



PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2464
For the House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee
January 27, 2026
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Testimony:

Chair Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2464. Several of Kansas' independent colleges and universities offer academic programs directly related to the aviation industry. Thus they, and their students and industry partners, would benefit substantially from the programs conceived in the bill.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents all twenty-one accredited undergraduate degree-granting non-profit colleges in Kansas. The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) has no governing role, coordinating role, or regulatory role for the independent colleges that KICA represents.

KICA and Aviation:

Among the 21 non-profit, independent colleges and universities in Kansas, several have aviation-related degree programs. For instance, Hesston College, in Hesston, KS, has a long-standing program for professional pilots and a two-year degree program for air traffic control professionals. In addition, several other KICA institutions have academic programs with pipelines into Kansas' vibrant aviation industry firms supporting their important role in Kansas' economy.

We supported the passage of the tax credit for aerospace and aviation-related educational programs when the Legislature first considered it in 2019 and reiterate our support and gratitude for the program now. We supported the use of any tools at our disposal to encourage post-secondary attainment that fits the needs of Kansas employers, especially those that ensure a timely partnership between colleges and employers when those programs recognize that all institutions – public universities and private colleges – can serve the needs of the state.

We thus support extending the sunset of the program and the passage of HB 2464.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request.