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HB2428: OPPOSE  
Oral, In-Person Testimony  
February 3, 2026

Esteemed Chairwoman Estes and Members of the Committee on Education,

I speak as a private citizen and taxpayer with 23 years of full-time higher education teaching experience in Kansas. I oppose HB2428 in the strongest terms.

While my reasons are multiple, I confine my comments to points. One, HB2428 is fiscally irresponsible. Two, its internal contradictions make it ideologically untenable.

HB2428 is fiscally irresponsible. HB2428 is at odds with the accreditation standards associated with multiple professions, including but not limited to: education, social work, and nursing. Passage of HB2428 will result in the loss of vital programs in universities throughout Kansas because those programs will lose accreditation. Students who wish to pursue degrees that require accreditation will not pursue those degrees in Kansas. The loss of students and faculty associated with those programs will damage the economies of communities where students and faculty would have lived, spent money, paid property, sales, and income taxes. Additionally, by outsourcing professional education to other states, HB2428 exacerbates professional shortages in multiple essential fields in Kansas. HB2428 is fiscally irresponsible.

Further, Section 2B of HB2428 mandates an American institutions general education requirement for *all students*. There were 49,475 freshmen enrolled in KBOR system schools in Fall 2025 (Kansas Higher Education Statistics, Fall Census, [https://submission.kansasregents.gov/ibi\\_apps/portal/BIP\\_Public2/KHEStats](https://submission.kansasregents.gov/ibi_apps/portal/BIP_Public2/KHEStats)). HB2428 obligates the legislature to add money to the budgets of higher education institutions to hire the faculty necessary to remain in compliance with the legislative mandate. In a session in which the legislature proposes to enact higher education fiscal responsibility, HB2428 is fiscally irresponsible.

HB2428 is ideologically contradictory and untenable. Section 1D of HB2428 states: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or constrict the academic freedom of faculty or prevent faculty members from directing the instruction within such faculty member's own class or limit the free discussion of ideas in a classroom setting." The remainder of the bill violates that principle because the bill defines acceptable

curriculum, academic programs, and general education using a legislative definition of what is not appropriate content for students. When the legislature defines what public universities cannot include in academic programs, does the legislature engage in a form of indoctrination? In essence, HB2428 legislates which ideas are good and which ideas are bad. Does that not violate the intent of the bill as stated in its Goldwater Institute title, the Freedom from Indoctrination Act?

As the House committee charged with safeguarding education in Kansas, I urge you to pay attention to the education consequences of HB2428. As legislators concerned with fiscal responsibility, pay attention to HB2428's economic consequences. As the thoughtful people you are, guard against the ideological contradictions explicit in the bill. Vote no on HB2428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly J. Morse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Kimberly J. Morse, Ph.D.