

**Testimony of April Park, Professor of Psychology
Before the House Judiciary Committee
Regarding HB 2348**

Chairperson Humphries, Vice Chairperson Williams, and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is April Park, and I am a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Fort Hays State University. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2348.

As a tenured professor, I am concerned about the implications and the impact of this bill. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the faculty at Fort Hays State University, the administration, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), and the Kansas Department of Administration clearly states that tenure is not a right but a privilege granted when a faculty member has demonstrated the proper qualifications and when it is in the long-term interest of the university (MOA, Article IX.1, pg 11-12). Tenure provides a pathway for junior faculty members to develop as a professional and serve students and the state of Kansas long-term. It also provides faculty with the professional security necessary to serve the people of Kansas effectively and to educate and employ the next generation. This is not a life-long appointment without checks and balances but the status at the university that is mutually beneficial to the employed faculty, university, students, and communities at large. Once tenured, faculty continues to be reviewed by peers to ensure qualifications.

Furthermore, the passage of HB 2348 would have severe consequences for our state's higher education system. It would negatively impact national university rankings and accreditations with the Higher Learning Commission. An inability to retain and recruit faculty for accredited programs may result in a reduction of students who are trained as future professionals to provide essential services to families and children across Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.