



**Written testimony on House Bill 2428
House Committee on Education
University of Kansas
February 3, 2026**

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on House Bill 2428.

The University of Kansas is committed to the free exchange of ideas, protecting freedom of thought and expression, and ensuring an academic environment that is free from ideological indoctrination. We share HB 2428's goals of protecting students' rights and supporting independent, critical thinking.

While the University of Kansas appreciates HB 2428's intent, there are important considerations raised by this legislation that warrant careful attention and raise concerns and substantial challenges.

First, key definitions and compliance standards lack clarity, making them difficult to apply consistently. The bill leaves open fundamental questions about what subject matter is a violation and what would be permitted. For example, it is unclear whether law faculty could be permitted to teach about equal protection by discussing race and race discrimination or if a nursing professor is able to teach about the importance of understanding different cultures and religious practices when providing care. As such, HB 2428 is likely to face a strong legal challenge based on academic freedom and First Amendment protections. Courts have consistently held that public universities are essential forums for free inquiry, and laws that restrict curriculum or classroom discussion risk being ruled unconstitutional. Without clear, narrowly tailored guidance, the bill will lead to legal challenges, inconsistent interpretations, unintentionally chill academic freedom and open inquiry, and create significant constitutional concerns.

HB 2428 also presents significant operational and fiscal challenges. Operationally, we will be unable to meet the deadlines imposed by the legislation. Reviewing each course and

degree requirement for compliance is a significant undertaking especially within the deadlines prescribed. The bill's implementation timelines do not align with academic calendars, curriculum review processes, governance structures, accreditation cycles, or licensure obligations. For instance, it is believed that this bill will require changes to curriculum that will conflict with licensure requirements for social workers. This will disadvantage students at public universities and have a significant impact on the state's critical workforce needs.

HB 2428's mandated class and graduation requirement will cause students to incur additional educational costs and potentially delay their progress towards graduation. Moreover, designing and scaling a course that meets statutory expectations will require considerable faculty time, administrative coordination, and ongoing resources. Combined with other compliance obligations, the bill poses both operational and budgetary burdens. We do not have funds to absorb the fiscal impact of the bill.

The University of Kansas remains committed to fostering an environment where rigorous academic inquiry, open dialogue, and student success is paramount. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.