



House Education Committee

Written Only Testimony in Support to Education Development Innovation Transferability Act Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Monday, January 26, 2026

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large-sized businesses across the state, advocating for policies which improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to the subject of the Career Readiness Education Development Innovation Transferability Act, otherwise known as the CREDIT act.

We understand a bill on this issue is expected soon. We would like to be on the record in support of the initiative. The issue of workforce readiness continues to be a concern among the Kansas business community. Every year, the Kansas Chamber of Commerce conducts a survey of 300 business owners and executives across the state. In the blind survey this year, businesses were asked *What is the Greatest Concern with the Kansas Workforce*; 60% answered soft skills and 25% answered technical skills.

The ACT WorkKeys assessments measure skills required for success in the workplace and skills that can affect the job performance of an individual. More than 4 million National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) have been awarded through the ACT WorkKeys assessments with just under 30,000 employers recognizing these assessments to close the gap on skills. This bill would expand the opportunity for students to take ACT WorkKeys assessments in Kansas high schools along with recognizing workforce credentials to receive postsecondary credit for prior learning.

In closing the Kansas Chamber views this initiative as an effective tool to improve the workforce through certification. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the CREDIT Act, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.