



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2567
For the Senate Education Committee
March 12, 2024**

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

Chair Baumgardner and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide PROPONENT testimony related to House Bill 2567 on behalf of the members of the Kansas Independent College Association

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the twenty-one independent colleges of Kansas, all of which are accredited not-for-profit institutions of higher education. For the independent members of KICA, the Kansas Board of Regents 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).

Support for HB 2567:

KICA wholeheartedly supports the intent of HB 2567. We are further supportive of the changes made by the House Education Committee. We agree with the bill's sponsors that the State of Kansas can and should do more to support the higher education aspirations of those Kansans who give so much of themselves to protect and serve all of us. The EMERGE program is good policy for Kansas.

We are grateful that Section 2(c) of the bill includes a definition of "Kansas educational institution" that encompasses both public and accredited independent (non-profit) colleges.

Should HB 2567 pass and become law, we would look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Regents to implement the EMERGE program and promote this to potential students.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your deliberation. If the committee has further questions, I am happy to follow up.