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**Testimony of Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach
Proponent for HB 2295
House Education
Feb. 11, 2025**

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

Since the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, a rising surge of antisemitism has gripped college campuses. The Anti-Defamation League reported more than 1,400 antisemitic incidents on campus between 2023 and 2024, marking an all-time high according to the ADL.

Unfortunately, Kansas universities are not immune to the rising tides of antisemitism.

Within a few months of the Oct. 7 attacks, students at the University of Kansas conducted two anti-Israel walkouts complete with antisemitic chants. Student protestors also set up an encampment on the KU campus demanding that the university illegally divest any financial ties to the Israeli companies, refuse to accept grants from companies that contract with the U.S. Department of Defense, and grant amnesty to KU protestors. House bill 2299 seeks to address antisemitism at public education institutions including the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University and Washburn University and Washburn Technical Institute, by prohibiting the discriminatory practices on these campuses and by authorizing the attorney general investigate complaints and assess penalties, and by authorizing the human rights commission to refer complaints to the attorney general for investigation.

It does not prevent public universities from teaching religious history or world cultures. While the initial intent of the bill was to stop antisemitism on Kansas public campuses, the legislation provides anti-discriminatory protections to all religions.

The proposal prohibits any public educational institutions that receive tax dollars from discriminating on the basis of religion and/or from promoting antisemitism or antisemitic acts. It also provides the attorney general investigatory authority related to potential discriminatory actions at public educational institutions, including the authority to subpoena witnesses and records related to possible offenses. It also allows the attorney general to assess civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation to public educational institutions that violate the law. The civil penalties are deposited into the state general fund.

Please consider restoring the language in lines 13-33 on page 12 of House bill 2299. Their removal was a drafting error and that language is necessary to ensure functionality of the bill.