

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 2348

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2348, which would reform tenure policies at public colleges and universities in Kansas. While tenure was originally designed to protect academic freedom, my experiences in higher education have shown me that it often shields incompetence, unethical behavior, and unsafe working conditions.

I served as a library director in Pennsylvania for five years before moving to Kansas to take the position of Director of the Library at Southwestern College. I was shocked by the unsanitary and unsafe working conditions I found there, as well as ethical concerns regarding financial mismanagement. When I later accepted a position at Wichita State University, I once again witnessed blatant disregard for safety and labor laws, including:

- Unpaid overtime exploitation, particularly affecting vulnerable employees
- Students and staff being trapped in a basement during a fire alarm (not a drill) due to mismanaged safety protocols
- A constantly unsecured exterior door to valuable collections and sensitive documents, creating an unsafe work environment
- A cancer-stricken employee forced to work unpaid overtime due to an agreement with the previous dean—she tragically passed away a month after I resigned

These conditions are not isolated incidents. They reflect a systemic failure in leadership and accountability within higher education institutions. Tenure is just one piece of a larger problem—it enables individuals to act without consequence, creating workplaces that are not only dysfunctional but outright dangerous.

I support HB 2348 because I believe that job security should not come at the expense of ethical governance, workplace safety, or financial responsibility. Professors and administrators, like all professionals, should be held accountable for their performance throughout their careers. Kansas taxpayers should not be expected to fund a system that protects poor leadership and misconduct at the expense of students, staff, and faculty who are genuinely trying to do good work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christine Curley, MLIS

[Christinemcurley@gmail.com](mailto:Christinemcurley@gmail.com)

Curator and University Archivist, Wichita State University 2023-2024

Library Director, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS 2023

Library Director, McBride Memorial Library, Berwick, PA 2018-2023