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SB 114 - Authorizing nonpublic and virtual school students to participate in ancillary public school activities and making it unlawful for the Kansas state high school activities association and school districts to discriminate against such students based on enrollment status.

Proponent
Written Testimony

March 5, 2025

Hello Chairwoman Estes, Ranking Member Stogsdill, and Committee Members,

My name is Chad Meitner, and I serve as the Principal for Thomas More Prep-Marian (TMP) Jr./Sr. High School in Hays, Kansas. TMP is an inter-parochial, Catholic, co-educational school offering grades 6-12. Located in Hays, Kan., the school was first established by Capuchin Franciscan priests in 1908. Under the direction of the Salina Diocese and the Heartland Parishes, TMP-Marian stands as the largest Catholic high school in the diocese and is the only one in western Kansas. Although our student body is predominantly Catholic, TMP-Marian welcomes all faiths. We are committed to making the years students spend at our school meaningful.

TMP-Marian offers more athletics and activities than any other 2A school in the state of Kansas. On the athletic side, TMP-Marian offers volleyball, cross-country, football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, track and golf. Some of the activities that are offered include debate, forensics, chess team, musicals, science club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), TMP Pop singers, choir, band, art club, FFA (Future Farmers of America), Key Club, gardening club, Monarch Music Ministry, and scholar's bowl.

I am writing today to share my support for SB 114, which would allow students in early college programs to fully participate in all KSHSAA activities. At TMP, we believe that academics are the top priority, but we also encourage our students to also participate in activities outside of the classroom. We believe that it helps students to explore diverse interests, build social connections, and contribute to the community.

If SB 114 is passed, TMP is committed to working with early college programs in the Hays area and their students by welcoming them to participate in KSHSAA activities alongside our existing students.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony and thank you for the committee's consideration.

Best Regards,
Chad Meitner