

Proponent Testimony on HB 2339 Written Testimony For the House Committee on Commerce. **Labor & Economic Development**

February 13, 2025

Blake Flanders, President & CEO **Kansas Board of Regents**

Good afternoon, Chair Tarwater, and Members of the Committee. Please find my written testimony on HB 2339 below.

The Board of Regents administers the Nursing Service Scholarship on behalf of the Legislature. Section 8 of HB 2339 would amend the program to designate part-time students as eligible for nursing service scholarships. Currently, students must enroll in at least 12 credit hours per semester to be eligible for a scholarship in this program. Parttime students would receive a pro-rated award according to their enrolled hours.

HB 2339 would generate more potential applicants for the program as many nursing programs require students to enroll in fewer than 12 credit hours per semester. The Board of Regents has an appropriation of \$1,417,255 for FY 2026 with which to make scholarship awards.

Staff review the applications and award to eligible students, prioritizing renewing students. The expansion of eligible students in HB 2339 will generate more work for our financial aid staff. If no other changes are made to the program this legislative session, it is anticipated this additional review could be done from available resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.