



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

19 Colleges - One Voice

Proponent testimony on Senate Bill 406 Before the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 406. This bill outlines the implementation steps recently enacted in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, **Public Law No. 119-21, Section 83002**. SB406 repeats the same language as the federal bill related to workforce policy directing the Governor, in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board, to approve short-term workforce training programs for federal Workforce Pell Grant eligibility, and by requiring the Board to establish a clear internal process for program approval and appeals.

I contacted the Governors office after approval of the federal bill about next steps. The Board of Regents established a workgroup which I will serve on to make recommendations to the Governor on this topic. The strategy outlined in the federal law requires coordination across state and federal workforce programs and alignment of available funding sources, while explicitly deferring to federal law if any conflict arises in the expanded Pell Grant eligibility to include certain high-quality, short-term workforce training programs.

That federal law did not automatically make programs eligible for Workforce Pell. Instead, it requires states to establish an approval and oversight mechanism, including:

- A state-level approval process for eligible workforce training programs
- Coordination with the state workforce development board
- Safeguards against duplicative funding
- Alignment with federal rules governing Workforce Pell

Senate Bill 406 fulfills that requirement, rather than creating new state policy or expanding eligibility beyond federal intent. The bill puts in place the governance structure the federal law requires so Kansas can fully participate in Workforce Pell.

As outlined in the federal law, SB406 assigns responsibility to the Governor, in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board, to approve eligible programs; and the State Workforce Development Board to establish an internal application and appeals process, coordinate funding streams, and prevent duplicative investments which mirrors what is required in federal law. The new policy will allow Kansas institutions to access Workforce Pell funding for approved short-term programs, which support rapid training for in-demand occupations, greater access for adult learners and working Kansans, and stronger alignment between education and workforce needs for short term credentials.

Senate Bill 406 is not an expansion beyond federal intent; it merely mirrors what Kansas will need to do which was outlined in federal law. Kansas is already moving down this path and will ensure the necessary details will be determined to make this program a success in Kansas.

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