



# COWLEY COLLEGE

Date: February 11, 2020  
To: Chairwoman Baumgardner and Members of the House Commerce  
From: Committee Jessica Lucas, Cowley College Government Affairs Liaison  
Re: Support of SB 336 – Kansas RISE Act

Cowley College is excited about the opportunities the Kansas RISE Act presents for prospective students in our service area who meet the qualifications. The bill seeks to strengthen support for foster children to earn advanced education credentials, and we're eager to have this program as a tool in our educational offerings. We also appreciate that the bill would enable adult students to participate if they've graduated within the past five years.

Throughout its 98-year history, Cowley College has always been a "can-do" institution. We're proud of our work to match our area's workforce needs with skilled employees we're training at Cowley College, but we recognize that some students need additional resources we can't always provide. The Kansas RISE Act would assist us in our effort to better serve students who have spent time out of the custody of their families. Our college, and our peer institutions across the state, are all working on training and educating a skilled workforce who will hopefully find their employment with a Kansas-based company.

The Kansas RISE Act is a tool to aid individuals in foster care, present or past, that community colleges want to serve, but for whom the cost can often be a barrier to access education, the most reliable means to increase an individual's lifetime earning power.

We look forward to working with this committee, the legislature, the Board of Regents, and other stakeholders to advance the Kansas RISE Act. The bill, as presented today, is not without consideration for some tweaks, and we will advance our suggestions for those changes through the KACCT.