

2/10/2025

HR2348  
Opponent Testimony  
Written Only

Chairwoman Humphries and Other Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas (KU), and I am submitting my testimony in opposition to HR2348. I have been a full-time tenure-track faculty member in the Marketing and Business Law academic area at KU since 2021.

I oppose HR2348 because faculty tenure provides essential stability at universities like KU, benefiting students, faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders, as well as the state of Kansas. Tenure ensures that faculty who have earned it can advance leading ideas and innovations, ultimately strengthening the university. Put simply, tenure enables faculty to produce top-tier research, which enhances university rankings and improves job prospects for KU students. Furthermore, tenure protects faculty members' right to freedom of speech, shielding them from retribution by superiors over ideological differences. This protection allows tenured faculty to focus on high-quality teaching, research, and university service without fear of losing their position based on the nature of their research.

Additionally, tenure-track faculty at KU—at least in the School of Business—undergo regular evaluations of their teaching, research, and service. These evaluations influence raises, research and travel funding, promotions, and teaching assignments, among other things. Given that faculty are already held to rigorous performance standards, efforts to weaken or remove tenure would be redundant and counterproductive.

In summary, tenure at KU allows faculty to better serve society, particularly students, without eliminating or undermining regular performance evaluations. For these reasons, I strongly oppose HR2348, as it would have harmful consequences for all Kansans attending universities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Beck".

Jonathan Beck, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
Marketing and Business Law Academic Area  
University of Kansas School of Business