

**House Higher Education Budget Committee
Proponent Testimony on HB 2560**

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1:30pm

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Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2560.

HB 2560 authorizes the sale of the Kansas State University Honors House property located at **1930 College Heights, Manhattan, Kansas**. Kansas State University supports this legislation as it provides the necessary statutory authority to responsibly manage university-owned real estate in a manner that aligns with institutional priorities, student success, and long-term stewardship of state assets.

Over time, Kansas State University has outgrown the capacity and functional limitations of the Honors House. Growth in the Honors Program and changes in how students engage academically and socially required a more integrated and scalable environment than the stand-alone Honors House could provide.

As a result, the university intentionally shifted its Honors Program footprint into the renovated Boyd, Putnam, and Van Zile Residence Halls, where recent investments have focused on the development of a dedicated Honors office, academic support space, and a residential Honors environment embedded within these three halls. This model allows Honors students to live, learn, and engage in community within modernized facilities that better support collaboration, accessibility, and academic success.

In addition, the university has received increased interest from a well-known and credible group regarding the potential purchase of the Honors House property. This interest reflects the property's continued value and presents a timely opportunity for the university to responsibly advance a sale that aligns with market conditions and institutional planning goals.

Consistent with guidance from the Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State University is actively evaluating its physical footprint to ensure that facilities are right-sized, financially sustainable, and responsive to current and future student needs. This includes prioritizing investment in mission-critical facilities and reducing long-term maintenance liabilities associated with underutilized or outdated properties.

Proceeds from the sale of the Honors House property would be reinvested to support university priorities, including facilities renewal and student-centered initiatives, ensuring that the value of this asset continues to benefit the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.