



Testimony to the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
House Bill No. 2174  
Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, President  
Washburn University  
February 12, 2025

Chair Rahjes Vice Chair Neelly, Ranking Member Featherston and members of the committee, I am JuliAnn Mazachek, President of Washburn University. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of House Bill 2174.

Washburn University School of Law (“Washburn Law”) is a public law school and has proudly graduated many notable alumni since its founding in 1903 as part of Washburn University. In 2023, the law school relocated to Robert J. Dole Hall. We are dedicated to a curriculum that offers classroom instruction with real-world skills and experience with a majority (60%) of our students coming from all parts of Kansas.

Washburn Law offers a comprehensive rural law program. A summary of this program is attached. There is a crucial need for attorneys in rural areas, both in Kansas and throughout the country. Washburn Law is committed to preparing practice-ready attorneys who can return to rural underserved areas with the skills needed to practice law. Our strong ties to Kansas' rural communities provide students with unparalleled opportunities for a future career while benefitting our state.

The loan program contemplated in House Bill No. 2174 will enhance our already robust efforts to place more law students in rural areas and should incentivize and encourage more law graduates to choose to practice law in rural areas by providing financial assistance to attorneys practicing law in rural areas.

I am pleased to answer your questions at the appropriate time. Thank you for allowing my testimony.