



House Committee on Education

Written Only Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 44

Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Senate Bill 44, which will expand postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate in the Kansas Promise Scholarship.

Senate Bill 44 is a simple but effective workforce development tool that will expand opportunities for Kansans to receive the Kansas Promise Scholarship for students in any community college or technical college. Over recent years there has been an increase in enrollment for the community and technical colleges. These institutions offer programs in high wage, high demand, and critical need occupations for the state of Kansas.

The Kansas Chamber will continue to support all initiatives that address the workforce needs for Kansans and incentivize them to stay in Kansas upon completion of their education. These institutions provide the value students need, along with the four-year institutions, to earn to be job-ready and certified.

In closing, workforce needs continue to be a top concern for the business community. We believe Senate Bill 44 will provide great value to students, employers, and the state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 44 and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.