



PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2248
For the House Higher Education Budget Committee
February 13, 2025
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Chairman Howe and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide PROPONENT written-only testimony in support of House Bill 2248 on behalf of the members of the Kansas Independent College Association

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the twenty-one independent colleges of Kansas, all of which are accredited not-for-profit institutions of higher education.

Support for HB 2248:

We are grateful that Section 1(a) of HB 2248 includes accredited independent (non-profit) colleges as eligible institutions to apply for the grant. Among the 21 KICA institutions, 11 award degrees in nursing. We average more than 450 graduates each year in nursing each year, which represents more than one-third of the nursing graduates in the entire state each year. Most of these graduates stay in Kansas, and many of these institutions are essential partners with their communities to educate individuals to address local health needs, especially in rural areas.

As the state seeks to address critical shortages in the health care workforce statewide, we appreciate HB 2248's attention to the challenge of hiring high-quality instructors and making the pathway affordable to all students with a passion for a career in nursing.

Should HB 2248 pass and become law, we would look forward to working collaboratively with the Kansas Board of Regents on implementing the grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your deliberation. If the committee has further questions, I am happy to follow up.