is unable to collect tuition reimbursement.

Ken Clouse, Dean of Occupational Education and Director of the Area Vocational School, Pratt Community College/Area Vocational School, testified in support of the bill (<u>Attachment No. 3</u>). He described the capabilities and some of the training programs provided by his school. He described a recent situation where it took 3-4 weeks to receive permission from Wichita State University to provide training for AT&T. Mr. Clouse said that <u>SB 630</u> would allow community colleges to avoid costly delays and be responsive to industry needs.

Ted Ayres, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents, testified in opposition to SB 630 (Attachment No. 4).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 1994.

He said this issue was reviewed by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee this past summer. Mr. Ayres said the Regents have made program review and elimination of duplication a priority. He said the current law is designed to accommodate the joint interests of the community colleges and the Regents institutions. In response to questions from Committee members, Mr. Ayres said he thinks it is appropriate to have involvement of the Regents institutions in the process in order to avoid duplication of services. He said that the Regents institutions should have the first opportunity to serve the needs in their home county. Mr. Ayres agreed that employer needs and requests should be considered, but he does not believe they should be the sole basis of the decision. Senator Downey requested that the Committee be advised as to what criteria or guidelines are used in making a determination by the Regents institutions on these types of requests. Senator Oleen asked that Wichita State University, in particular, provide more information about their decision-making process and whether requests which include giving college credit are treated differently.

Responding to questions, Dr. Cox said that, since 1992, BCCC has sought permission from Wichita State University to provided courses for McConnell AFB but less than 10 percent of the courses have been approved.

Willie Martin, Sedgwick County, testified in opposition to <u>SB 630 (Attachment No. 5</u>). She expressed concern that the bill would increase the likelihood of duplication of classes.

SB 724 - Transferring regulation of school buses from department of transportation to state board of education

Staff explained that the bill transfers the administration of the school bus safety functions and responsibilities from the Department of Transportation to the State Board of Education, including the staff and \$160,000 a year from the state highway fund.

Bob Haley, Department of Transportation, testified in support of the bill (<u>Attachment No. 6</u>). He said the four-person unit, which is the subject of the bill, provides driving training, first aid training for school bus drivers, supports the districts in a variety of different ways and operates a film library. Mr. Haley noted that districts would have the ability to deal with a single state agency on issues regarding pupil transportation and advised that Kansas is the only state where the authority for school transportation is assigned to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Haley said the \$160,000 figure is their calculation of the amount of money that is involved in the program.

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in favor of the bill (<u>Attachment No. 7</u>). He sees the bill as being supportive of the philosophy that general regulation of public schools ought to rest with the Department of Education. Mr. Koepke noted that <u>SB 499</u>, which has already passed the Senate, makes changes in the same statute as would be affected by <u>SB 724</u> and suggested that <u>SB 724</u> be amended to reflect those changes.

Gerald Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas, testified in support of <u>SB 724 (Attachment No. 8</u>). He said the concept is a sensible one, but he urged that care be taken to assure that adequate resources accompany the transfer of the unit.

Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education, was asked if she is comfortable with the \$160,000 amount. She said, to their best of their knowledge, the Board is comfortable but has some concern about escalating costs in future years.

Senator Langworthy made a motion that SB 724 be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Corbin seconded the motion. Senator Emert made a <u>substitute motion</u> that SB 724 be amended on page four, lines 10 and 15, to change the period from six to ten years and that the bill, as amended, be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Walker seconded the substitute motion, and the <u>substitute motion carried</u>.

SB 574 - Schools and community colleges, evaluation of employees

Senator Corbin made a motion that the bill be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Emert seconded the motion. Senator Walker made a substitute motion that the bill be amended on line 20 by adding the phrase "to the extent the professional has control over such increased academic performance", and that the bill, as amended, be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Downey seconded the substitute motion, and the substitute motion failed. The original motion carried on a 5-3 vote.

<u>Senator Jones made a motion that the minutes of the February 15, 1993 meeting be approved. Senator Frahm seconded the motion, and the motion carried.</u>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 1994.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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TESTIMONY ON S.B. 630 Senate Education Committee February 17, 1994

Dr. Rodney V. Cox, Jr. Butler County Community College

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Rodney Cox, president of Butler County Community College. Today I would like to provide you some background on the effects of S.B. 630.

The proposed changes to Section 1. K.S.A. 71-205 and Section 2. KSA 21-206 are minor adjustments to reflect reality. In my admittedly limited research on these statutes, no one was able to tell me why they existed and only mentioned Fort Leavenworth. In fact for many years, Barton County Community College has taught on Fort Riley; and for 20 years Butler County Community College has taught associate degree programs on McConnell AFB. We support these changes in order to avoid confusion and misunderstandings.

The change to KSA 71-609 Paragraph (b)(1) also reflects past standard practice. 71-609 was added to the Statutes in 1992. At the time, it was sold as a codification of the standard procedure used for many years by the Kansas State Department of Education. Attachment #1 to this testimony is a copy of the State Department form 0-411-106. This form is found in the Kansas State Plan for Community Colleges which is the directive for community college operations in the state. I direct your attention to the instructions on the rear of the form. The first paragraph lays out the criteria and includes a paragraph (b) which said:

"(b) The community college has a valid contract with a governmental agency for the provision of educational services in the county in question, and a copy of said contract is on file with the director of the Community Colleges section of the State Department of Education."

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges testified for the law in 1992 believing that all of the very successful practice under the State Board regulation would be included. Unfortunately paragraph b was excluded in the final bill.

We believe that the language in S.B. 630 is appropriate to rectify this problem and will recognize the mounting needs of Kansas business and industry for training and retraining of the work force.

Sen. Ed. 2/27/94 Attachment 1 Of immediate concern to us is that based on KSA 71-609 (b)(1) as presently written, the State Department of Education has notified Butler County Community College that it will no longer approve its 20-year support of a major Kansas industry, McConnell AFB.

This has created a major concern at McConnell AFB. It means at the end of this semester Butler County will receive no more state aid to support this major Kansas industry. In all likelihood, McConnell AFB will go out of state to replace the Butler program.

More important than our single program is the fact that this legislation can and has been used to keep community colleges from meeting the needs of industry for fast reaction to short-term training needs of industry.

We have found that industry needs fast reaction, quality service, and results. They do not want to hear about turf battles, duplication and/or bureaucratic approval processes. The changes in this bill will allow businesses and industries throughout the state with their vast needs for training and retraining to pick the institution that best meets their needs.

Attachment #2 is an example of how complex it can be to meet industries' needs. A local company wanted to implement TQM throughout its work force. They asked BCCC to assess the needs and prepare their work force to implement a key element of TQM, Statistical Process Control. We found that only 1/3 of the employees had the mathematics and language skills to take a statistics class. The other 2/3's needed a variety of classes with 15% of them having to start with basic reading and math. Only a community college has the various capabilities to meet this company's needs with in-place programs. We are reacting immediately. I assume that most companies have similar patterns of readiness. They need help from a single source and they do not need to hear about why we politically cannot help them. They pay taxes and I believe they have a right to public college sources to meet their needs.

As a Regent's university president said at a meeting this past week of the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, "There are more needs out there than all the colleges in the area can meet." We must work together to get the job done not only for new businesses but also for existing industries who need to improve their work force to compete. S.B. 630 will go a long way to avoid turf battles and political roadblocks to meet these needs. I also believe it will force the colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools to cooperate in order to meet their client's needs. I urge you to pass S.B. 630 so we can get on with the business of training and retraining.

Kansas State Department of Education Form 0-411-106 (8/89)

Kansas Community Colleges Approval of Out-District Instruction in a County Containing a Regents' Institution

		hereby authorizes
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Instructions

Kansas Community Colleges Approval of Out-District Instruction in a County Containing a Regents' Institution

Instructional activities will be approved in counties in which a Regents' university or a municipal university are located, unless:

- (a) The community college has official written permission granted by the appropriate administrator of the Regents' institution in question.
- (b) The community college has a valid contract with a governmental agency for the provision of educational services in the county in question, and a copy of such contract is on file with the director of the Community Colleges Section of the State Department of Education.

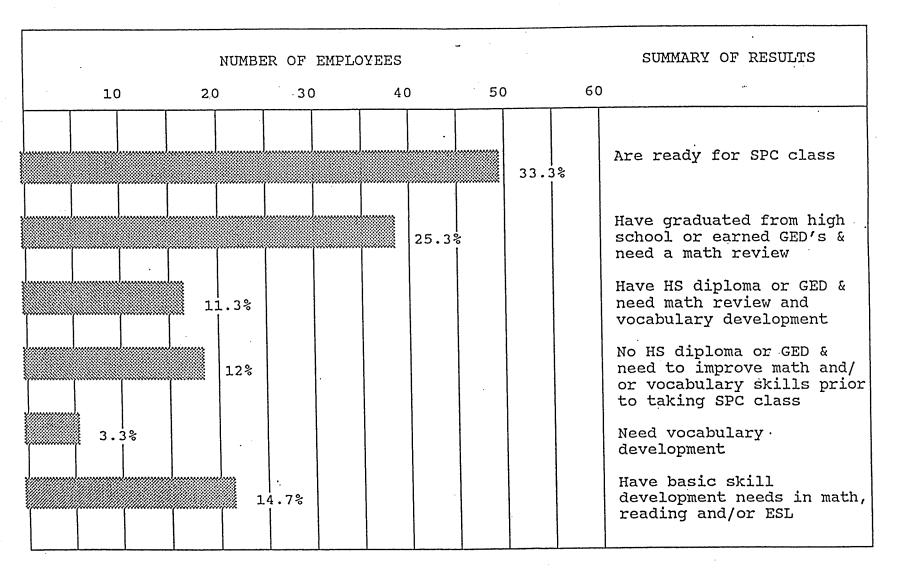
Complete this form and send to the appropriate Regents' institution or municipal university for signature. This form will be returned to the initiating college and attached to the Approval of Out-District Instruction form.

Submit to the Community Colleges Section at least thirty days prior to the initiation of such services.

The form will be reviewed in conjunction with the information included on the Approval of Out-District Instruction form and approved or disapproved by the director of the Community Colleges Section.

A copy of this form and the Approval of Out-District Instruction form indicating action will be returned to the requesting college.

STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL READINESS ASSESSMENT



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Testimony on S.B. 630 Senate Education Committee February 17, 1994

Mary K. Haynes Butler County Community College Business & Industry Institute

My name is Mary K. Moon. I have been the director of Butler County Community College's Business & Industry Institute since 1988. Before I came to work at Butler, I worked for Fourth Financial Corporation as a training coordinator. My experience includes active membership in the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), earning a masters degree in adult education at Kansas State University, and completing a training and development certificate program at the University of Oklahoma. During the nine years I have been involved in the training profession, I have observed work force training evolve from something that organizations considered "nice to do" to a critical factor in helping industry become and remain competitive.

Today, I ask your support of Senate Bill 630. The bill will allow Butler County Community College (BCCC) to be more responsive to the training needs of business and industry.

Worker training has become a recognized priority for the nation to remain competitive in the global economy. The job of continuously updating the job-related skills of working adults is massive. Some estimates indicate that up to 75 percent of the existing work force will need significant job training in the next eight years.

While many large companies operate corporate training departments responsible for providing or purchasing training from external providers, the training needs of small and medium-sized businesses are usually neglected. A study by ASTD shows that small companies of under 500 employees account for almost 60 percent of all workers, but they are responsible for less than five percent of employer provided training in the country. Too little training is provided by small companies where the majority of job growth occurs, and very little is provided for workers in front-line technical and production positions.

A survey conducted last year by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges found that nearly all community colleges currently provide customized training to meet specific work force needs. Two-thirds of all work force training provided by community colleges is for companies with fewer than 500 employees, and 40 percent of the training is provided to manufacturing companies.

The lack of adequate training for employees of small and medium-sized companies is identified by some economists as the single most critical problem facing the competitiveness of our nation's business and industry. From the League's survey we see that community colleges are providing work force training in the areas of most critical need for the national economy -- and most neglected according to ASTD's study.

Community colleges are logical providers of work force training. Community colleges have a long history of providing vocational, technical, and career training in fields that reflect the needs of their local economies; they have a close working relationship with local constituents including local business and industry; and they have considerable experience in providing programs and services for adult students who make up the bulk of the existing work force.

Community colleges are not the only educational institutions providing work force training, but they have earned the reputation of being the most responsive. *Training Partnerships*, a report summarizing findings of joint research conducted by ASTD and the Department of Labor, states that "of all educational institutions, community and junior colleges have taken the most aggressive, directed and progressive approach to customized training and are particularly responsive to business, industry, and community needs."

BCCC is recognized for our responsiveness to work force training needs. In 1987, we established a dedicated business assistance center. We studied critical elements for success in business collaboration and potential problem areas, and created a successful program designed to fit the needs of our area.

The commitment of BCCC's administration and board of trustees to work force training has enabled our Business & Industry Institute to become a progressive training organization. We have a full-time, professional staff of five people dedicated to business and industry training. The credentials of this group include work experience in manufacturing, communication, technical, and service industries. Each staff member has experience teaching in educational institutions or training in corporations. Work experience in business and industry enables our trainers to relate to a company's training needs from a business perspective rather than an academic viewpoint.

In the past year, we have delivered customized and/or contract training programs to 21 business and government organizations. The subject areas of these training programs illustrate the range of areas in which we are capable of providing quality training. They are: microcomputer training, management/supervisory training, electrical training, AutoCAD,

statistical process control, metrology, new employee orientation, safety training, conversational Spanish, customer service, and telephone skills.

We offer microcomputer training and a supervisory management course for public enrollment. Each year, about 2000 individuals from hundreds of companies attend microcomputer workshops at our training facility in Augusta. Employees from about 40 companies have attended our basic supervisory management training.

Our goal in each training situation is to efficiently and effectively prepare workers to demonstrate competency on-the-job. Though the company, workers, and nature of training vary from one project to the next, our purpose is always the same -- to provide practical, affordable, results-oriented training. We believe we are an excellent training resource for Sedgwick County employers as well as to employers in our five county service area. Numerous industries in Sedgwick County, particularly small to mid-sized manufacturing firms could benefit from our services.

One reason small to mid-sized firms neglect training is because they do not have the capacity to provide training in-house, and do not have the financial resources needed to use private training providers. Public educational institutions are able to provide training at a lower cost than other external providers.

There are tremendous training needs in Sedgwick County and ample opportunity for all educational institutions to provide work force training. We acknowledge there are some areas in which the Wichita Area Vocational-Technical School (WAVTS) and Wichita State University (WSU) are better able to provide training than we are. We participate in a Training and Development Referral Center with these institutions, and we are committed to working cooperatively when appropriate.

Because BCCC offers a comprehensive range of services; maintains a reputation of providing quality, affordable, and accessible educational programs; and has an organized Business & Industry Institute with a dedicated staff of training professionals we feel we can help the Kansas economy by training Sedgwick County workers.

The law requiring WSU to approve any courses BCCC offers for college credit in Sedgwick County limits our ability to work with Sedgwick County industries and increases the cost of training to industry.

Even though there is not a community college in Sedgwick County, residents have the benefit of community college programs and services because they commute to Butler County, Hutchinson, and Cowley County community colleges. Last year, over 3500 Sedgwick County residents attended BCCC. The commute is manageable for individual students attending classes, but it is a barrier for companies needing training.

Companies usually want training to take place on-site or within close proximity to the workplace. When you consider the expense of a thirty minute commute for employer sponsored training, you can see why. Other reasons companies prefer to train employees on-site include: employees are accessible in case of an emergency; equipment located within the company may be used for training; and it is convenient.

BCCC, can provide training on-site in Sedgwick County, as long as the training is not for college credit. In instances in which we have done so, the company pays a higher fee for training than they would when we receive credit-hour reimbursement. For example, AutoCAD training we provided Tramco was not for credit. We did not need Wichita State University's permission to do the training, but we were not able to supplement the cost of training with credit hour reimbursement. The bottom line is that the company paid more for training than they would have if the training had been provided for credit.

Butler County Community College can provide credit training on-site for a company in Sedgwick County, if we have approval from WSU. Politics, pressure from university administration, and county commissioners looking at the cost of out-district tuition rather than the benefit of a trained, skilled work force often result in these requests being turned down. Even when our request is approved there is a delay in our ability to respond promptly to a company's request as we wait for the university's decision. We asked WSU for permission to provide training at Cessna for credit, but we were turned down.

Cessna asked if we could offer customized training in conversational Spanish for their parts department employees who deal with Spanish speaking customers in South America and Mexico. Cessna specifically asked if employees participating in the training could receive BCCC credit. I was excited to learn that BCCC has a Spanish instructor who works in a manufacturing industry in Mexico during the summer months, and has prior work experience selling aircraft parts in South America. I was confident Cessna would be impressed with the quality of instruction Butler would deliver. WSU denied our request to offer the training for credit. We are offering the training and the employees are receiving credit, but we are not able to collect tuition reimbursement. Butler County taxpayers are

subsidizing the class, since the tuition from the students does not cover the cost of training. If we choose to continue this training, Cessna will have to pay a higher fee because the law prevents us from receiving tuition reimbursement.

As long as community colleges are funded on credit hour reimbursement and required to have WSU's consent to collect reimbursement for training in Sedgwick County, industry must use the vo-tech school or university for training in order for state funding to help with the expense of training. It doesn't matter that BCCC's professional training staff may be more capable of providing high-quality training targeted to the industry's particular need.

Training provided by public educational institutions is growing in popularity with employers, but educational institutions are not the only resources for training in Sedgwick County. Other providers of training are instructional technology firms, independent training consultants, professional associations, and private technical schools. Driving Butler out of Sedgwick County often means companies will make a much greater training investment through a private training company.

The emergence of a global economy and the decline of the United States' competitive position in that economy are no longer just predictions. The painful consequences to individuals and corporations of on-going restructuring are displayed daily in the news and evidenced in the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors.

We know the increasing demands on businesses require a well-trained work force. Kansas Inc's recently published research report on the Kansas Labor Force Education and Training Systems tell us this state's labor force training programs are able to reach only a very small share of citizens needing education and training services.

BCCC is well-positioned to be a vehicle for a major expansion of worker training in small and mid-size companies where it is most needed. With S.B. 630 eliminating the need for a community college to have a university's approval to provide contract training for college credit, you will be making a wealth of high-quality, cost-effective training resources available to Kansas business and industry.

Testimony on Senate Bill 630 February 17, 1994

I am Ken Clouse, Dean of Occupational Good afternoon. Education and Director of the Area Vocational School at Pratt Community College/Area Vocational School (PCC/AVS). My testimony before you this afternoon is in favor of Senate Bill 630 as written because of its positive impact on economic development initiatives and the role of business/industry training and retraining in aiding those initiatives. First, I would like to provide you some background of Pratt Community College/AVS's business and industry training program as a means of increasing your awareness of the vital role community colleges play in economic development efforts. Following that, I will describe for you, from my vantage point, how the current procedures hamper those very efforts, thus detracting from their effectiveness and reinforcing the need for S.B. 630.

At Pratt Community College/Area Vocational School, we have the capabilities of providing employee training/retraining in 9 technical career areas in addition to a comprehensive menu of basic skills and traditional academic courses. In the technical area, we can provide training in such complex specialties as electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics, robotics, computer assisted manufacturing, analog and digital machine operation and maintenance, aircraft maintenance technologies,

microcomputer applications, and a host of business technologies. That list of specialties grows even larger when you consider the numerous competencies and skills required in the 9 technical programs at PCC/AVS and possessed by the 22 full-time and approximately 50 part-time professional and technical faculty. My business/industry training program coordinator is in constant contact with approximately 40 companies in our 7-county service area in South Central Kansas. In the past two years we have provided 46,000 contact hours of business/industry training and retraining to approximately 1350 people and 40 companies. Some examples of the kinds of companies seeking employee training and the kinds of training PCC has provided are:

- AT & T in Sedgwick County: We provided 1150
 contact hours of training to 50 employees over a 5
 week period. This training included DOS,
 WordPerfect, and Spreadsheet computer
 applications.
- 2. Northern Natural Gas in Kiowa County: We provided Electronics training to 20 employees.
- 3. Cross Manufacturing: We provided math, measurement, drafting, and blueprint reading.
- 4. Exxon: We provided electronics instruction
- 5. Morrison Belt: We provided, through a KIT grant, computer, logic controller, and Statistical Process Control training.

All of these companies were involved in either establishing new product lines, upgrading their capabilities, introducing new processes, adding new employees, or retraining current employees to do different jobs rather than have them face a layoff. With the exception of training provided to AT & T, we were able to receive swift approval directly from the staff of the Kansas State Board of Education to provide training to all of the other four companies mentioned because they were located in our service area or agreed to be trained in facilities in our service area. Our experience is that companies prefer that training occur on site, i.e. in their facilities, and using their equipment whenever possible. Let me describe to you our experience with AT & T in Sedgwick County, outside of our service area, which took approximately 4 weeks to obtain approval.

Upon receiving the request from AT & T and our proposal development we inquired by phone to the WSU Continuing Education department. I was told to submit the request in writing using the procedure developed by KSBE when offering instruction within a regents county. I was further told it would have to be sent internally within WSU to the business department for their approval. After this conversation, I submitted the request.

In 2 weeks I had not received a response so I phoned WSU and requested the status on my pending request. I was told they would check and return a phone call. After a few

more days I received a phone call indicating they thought the WSU Business Department wanted to provide this training. Again I expressed to WSU representatives that AT & T wanted PCC/AVS to provide the training and that this request was based upon a proposal agreeable to AT & T. After some further discussion and a few more days passing, WSU did permit PCC/AVS to deliver on our proposal. This approval took 3 - 4 weeks total.

I ask you to play a little "what if" with me on this particular case.

- 1. What if AT & T were some other business wanting to relocate in Kansas and needing entry level training for its new employees?
- What if AT & T were a service or product-oriented business needing training which would allow it to compete for business or keep its current customers?
- 3. What if AT & T was adding a new product line or providing a new service in a time sensitive environment?

In these instances, AT & T would be put at a disadvantage which could prove costly in terms of increased revenues, customer satisfaction, or both. AT & T, if it was a new business wanting to come into Kansas, might have second thoughts based on unnecessary delays. Four week delays are unacceptable in today's fast paced business environment.

I see S.B. 630 as the means of reducing such costly delays and allowing colleges across the state to be more responsive to business/industry needs. During informal conversations with officials of aircraft manufacturing, modification, and accessory companies in Wichita, we discussed the possibility of offering training in such areas as composites, microcomputer applications, and airframe repair to these companies, all of whom are in the Wichita area. We did not initiate the discussion. However, we advised them to seek training elsewhere because the probability of our getting a clearance to offer such training was doubtful given our relationship with the Wichita State University or the Wichita AVTS at that time especially if those companies wanted that training on short Their interest was based on our ability to be responsive. We cannot be responsive under the present guidelines. Senate Bill 630, if passed, will open up the training marketplace and assure that longstanding, emerging, and prospective companies have access to training and retraining of their employees when needed and in a timely manner.

This concludes my testimony, and I appreciate this opportunity to express my views. Are there any questions?

The Testimony of

Ted D. Ayres
General Counsel and
Director of Governmental Relations
Kansas Board of Regents

before SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 1994 Legislative Session

in re S.B. 630

1:30 pm. February 17, 1994 Room 123-S Kansas Statehouse

> Sen. Ed. 2/17/94 Attachment 4

My name is Ted D. Ayres and I am General Counsel and Director of Governmental Relations for the Kansas Board of Regents. I am here this afternoon representing the Board of Regents. I am here to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 630; specifically the proposed addition to K.S.A. 71-609(b) [page 2, lines 2-7].

It is my belief and understanding that this section as now written (and as previously amended by Senate Bill No. 443) reflects the current policy of the state relative to facilitating the educational needs of Kansas citizens while accommodating the joint interests of our community colleges and the Regents institutions in avoiding unnecessary duplication, encouraging cooperation, and fostering efficiency in the delivery of services. As members of this Committee are aware, the Board of Regents and the Regents institutions have made program review, and the resulting minimalization of duplication, an initiative of the highest priority. As I read the proposed amendatory language of Senate bill No. 630, the state educational institutions are effectively removed from the decision process as to what courses will be offered in counties which have a Regents institution.

I question the wisdom of this initiative and repeat the opposition of the Board of Regents and the Regents Institutions to Senate Bill 630. Thank you for your attention and consideration of my testimony. I would now stand for questions.



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WILLIE MARTIN

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 525 N. MAIN • SUITE 315 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 • TELEPHONE (316)383-7552

TO:

SENATOR DAVE KERR, CHAIRMAN

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM:

WILLIE MARTIN

SEDGWICK COUNTY

DATE:

FEBRUARY 17, 1994

REF:

SENATE BILL 630

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Willie Martin representing the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners. We appreciate this opportunity to express our concerns about Senate Bill 630.

We believe out-district tuition should be administered consistently regardless of location. Senate Bill 630, on one hand, maintains oversight by State Universities before Community College Courses can be taught in that county; and, on the other hand allows contracts with any business or government agency. This provision would then circumvent the procedure established to avoid duplication.

Sedgwick County is supportive of efforts encouraging higher education and training which will enable Kansans to more effectively enter the work force. We are very cognizant of the major role community colleges play in this endeavor.

We respectfully suggest that Senate Bill 630 hinders the effective use of limited educational resources by providing an open door for duplication of classes.



Michael L. Johnston
Secretary of Transportation

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Docking State Office Building Topeka 66612-1568 (913) 296-3566 FAX - (913) 296-1095

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE REGARDING S.B. 724 SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM TRANSFER FEBRUARY 17, 1994 Joan Finney
Governor of Kansas

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

To improve service to the school districts, the Kansas Department of Transportation is proposing that the statutory and regulatory authority for school transportation be transferred from the Kansas Department of Transportation to the State Board of Education.

At the present time persons needing help with school transportation issues must contact the Department of Transportation for training and regulatory assistance and the Board of Education for special needs transportation and school bus funding assistance. This bill would enable most school transportation services to be provided by one agency, which should better serve all the school districts of the State of Kansas.

This change is supported by a recent survey which determined that 46 of the 50 states have assigned authority for school transportation to the state board/department of education. Authority for school transportation is assigned to the Department of Public Safety in the states of Arizona and New Hampshire and the Department of Motor Vehicles in Connecticut. Kansas is the only state where this authority rests with the Department of Transportation.

This transfer will improve communication on school transportation issues and provide a better structure for evaluating and improving all services connected with pupil transportation. To provide adequate funding, the Kansas Department of Transportation will transfer \$160,000, which is approximately what KDOT spends on the school bus program, to the school bus safety fund each fiscal year. We believe this amount provides adequate funding for salaries and benefits at the present level, and necessary costs of OOE.



1420 S.W. Arrowhead Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604 913-273-3600

Testimony on S.B. 724
before the
Senate Committee on Education

by

John W. Koepke, Executive Director Kansas Association of School Boards

February 17, 1994

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards in support of Senate Bill 724. The transfer of regulatory authority over school bus safety standards from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Education is consistent with our position that most general supervisory authority over unified school districts should rest with the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education.

It seems to us that as a general rule, the personnel of the Department of Education are in a better position than the personnel in other state agencies to deal with the general supervision of education issues in the state. We would also ask that if this legislation is advanced, the language in section 6 of the bill be amended to extend the "grandfather" period of exemption from new bus regulations to 10

years. That would make the language of this section consistent with the action already taken by the full Senate earlier with the passage of SB 499.

With this change in the bill, we would again express our support for favorable action on SB 724 and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions from the committee.



SB 724

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director United School Administrators of Kansas February 17, 1994

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas is supportive of the transfer of authority for school bus regulation to the state board of education. Allowing school people to deal with one less agency should prove to be more efficient. That most other states appear to follow this model further supports the proposed change.

However, we do have a few questions concerning this transfer of power, duties, and functions as outlined in the bill. Does the change include the transfer of resources required to do the job? Likewise, has thought been given to the facilities required to house the proposed new department within the state board education? Our fear is that the administrative transfer will be made, and that funds appropriated to facilitate the teaching/learning process will be used to regulate and inspect buses.

With this minor expression of concern, United School Administrators of Kansas would urge the committee to support SB 724.

LEG/SB724

Sen. Ed.