



From: Kansas Technical Colleges
To: House Higher Education Budget Committee
Re: HB2523

February 9, 2026

Chairman Turk and Members of the House Higher Education Budget Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2523. On behalf of the Kansas Technical Colleges, we respectfully submit opposition to this bill, which authorizes technical and community colleges to affiliate with universities and other accredited institutions.

Kansas technical colleges serve a distinct and critical role in workforce development by providing industry-driven, hands-on training aligned with regional employer needs. Our locally governed structure allows technical colleges to remain responsive, flexible, and closely connected to workforce demands across the state. HB 2523 raises concerns that broad affiliation authority could blur institutional missions and reduce the ability of technical colleges to quickly respond to local industry and student needs.

Additionally, the bill lacks clear guidance regarding governance, funding responsibility, accreditation oversight, and long-term accountability for affiliated institutions. Without defined safeguards, these affiliations could create administrative complexity, potential duplication of services, and unintended pressure toward consolidation that may weaken Kansas' strong technical education system.

Kansas technical colleges fully support collaboration across higher education sectors and already participate in numerous partnerships that expand student opportunities. However, we believe the affiliation authority proposed in HB 2523 introduces significant structural risks without sufficient clarity or stakeholder input.

For these reasons, the Kansas Technical Colleges respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider HB 2523. We remain committed to working with Legislature and education partners to strengthen workforce training while preserving the mission and effectiveness of technical education in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Nichols – KTC President